



BEE TALK

Warwick and Leamington Branch of Warwickshire Beekeepers

WLBK PROVES A SHOW STOPPER

Our WLBK Demonstration Team have had their first two outings of the summer. The first was at Kings Hill Nurseries' open day. We were eager to set up our larger and more secure live bee demonstration tent as well as our new marque, which was funded by the Co-op grant secured in 2019. This first outing enabled our team to learn lessons for later in the year and ensure that all equipment would be on hand when going to locations remote from our training base.

One thing that became very evident from the outing is the considerable workload falling on our demonstration team in setting up and dismantling the equipment, unseen but essential (more helpers please!). The three live bee handling demonstrations on the day were particularly popular and augmented the observation hive in both entertaining and informing the visitors to Kings Hill. This, allied to the honey tasting/sales stall, candle rolling, skep making and hive products promotion sales, made the WLBK presence standout on the day.

The following week on 4th June was the much larger Kenilworth Agricultural Show, the first to be held for three years. Although a cold blustery day, it was reported by the BBC to have had some 15,000 visitors.

The new location may have confused some, being closer to Leamington Spa than Kenilworth with limited access from Leamington. The experience of the trial run at Kings Hill proved its worth as our stand was recognised by the show committee as the best on three counts: the best small stand; the best jubeelee themed and the most interactive.

Very well done Bernard Brown and all his team. We are certainly meeting our charitable objectives.

As at the Kings Hill event, we had three live bee handling demonstrations during the day which were very well attended. We also had many



Bernard Brown, along with the rest of the demonstration team, being awarded the trophy for the Best Small Stand at the Kenilworth Show

enquiries about WLBK with names being taken for us to follow later in the year.

Many of the members supported a rota to support the display of skep making, honey tasting (sales of which topped £1,000), the bee display, sale of hive products, candle rolling (which raised some £120 in donations) as well as to answer any questions from visitors 'swarming' around the observation hive.

There was an active interest and involvement of younger visitors in candle rolling. One of whom was so taken with the hands-on activity that she left her beloved toy, Mousey, behind when she moved on to other stalls. At the end of the day we received a request through our website from a distraught mother in an attempt to reunite Mousey with its young owner.

Yes, we managed the reunion as Mousey was packed up at the end of the day with the straw bales and collected from Clive Joyce by the girl's mother the following day.

The day, although very successful on many counts, ended with a slight mishap as, while in



Candle rolling with Mousey, who was reunited with its young owner after the Show

the process of taking down the show tent, a gust of wind created havoc with its frame leaving us with a mass of twisted aluminium. Whilst unfortunate, our next event at which it will be required is not until early August – hopefully enough time for the insurance to come through. Yet another lesson learned as many of the events we support are in exposed locations.

Chris Cox
Branch Secretary

CHAIR'S JULY MESSAGE



This month's message is to say a big thank you to everyone who came to the WLBK summer BBQ on Saturday 2nd July at Kings Hill Nursery. Rachel Dove did a wonderful job of setting up (and provided exceptional bread courtesy of Crustum's artisan bakery in Priory Road, Kenilworth).

Bernard held the fort in his usual exemplary way, and we made full use of the beautiful setting by the lake. Our members also responded brilliantly to the request for salads and puds and the cake was just superb.

We weathered the briefest of showers, and enjoyed a wonderful selection of fare which catered for every palate. It was a relaxed social event among old and new friends of all ages, including friends from New Zealand.

Last but not least we had the pleasure of Jitesh Patel, the Chair of Warwickshire Beekeepers. Jitesh was on site having just attended a great National Bee Unit (NBU) course on identifying pests in the hive. Jitesh's local apiary is at Sutton Park and he extended to our members an open invitation to the Sutton BBQ on 21st July from 18.30.

Thanks again to all who contributed to the BBQ's success by helping to set up, clear up and for turning up. These events are a great, informal opportunity to meet new people and learn a bit more about beekeeping in the process. Let's make the most of them!

