



BEE TALK

Warwick and Leamington Branch of Warwickshire Beekeepers

DAY OF FUN AT KENILWORTH CASTLE



Wildflower border at Kenilworth Castle



Clive Joyce and Mick Smith with Val's bees in the display hive

Children from all six Kenilworth Primary Schools walked to Kenilworth Castle on 13th or 14th June to enjoy activities put on by English Heritage and Warwick and Leamington Beekeepers. We provided four activities: learning about and doing the waggle dance, being a bee and collecting pollen and nectar, honey tasting and seeing bees, including the queen, in a display hive.

Over the course of the two days, 200 children put their ears to a hive to see if they could tell whether there were bees in it. Many thought there were bees and stepped back when the roof and crown board were removed, only to reveal a bucket! Silvia Koniekleiva told children from each school how bees find good sources of pollen and nectar. She led them in the waggle dance and then in a game where they were bees, collecting nectar with their proboscis (a turkey baster) running with it to the hive. They then collected pollen pompoms in the pollen baskets on their legs and took them to the hive. Graham Day helped Silvia by collecting the pollen ready for another group of children – a full-time job.

After all that running, the children needed a boost which they got by tasting honey. Borage and multiflora honey were the favourites, and the groups on Tuesday loved the idea of tasting the honey from

the bees in the display hive – both provided by Val. Tony Silcock and Caroline Brennan gave the children honey samples to taste. On Tuesday, there was pine honey, very different from the other samples. Caroline introduced it as tasting like sticky toffee pudding – and, as if by magic, it became very popular. Of course, some children said they did not like honey (even though they had never tasted it) but quite a few were converted, and lots of children said they would have bread and honey when they got home!

Clive and Mick Smith showed children the bees in a display hive and helped them find the queen, drones, larva and pointed out when the queen was laying an egg. By the end of the afternoon, the queen was rather weary and started hiding, but a short spell with the covers on brought her out for the last groups to see.

Taking down the marquee was marked with the traditional group hug. 'Tiring but great fun' was the verdict of the volunteers. Logistics – getting all the kit to the Castle and back to Dalehouse Lane was provided by Val and Terry, assisted by Clive and Silvia. Philip, the head gardener at the Castle, moved the kit from the lawn to the gatehouse leaving all of us thinking we'd like to have his buggy.

Judith Masson and Clive Joyce

JOIN US ON A BEE SAFARI



A couple of intrepid beekeepers on one of our previous Bee Safaris

Our next Bee Safari will take place on **Sunday 9th August** from 2-4 pm at our webmaster's apiary. If you haven't visited another apiary and had the chance to find out how someone else arranges their hives and manages their bees this is a great opportunity to see for yourself, ask questions and to think again about your apiary.

We ask members to book, so the host knows how many people to expect, and to ensure the event works for everyone who attends. Details of the exact location and parking arrangements will be

provided to all who book a few days before the event.

Spaces are limited and everyone who books must agree to the terms and conditions, which are basically about ensuring safety for all involved, including preventing disease risks to the bees.

Safaris are great fun. You can also learn a lot by seeing how other members keep their bees. It would be great if some safari-ists hosted a club safari in 2027.

Judith Masson
Meetings Secretary



TASTER DAY VOLUNTEERS

This year our Taster day will be at BBKA headquarters at Stoneleigh on **Sunday 6th September**. We currently have 18 people paid up and are hoping for some more delegates. Help with displays, talks and, of course, your recommendation to work colleagues and friends who have shown an interest in our craft is very welcome. There will be a cap of 25 attendees for practicality of space.

We need some help to run these days if they are to be the success they usually are. The tasks with which we need assistance are as follows:

- We will need extra hands to assist with the apiary session in the afternoon as we plan to have one experienced beekeeper

per 5 attendees. We are holding the apiary session at BBKA headquarters.

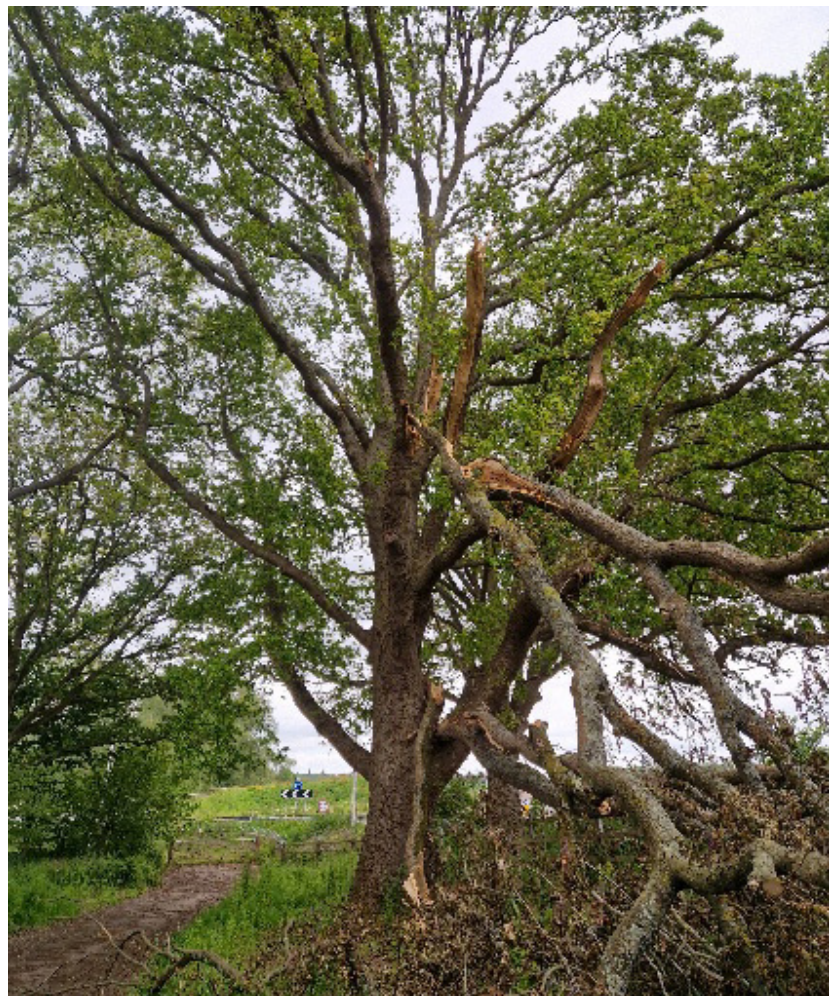
- If you feel like giving a talk to enthusiastic potential beekeepers, please let us know and we will find a session for you (basic presentations are available for your use). It is always good to find new presenters. It is a very enjoyable time with the delegates who are always ready to learn.

If you think you might be able to help with any of the above, please do get in touch with us.

Paul Day paul@paulday.co.uk
Jane Richmond jane@J-Richmond.co.uk



SURPRISED BY WIND



Freak gusts of wind at our Dalehouse Lane apiary site near Kenilworth caught an oak tree on the site entirely by surprise, as can be seen from the photo. Three huge branches were torn from the trunk of this mature tree despite having been examined and "pruned" by tree surgeons only a few weeks before. Measuring 12" in diameter and over 20ft long, it is not surprising that they caused some serious damage when they crashed down. The most damaged was the newly installed "otter" fence which was significantly re-configured as a result. Otter fence? Yes, otters can climb and the 6ft cranked topped fence is designed to stop otters escaping from the Finham Brook and playing with the traffic on the newly constructed road! Fortunately, only the thin, whippy ends of the branches reached as far as the entrance gate and only minor damage was sustained. Of greater concern was the fate of our recently planted hedge which lay directly under the path of two of the fallen branches. Measuring 8" in diameter, 20ft long, these have now been cut down and sawn up by members and largely removed from site, revealing that the hedge had escaped relatively lightly. Only 10 of the hedging plants had been pinned to the ground and, fortunately again, only the canes were broken off, the plants themselves being merely bent over. These were restored to the near vertical once the truncated canes were pushed back into the ground.

Having survived last summer's drought as reported last month, this hedge seems intent on drawing attention to itself and as it appears to lead a charmed life, long may it continue to do so.

Ivan A Perry

ADVICE FOR A HEATWAVE

I doubt if many of us will relish the prospect of donning a beesuit under these heatwave conditions anyway, but if you need to find an excuse not to, Dave Bonner, Master Beekeeper, has provided the following advice:-

'I hope that this is obvious but, in this weather, we should not be opening or inspecting our colonies.'

The bees will have set up an efficient 'air conditioning' system by fanning air around the hive, bringing in water and excess bees will be 'bearding' outside the entrance.

This will enable them to maintain the internal temperature and humidity.

If we open the hive, move the frames shake the bees around etc, this destroys that system and it will take the bees sometime to get it working again – by which time the temperature in the hive may have risen to catastrophic levels.