Suzanne Bennett, WLBK chair



BEEKEEPING TASKS THIS MONTH

- The blackberry flower is out and there seems to be a good flow in some areas. It is definitely time to take advantage of it.
- Do a disease inspection, shaking the bees off each comb and looking into each cell in case of deformed larvae (EFB, chalk-brood or sacbrood). Look for any sunken or greasy cappings (AFB) or nibbled cappings.
- Add supers ahead of the bees' requirements when the lower box is full of bees not honey.
- Keep up the inspections, especially on colonies that have not been split and take action if you find queen cells.
- Remove and extract sealed frames of honey and put the empties back in the evening for the bees to clean out. Always return them to the hives they came from and try not to drop comb or honey in the apiary.
- Reduce entrances to avoid the risk of robbing by bees and wasps.
- It's not too early to think of wasp traps – see guidance online from BBKA, National Bee Unit, Dave Cushman, et al.
- Put your varroa boards in to monitor the daily varroa drop and consider treatment options.
- Check you have equipment, jars and labels organised for your honey harvest.
- You can leave your bait hive out a bit longer, there may still be swarms about.

Jane Medwell

WLBK BRANCH HONEY SHOW SATURDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER KINGS HILL NURSERY

We all know our honey is amazing but have you ever stopped to think that it may be award winning?

Well, ponder no more and enter our Branch Honey Show.

It is fun, informative and a great way to learn about the things to look for in a top quality hive product. An essential if you are or planning to sell your honey.

The Honey Show has been a traditional feature of the Branch for many years and there are 19 Classes and 4 certificates for each class. Trophies are presented for Novice beekeepers, best honey cake, those with less than 5 hives, Thorpe Cup for the most points and the Bernard Collins Trophy for best in show.

The full schedule is on our website.

It is over to you.... have a look at the schedule and decide which classes to enter.

There is plenty of time to perfect your entries so go on, have a go!



90 YEARS YOUNG

At a meeting in Whitnash Rectory, called by the Warwickshire Beekeepers Association, on 9th July 1932, WLBK was formed. This means we are days away from our **90th anniversary**. We are rather sprightly for a nonagenarian. Indeed, we have never been better – a situation surely worth celebrating – so keep an eye on your inboxes for details.

WLBK MEETINGS

The 2022 season of honey shows starts with our own Branch Show on **24th September** followed by the County Show on **15th October** and the National Honey Show from **27th to 29th October**.

The topics for our summer meetings have been selected to support members in submitting entries for any of these shows:

- **27th July** with Clive Joyce - learn methods of honey extraction and the availability of the branch's kit for members use.
- **18th August** with Mike Townsend - learn the techniques and tricks in preparing exhibits, both honey, wax and cake, to meet the required standards.

These talks are not just for would-be honey show entrants, they will help us all improve the general presentation of our produce.

EXTRACTION UNIT REFURB

Since the last report on our extraction unit in May's Bee Talk, the frame cleaning tank has had a make over as shown below.



SKEP MAKING DAY

Saturday 1st October

10 – 4pm

£40

Limited to 15 people

BBKA Headquarters, Stoneleigh Park

All details on our website www.warleambees.org.uk

BRANCH COMMITTEE MEETING

Things appeared to be back to usual at the June Branch Committee meeting held in the BBKA Board Room at Stoneleigh. This was the first face-to-face meeting for over two years, since the start of the pandemic in March 2020. The changed dynamics of being in the same room and without the mechanics of ZOOM dominating the meeting was certainly a highlight. With many of us not having been on the site for two years we all commented on the much changed BBKA building with its new entry hall, smaller lecture room and increased office accommodation.

The business in summary was:

- The future of the Dale House Lane apiary site with the imminent conclusion of the roadworks, coupled with our future plans for the Kings Hill Nurseries training apiary.
- Our support for Branch Out Apiaries and in particular the one at Deppers Bridge where WLBK hold a licence with the landowner.
- Outstanding actions resulting for the spring membership survey.
- Agreement to our submitting our BeeTalk Newsletter (June, July and August issues) into BBKA National Honey Show.
- WLBK Honey Show arrangements and the talks in July and

August to support member in entering. MORE ENTRIES WANTED was the message.