Be patient, trust the bees, wait for the weather to cool in a few days' time.

If in doubt provide water for the bees to use to help cool the hive.'

BBKA TALKS

The next in the BBKA's monthly series of Zoom talks is: **'Honey Bee Nutrition'** with Dr. Thierry Bogaert, CTO and Chairman of APIX Biosciences, on **Tuesday 21st July at 7pm.**

Thierry has been active in the seed and crop protection industry for decades. Throughout his career, Thierry has combined deep understanding of the complex science – including biochemistry, plant and animal genetics, biology, and pathology – with the understanding of different agronomies and agricultural practices to bring innovations to farmers.

Having worked for decades on insects and insects-plant interactions, he understands the complexities of the honey bee nutrition challenge, the underlying scientific work, and what it takes to bring novel solutions to market.

Zoom link [here](#)

Meeting ID: 812 3381 9992

Passcode: 527929

A recording of this talk will be available on the BBKA Member Hub afterwards for those unable to watch live.



SUMMER BBQ

SATURDAY 22 AUGUST
4PM - 7PM

HURST FARM, CV8 2JW

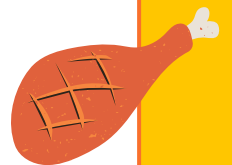
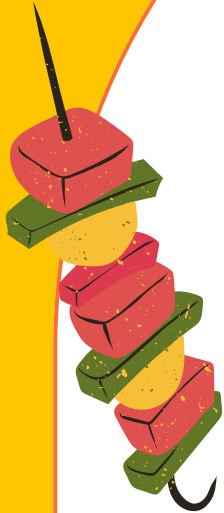
Members and their families are cordially invited to our summer BBQ and grand opening of our new extraction unit!

Bernard will be firing up the club's gas BBQ, so bring what you would like to BBQ and a dish to share (salad or dessert). Also, bring drinks as well as plates and cutlery. We can supply some glasses and (hopefully) tables, but you will need to bring something to sit on!

It will be an opportunity for everyone to see our new extraction facilities and thank the team who have worked so very hard to acquire the kit, get it into place, make it work and meet the required hygiene standards.

There will also be opportunities to learn how to book and use the unit. An updated version of the Extraction Unit Manual will be available on the website, so everyone who uses it knows how to keep the kit in good running order and keep it clean for other members.

The BBQ will also be an opportunity to celebrate – the work of our bees (and our own), the continued success of the club and what can be achieved through co-operation and collaboration. This is party time and we hope to see you there!



PREPARING FOR THE HEATHER



If you want honey, you need bees! If you want a lot of honey, you need a lot of bees. If you want any heather honey, you need a lot of strong bees, but you also need to have plenty of bees of the **right age** available at the **right time**. Why? Firstly, you need a large labour force to forage over a wide area and collect the nectar.

Secondly, there are likely to be a lot of hives from all over the country competing for the finite resource and your girls need to be able to hold your own in the face of this.

Thirdly, the weather conditions on the moors can be such so as to degrade the effectiveness of the colony

And fourthly, to deter robbing. Weak colonies will be exploited by stronger ones.

But how can you organise things to have strong colonies at the appropriate time?

In the past, I have trusted to luck with whatever colonies the season has brought me with approximately the desired characteristics. Towards the end of July, I usually identify my second and third best colonies, (not wishing to risk my best) which, by happenstance, appear strong. There has been occasion when, reluctantly, I have had to bear the disappointment of deciding that none of my colonies were up to the task. There is little point taking small hives to the heather (they are not going just to admire the view!)

Quite a lot of effort goes into taking bees to the heather and caring for them whilst they are there and thus it makes sense to try to maximise your chances of success. So this year I am planning to pro-actively manage my bees to produce strong colonies following the advice from a Yorkshire beekeeper and heather honey collector of many years' standing published recently in BBKA news. Incidentally, these management techniques apply whenever strong colonies are required, such as for other mono-floral honey collection or for rearing colonies for the winter.

To reinforce what was stated earlier, the aim is to have plenty of bees, ready at the right time and of the right age.

Engineering the colony to be ready at the right time can be tricky as the flowering season for the heather does not start at the same time each year. Add to this the starting state of the colony and the degree to which it can respond to your management, in part dependent on your location and forage availability, you can begin to understand the problem. Fortunately, Francis, the farmer on whose land we create our heather apiary, reports on the development of the heather so we can avoid taking the bees there too early. I tend to aim for the first week in August, I'd rather be a tad early than late.

To maximise honey production up at the heather, plenty of available foraging bees are required for the whole period the bees are on the moors. This means ensuring plenty of eggs are laid from six weeks before the start of August i.e. mid-June and through July. The aim is to

have colonies on at least 6 frames and preferably with 10–11 frames of brood in the brood box.

To achieve this, start the process in June during your routine swarm inspections to spread the centre of the brood nest and place at least one empty drawn comb - more if it is a strong colony - in the centre of the brood nest to ensure the queen lays lots of eggs. The queen must not be short of available cells for her egg-laying. The frames with older brood will thus be towards the outside of the brood box.

Apparently, an arch of sealed honey *on a brood frame* acts as nature's own queen excluder and keeps the queen below the sealed honey which will reduce her egg laying opportunity. Either move these combs up, if you have, or can put the colony on a double brood box arrangement or bruise the sealed cells with a hive tool to encourage the bees to move the honey up the hive into the supers thereby releasing more cells for eggs. I shall adopt the latter. The act of moving brood to the outside of the brood nest will, of itself, push honey up to the supers

In the week prior to moving the colonies to the heather, move young brood to the outside of the nest (the reverse of before); the older brood is now in the centre and will emerge first while on the moor, leaving space for the queen to re-lay these cells to produce the 'winter' bees needed to sustain the colony upon its return. The young brood on the outside makes sure the honey goes in the top boxes.

Any sealed summer honey should be removed and stored for when the colony returns.

If travelling a long way to the heather, put empty drawn supers on to give space for the bees to expand into during transit.

To increase the workforce, harvest flying bees from an adjacent colony by moving the adjacent hive away by a couple of metres on the premise that they will return to the original site and beg entrance to the hive destined for the heather.

Drawn combs in the supers will maximise honey production, so get them drawn on earlier crops and spun out. It takes approximately 10lb of honey to produce 1lb of bees wax so using thin super foundation or starter strips, both drawn, will use lots of heather honey!

Maintain levels of top insulation while the hives are on the moor. Due to cold night-time temperatures, it takes far less energy for the bees to ventilate and cool hives than it does to keep warm. The valuable heather nectar will be ripened, turned into honey and sealed much quicker if the hive temperature is constant and the bees have only to ventilate.

There is advantage in teaming up with other members to share transport and to provide muscle particularly during setting up your colonies and retrieving, what hopefully will be, full supers. So if anyone is interested in taking bees to the heather this year, do let me know by following this [link](#) also repeated at the end of the "Taking Bees to the Heather" article on page 8) and we will try to match you with other members of equal intent.

Will all this make a difference? Who knows when there are so many other variables that will impact on success. Still...nothing ventured, ...nothing gained!

Alternatively, you can just mosey on up to Derbyshire, Staffordshire, Yorkshire, Devon or Cornwall and purchase a bucket of heather honey direct from a local beekeeper...but where is the challenge in that?

Bernard Brown

YLH – THE LATEST BUZZ



Sightings for June bring the year-to-date total to 35 (27th June 2026). This is almost a third down on those for the equivalent period last year and whilst it is somewhat premature to commence celebrations, it is a step in the right direction.

However, we are entering the phase in the life-cycle of this beastie when the trajectory of its population growth is about to sky-rocket as the colonies seek to build up to their September/October peak levels. Consequently, over the next three months or so, there will be increasing numbers of YLH's about, foraging to provide the protein for their developing larvae in the secondary nests now having been initiated.

Both the increase in numbers and the establishment of these secondary nests enhances the chances of credible sightings and now is the time when bait stations, the preferred means of detecting YLH, are to be deployed. Taking advantage of the individual YLH's food fidelity, bait stations enable a visiting YLH to be identified, photographed and its direction of departure to be reported to the non-native species secretariat as the first step in mobilising the National Bee Unit's YLH team to track and trace the hornet back to its nest.

Whilst BKAs in medium and high risk areas are currently engaged in this, here in Warwickshire, prompted by the speed of response required in the event of a confirmed sighting, we are running a free YLH monitoring workshop covering the types of monitoring traps and bait stations, when and where to deploy them, and what is involved in conducting the monitoring. This is being held at BBKA headquarters, Stoneleigh Park, on the afternoon of **Saturday 18th July** and is open to all. To book a place please complete and submit the following google form at **YLH Monitoring Workshop 18th July**.

A new project designed for Year 6 pupils (aged 10–11) to spot Yellow-legged Asian hornets and protect pollinators has also been launched by the BBKA in a "catch them young" move as part of the public awareness campaign. We would like all members, whether directly involved in education or who count those who are amongst your network of contacts, to promote this completely free initiative.