- Managing unwanted/wanted splits.
- Shows/Displays Reports, the Schools Initiative and the Kenilworth Castle instillation.
- Concern on EFB in our area and CBPV and how we inform members (see this issue covered on page 7).
- Updates on Swarm Management (Clive Joyce collected two swarms on the day of the meeting), Co-purchasing; Extraction Unit Refurbishment.
- Membership Numbers (Membership Total – 264), Current Bank Position and 2022 Budget Forecasts (Healthy and Planned Expenditures this year are well within the approved budget)

One outstanding need is to find a new Branch Members Meeting co-ordinator to replace Rachel Dove who is standing down.

Note: Approved Minutes from the Committee Meetings are available to members on the WLBK Website as are past copies of BeeTalk.

Chris Cox, Branch Secretary



FANFARE FOR THE BEES



Some twelve months ago the idea was first mooted to create an open-to-the-public apiary at Kenilworth Castle. The aspiration was to feature Skep Beekeeping to reflect the Elizabethan theme of the Castle's history. This has now materialised in two skeps from well-known David Chubb of

Cotswold Beeskeps. They have both been populated with bees and are ready to be installed in mid-July. These will be augmented by two WBC's to provide conventional training opportunities for the members assisting Clive Joyce, the lead beekeeper on this project.

We are still looking for some more volunteer "apprentices" to learn this ancient craft from him and to support this initiative. Skep beekeeping is often seen as being a more bee-friendly form of husbandry and its use of natural materials for the hive is very much in line with current pre-occupation with sustainability. If anyone would like to participate in this unique learning opportunity, please contact Clive Joyce on 07792222251, or Bernard Brown on bernardnbrown@outlook.com

With a footfall of 3,000 at peak times during the Summer, this project is something of a coup for the branch in promoting our craft. It also has particular resonance for Clive. As a youngster he used the Castle as a playground, scaling the perimeter wall of the castle which then was not the tourist attraction it is today. Later, sitting on what is now the wall of the Elizabethan Garden, he popped the question to his wife Eileen.

It certainly is a place of personal and national history.

Definitely cause for a bit of fanfare, don't you think?

Clive Joyce



HIVE MONITORING

NOW LIVE

WLBK have used the Arnia beehive monitoring system for several years and with the need of an upgrade it was decided to explore what other systems were available.

The training team were offered the opportunity to visit a member's apiary to see a relatively new system in action - the BEEHIVEMONITORING, which is from a company based in Slovakia and is being used by beekeepers all over the world. After spending a couple of hours viewing the system in action and doing what beekeepers do – eat homemade cake – the team quickly concluded this was the system to install at the training apiary.

Two colonies were chosen, Billy and Denny, to have a Hive Heart (top) and scales (right) installed. These are wirelessly linked to a solar powered GSM gateway that sends data to Slovakia every 15 minutes, then returned in graph form. These graphs are now live and can be seen on the WLBK website within the members' area.

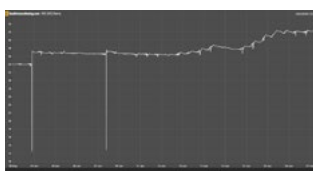
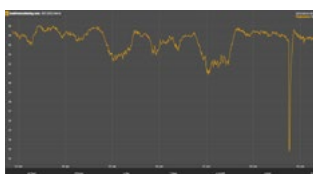
The Hive Heart monitors internal temperature, humidity, sound and frequency, information indicating if a colony is preparing to swarm, and the scales include sensors to measure weight, external temperature and humidity.

With two colonies being monitored this will hopefully give a good indication to members as to when there is a flow, a 'June gap' and when colonies are broodless during the winter months to assist in determining the correct time to do our winter varroa treatment.

There will be regular articles showing the monitoring system reports compared to what was witnessed during the weekly inspections by the 'Newbees'.

Two example graphs are shown from Denny – a sudden dip in temperature (top) and weight (bottom) are due to the weekly inspections and caused from opening the hive and removing the supers.

Chris Price



LOOK OUT!

There was a magnificent response from our members to the plight of James Regan following the theft of his hive in Barford with six offers of replacement bees, one with a hive itself. Another apiary site is also under consideration. We have received the following from James:

"I'm lost for words over the offers from other members. I did find myself in a bit of a slump at the beginning of this week and seeing those emails really brought a smile to my face and meant a lot."

Beekeepers really are such nice people!

SWARMS WANTED

From all accounts, this season seems to be particularly 'swarmy' with enough swarms to supply the members registered on the swarms wanted list. Out of the 264 members of WLBK, 30 members are signed up to the BBKA swarm collector's website, giving their time to collect and rehome bees for our members.

Swarms are still being reported and with the swarms wanted list only having a few names on it, it is a good opportunity to increase your stocks, sign up for a swarm using the following [link](#) and completing the form.

If you do sign up, do remember to have a hive ready to receive the bees and when you have received your swarm, please contact me, Chris Price, on the following email to remove your details from the list:

swarms@warleambees.org.uk.

HAPPY JU-BEE-LEE

These placards, designed by one of our newer members, wowed visitors to our stand at the Kenilworth Show.



WLBK'S DAY ON THE FARM

On 12th June, WLBK were invited to join in the Annual LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming) Open Farm Sunday event at Middle Watchbury Farm in Barford, Warwickshire. The farm is owned by my friends - Di and Georgie - and I thought it would be a great idea to have a bee display from WLBK.

With my daughter Betty and I volunteering on the day, we knew from set-up that it was going to be a good day. The sun was shining, the BBQ was hot, the displays and attractions were all set out ready to greet the visitors as they started coming through the gates. In total over 700 people of all generations attended during the day.

The day offered close contact and feeding of all types of farm animals. We had hands on encounters with nanny goats and their Kids, lambs and fluffy chicks. Sheep shearing demonstrations were an interesting watch too.

There were plenty of tractors and static vehicles that the children enjoyed sitting in. The reptiles even had their own plot with the public being able to touch and hold snakes, lizards and bearded dragons. Our very own 'Chris the swarm Co-ordinator' was persuaded to wrap a young snake round his neck, not appreciating at that point she was in fact a constrictor!

WLBK had a perfect plot right at the entrance. The bee display was a great success with not a quiet moment from inquisitive children who were very keen on queen spotting and listening to the buzz from the display bees. Plenty of honey tasting resulted in great honey sales. The WLBK display team managed to get quite a few people interested in the taster sessions, which will hopefully reflect in next year's bookings.

Following the success of this day on the farm, WLBK is thinking about offering the 'full works' at next year's event with even more activities for the children and the bee display tent.

Everyone at Middle Watchbury Farm would like to thank WLBK, and those who kindly gave up their time, for attending and contributing to a truly wonderful day. Thank you to the farmers, Di and Georgie, for giving WLBK the opportunity to reach out to the public from an exciting new venue, and for the kind cash donation made from the cookie sales.

Here's looking forward to next year!

Lottie Buckland



A LOCAL EPIDEMIC OF EFB

Many readers will remember the branch outbreak of EFB last year- and the resulting treatment, involving shook swarms for 12 colonies and destruction of two. On the anniversary of that event, let's consider the cause- EFB- and what we can do about it.

European Foulbrood is a bacterial infection (*Melissococcus Plutonius*) of the gut of the young larvae. It causes the larvae to starve, writhe around in the cell, die and, ultimately, rot down to a scale. EFB is a notifiable disease and preventing its spread is one of the key objectives of the National Bee Unit. We all hope never to see EFB, but in recent years, it has become much more likely that we will, because we are having our own little epidemic of EFB in Warwickshire.

Last year there were 70 EFB cases in Warwickshire and this year there have been 31 so far. These two years combined had more cases than the whole of the previous decade. Nationally, there are only around 300 cases a year and very few counties have anything like the levels we are experiencing- so far this year only Cambridgeshire, Kent and Devon are experiencing similar numbers. So, what can we do to protect our bees?

BE INFORMED

You need to know what to look for and who to contact because the way to stop EFB is to work with the NBU to eradicate it. Those who were at the Warwickshire/NBU Disease day on 2nd July will know the signs and actions to take. If you missed this event, the simplest way to bring your knowledge up to date is to watch the NBU presentation available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yOpJfrYTd9g>

It is really important to know that we are looking for: "melted" larvae in open brood, larvae with obvious gut contents, rotted larvae or scales at the bottom of cells.

PRACTICE BARRIER HYGIENE

EFB is spread by the bees who feed it to other bees in the hive. The EFB gets into the hives on equipment, on beekeepers and on bees. Do not use any equipment which has not been sterilised. Scorch boxes, boil frames and use ascorbic acid on combs. If you have poly equipment it needs to be soaked in soda and then in 0.5% bleach solution for 20 minutes to kill any EFB bacteria- only then is it safe to use with your bees. When you are beekeeping, be hygienic- wear clean kit and wash your gloves, boots and tools in soda between hives. We can't stop bees flying, but we can prevent drifting between hives and make sure we isolate swarms till we know they are not carrying EFB. NBU studies of particular genetic strains of EFB show that these measures do stop the spread.

DO A SPECIFIC DISEASE INSPECTION

You will not always see EFB cells when doing routine inspections of your colony. You should do a specific inspection where you shake the bees off each frame and REALLY look into those brood cells for twisted, melted or rotting larvae. Try to ignore the bees and examine each brood cell. The bees can remove EFB scales, so some colonies may conceal the presence of EFB and you need to

look into every open cell, as well as the overall pattern of brood.

REPORT ANY SUSPICIONS

The Bee Disease order of 2006 requires you to report if you suspect infection. If you do find suspicious larvae, take photos if you can then reassemble the hive and make sure you leave everything in the apiary that is already there.

Don't do any more beekeeping until you have contacted your bee inspector: Colleen Reichling via [email](mailto:colleen@beeinspector.co.uk) or 07990 138898. If you have photos, send them to her. The bee inspector will visit you and, if they find EFB, there are three treatment options: destruction, antibiotic treatment and shook swarming.

REGISTER ON BEEBASE

When you register on Beebase, make sure your apiaries are registered too- because then you will get a notification when there is EFB within 3KM and you can always look up whether there is anything within that distance of your apiaries.

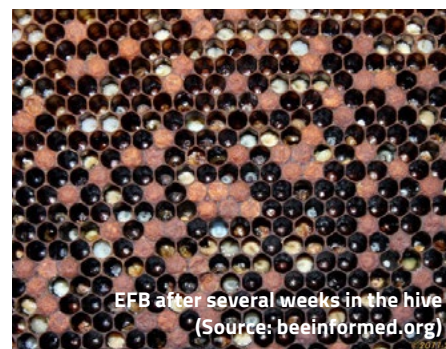
The most common treatments for EFB are destruction or carrying out a shook swarms under the guidance of the bee inspector- as we did last year in our branch apiary. Both treatments are disruptive, but it is vital to ensure EFB is eradicated and your Bee Disease Insurance (part of WLBK membership) will pay for new frames and wax. The use of antibiotics is rare in the UK because of resistance. In any case, we don't want antibiotic residues in our honey, so it's probably for the best.

Nobody wants EFB and the precautions and hygiene should help prevent it. But if our bees do get EFB, we want it dealt with fast. So why not do a disease inspection now?

Jane Medwell



Last year's EFB frames being cast into the fiery pit



EFB after several weeks in the hive (Source: beeinformed.org)



A close-up photograph of a vibrant red poppy flower. The flower has a dark, almost black, center with a yellow, ribbed, star-shaped structure in the middle. The petals are a deep red color with a slightly ruffled edge. The background shows green, serrated leaves of the plant. The image is credited to Barry Meatyard.



STEWARDS FOR SUMMER DISPLAYS

A portrait of a middle-aged man with light brown hair, wearing glasses and a blue collared shirt. He is smiling and looking directly at the camera. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.



PREPARING FOR THE HEATHER

For some years our members have taken their bees to the heather moors of the Derbyshire Peak District in the hope of getting some heather honey. This pilgrimage usually takes place during the first or second week of August with the hives being brought back about a month later. It is quite any easy journey, up the M1 and through Chesterfield to a farm overlooking the heather moorland at the back of Chatsworth House.

A great deal has been written about preparing bees for the heather but essentially you need to consider the strength of your colony; it must have bees over every frame, and I do mean a good covering of bees over each one, be queen right, of course, and have at least two full brood frames of stores and I suggest feeding them. A high proportion of young bees with near wall-to-wall brood is ideal. Rearranging frames with unsealed brood to the outside and sealed in the centre allows the queen to lay in the centre as workers emerge forcing honey to be taken up into the super.

You need just one super, ideally drawn comb, but foundation will do. Thin unwired foundation is best as it allows you to make cut comb. The usual way hobby beekeepers extract heather is by cold pressing so thin unwired foundation is also more economical and we are very fortunate in having a heather press in our extraction room.

In fairness to other beekeepers you need to be satisfied your bees are disease free and understand they will be placed on the moor amongst bees from other places with the risks associated in doing this. The farm we go to is about 1000ft up so the lighter coloured Italian bees and variations of them may not be suitable because when we are enjoying refreshing warm light rain at home up on the moor it is cold horizontal stair rods.

Your hive will need to have a travelling screen and be secured with two proper hive straps or ratchet straps. The floor, particularly the Thornes budget varroa floor, needs to be checked for leaks (of bees) with the entrance blocked with a strip of foam; not tape or wood etc. Pay particular attention to the back part of the floor for which Thornes give you a few drawing pins to fix the mesh in place. This is not good enough as when hive straps are tightened the mesh floor lifts and bees come flying out at the back. Staples or large headed nails are required to fasten it securely.

In the past we have taken members bees for them. This is no longer practical but, as always in the past, members are able to take

their own hives. The site is secure with reasonable access along a track to a field at the edge of the moor. However, the last part of the track is steep and rough leading to the field where we keep the bees which can sometimes be rather soft. Taking this into account the arrangements will be as follows.

- Inform Mike Townsend michaelatownsend@hotmail.com that you want to take bees. I would appreciate an expression of interest in the first instance by email only please.

- Alan Deeley has kindly agreed to assist with liaison with other heather goers to see if vehicle sharing is practical and in providing location and access details. This will take into account the type of vehicle beekeepers have with the opportunity to team up with others. Those with four-wheel drive/high clearance vehicles may help others get across the short last stretch of the field leading to the edge of the moor.

- We now have a hive barrow (right) which can be borrowed to make it easier for members without high ground clearance vehicles to transport hives the short distance over difficult ground conditions. It is a modified Thornes barrow adapted to deal with the terrain.

- Hive stands are not required and are unsuitable for the terrain. However, hives do need to be off the ground and what works very well are short pieces of timber about 75mmx 75mm so offcuts of old fence posts are ideal and if they are cut to a length to fit inside a roof makes packing in the car easier. Four of these together with a few short pieces of small timber offcuts facilitates levelling of hives.

- You will be given contact details and map. The 'rent' paid directly to the farmer is one 1lb jar of honey per hive taken.

I hope you will want to try heather going; at the very least you will be able to use the trip as an opportunity to explore this part of the Peak District.

Mike Townsend



BEEKEEPING NEWS FROM KENYA



Projects that have been carried out in Kenya include the Laikipia County project, which helped trained 1000+ beekeepers

The charity **Bees Abroad** (BA) with its tagline of 'Relieving Poverty Through Beekeeping' is a UK charity that promotes locally appropriate beekeeping in a number of third world countries to enable participants to generate income to enhance their livelihoods, alleviate poverty and improve their quality of life. The charity runs almost entirely on UK volunteers who each have specific interest in certain countries.

We have been involved since 2005 helping the rural communities in Kenya to appreciate the benefits of beekeeping for subsistence farmers. This has usually involved an annual visit and many communications in various forms throughout the year to facilitate specific project work through requests made to the charity.

Our aim has always been to help our colleagues in Kenya create a strong sustainable independent team working in close partnership with Bees Abroad. Our Kenyan colleagues have the freedom and expertise to carry out their own beekeeping development work as well as follow up on requests received by Bees Abroad. They need financial support to achieve this aim.

During the past three years the team has undertaken the work of new projects as well as continuing the work on existing projects. This has been done with the support from the UK partnership Managers holding monthly team meetings via the internet. This year they have launched the team as Bees4Kenya with their own web site creating interest and enquires.

A recent highlight has been attending the World Bee Day event over three days in Nakuru, a regional county town in Kenya. Their display stand attracted some 700 visitors including many dignitaries.

Extract from their report*:

"General comments on the visitor book indicated that these visitors are quite impressed with the display and the general information provided by our team especially on the benefits accrued from hive products and value added products. The display also attracted 1 TV station and 2 radio stations media who engaged us for interviews."



Bees4Kenya launched this year

A further notable achievement has been a day with county Agriculture Executive and Extension Officers, who usually have little understanding of beekeeping and the benefits particularly on improvement of crops through pollination. This was well received and a request to repeat for another group is being considered

Extract from their report*:

"The agricultural sector provides a livelihood for about 80 per cent of Kenya's population, most of whom are subsistence farmers in rural areas. This means that agriculture plays a major role in contributing towards attaining food security, improvement of household incomes and reduction of poverty. This thus calls for the need for a well-functioning agricultural extension services provision."

We want to thank the members of the branch for their continuing support and interest over the years A special thank you for the donations to the work which we endeavour to continue to use carefully for the encouragement of this development in Kenya.

John and Mary Home

**If you would like to read the report in full, which makes for very interesting reading email tanyaweaversa@yahoo.co.uk who will forward it to you.*



HINTS & TIPS: EXTRACTING HONEY



Many thanks to Mike Townsend and Clive Joyce for the following gems on extracting honey:

- Check the spring piece in porter bee escapes before fitting them. When bought they are often too big- the width of a matchstick is a good size.
- Don't be tempted to select out those well filled frames by brushing off the bees. This can lead to anxiety in the hive. It is much better to remove the whole super when it is ready.
- Pallet wrap is a superior cling film and very useful for storing full supers before extraction. It is also good for wrapping frames after they have been treated in the freezer for wax moth.
- When cutting comb make a cardboard template and cut to size using a small very sharp knife. As you lift the cut comb our shine a light behind to enable the wire to be pulled out carefully, if necessary. Remember to put the best side up!
- Put cut comb in the freezer to prevent granulation.(Remember to defrost it before the HONEY SHOW !)
- Left over pieces from the cut comb frame can be crushed with a potato masher and jarred- lovely on hot toast!
- Mush up granulated honey in the comb and heat at 40C for 3 days to separate. A hostess trolley or yogurt maker may prove useful for this.
- When extracting, spin slowly to start with and then gradually build up speed for maximum honey yield.
 - Tip the honey bucket towards the tap to maximise the number of jars that can be filled without scum.
 - Fill your jars a bit fuller than is necessary so you have extra to remove the scum that will settle on the surface. Use cling film to remove those last few little bits off the top.
 - When pouring creamed honey, warm the jars to prevent lines forming. Remember to lay the jars on their side if using a fan assisted oven to prevent the debris from being deposited in your jars.



HELEN ESSEX

Now it is your chance! If you have any hints or tips that you would like to share, please send them to h.essex211@gmail.com

The editor of Bee Talk is Tanya Weaver.
Please send content for the newsletter to her by the 28th of each month:
tanyaweaversa@yahoo.co.uk

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