The BBKA recognises that school timetables are already full, and that teachers are often balancing a wide range of curriculum demands. This four-week programme has therefore been carefully

designed to fit within the practical and valuable window in the school year following the completion of Key Stage 2 SATs. This transitional period before moving on to secondary school presents a unique opportunity for:

- project-based learning
- enrichment activities
- consolidation of key skills
- meaningful, real-world application of knowledge

Lucie Chaumeton, BBKA trustee, said: "Spotting and reporting Yellow-legged Asian hornets is vital to protect our pollinators. This project empowers children to take part in powerful citizen science while learning about biodiversity, ecosystems and the importance of pollinator conservation. It's a perfect fit for the post-SATs period, giving pupils a purposeful, creative and curriculum-linked project at a time when schools are looking for high-quality enrichment activities."

During the programme, pupils will design and build a simple monitoring station, observe insect activity in their school grounds, record data, and share their findings with the wider school community. All activities follow BBKA safety guidance and emphasise responsible, supervised observation — not approaching or disturbing hornets or nests.

Developed by Barnsley-based teacher and beekeeper Richard Senior, it supports learning across Science, Geography, Mathematics, English, Computing, Design & Technology and Art.

Defra Chief Plant Health Officer, Professor Nicola Spence CBE, said: "Public awareness and education are essential to the UK's response to invasive non-native species. Initiatives such as the BBKA's Pollinator Protectors project help young people understand biosecurity, species identification and the importance of early detection. Engaging pupils in this way supports wider national efforts to protect our environment and agricultural systems."

Schools and home educators can access the full project framework, resources and guidance — all free of charge — [here](#).

Bernard Brown
WLBK YLAHAT Co-ordinator



HOW HONEY BEES REALLY CROWN THEIR QUEENS



For generations, scientists believed a queen honeybee was made almost entirely by diet: feed an ordinary larva enough royal jelly and a ruler emerges. But new research suggests queens are created through a more elaborate process.

Young worker bees construct specialised nursery chambers complete with custom wax, warmer temperatures, and devoted attendants that help determine whether a larva becomes royalty.

Published in the journal *Nature*, the study found that wax chambers where future queens develop, called queen cells are not simply protective shelters, but carefully engineered environments essential to producing healthy queens.

Researchers identified a previously unrecognised class of young worker bees dubbed "queen cell builders" that appear uniquely adapted for the task. "The old idea was relatively simple: take an egg, move it into a queen cell, feed it royal jelly, and you get a queen," said Boris Baer, entomologist and director of the Centre for Integrative Bee Research (CIBER) at the University of California, Riverside, whose laboratory contributed to the work. "What we found is that there's an entire machinery behind this process. It's much more sophisticated than we imagined."

Honeybee queens and workers begin life the same way: as nearly identical eggs. Yet queens grow larger, mature faster, and live dramatically longer than worker bees. They are also the colony's sole egg layer, responsible for producing the next generation of

bees. Scientists have long credited royal jelly, a milky, nutrient-rich substance worker bees feed to young larvae, as the primary force behind that transformation. The new study suggests food is only part of the story.

Using thermal imaging, behavioural tracking, materials science, and chemical testing, the researchers found that queen cells differ sharply from the familiar hexagonal chambers used to rear worker bees.

The peanut-shaped queen cells are built from wax with distinct physical and chemical properties, making them less dense, more pliable, and better able to maintain warmth and moisture for developing larvae. The wax also differed in its fatty acids and chemical signals, creating what researchers describe as a specialized developmental environment.

To test whether the nursery itself mattered, the researchers raised developing queens in cells made either from queen wax or ordinary worker wax. Larvae raised in worker wax were more likely to die and grow into smaller queens, even when fed the same diet, suggesting that the surrounding environment plays a critical role in development.

The study also revealed the workers behind the process. Queen cell builders, typically younger than other hive workers, maintain elevated body temperatures and altered physiology while tending future queens. The extra warmth appears to speed development: queen bees mature in about 16 days, compared with roughly 21 days for worker bees, an advantage when a colony urgently needs a new ruler.

Rather than simply recycling wax, the bees actively gather, modify, and enrich materials for royal chambers. They also activate different biological processes tied to wax production, essentially changing how their bodies function while tending future queens.

Researchers even tracked how the bees repurposed material from elsewhere in the hive. By adding trace amounts of graphite to ordinary honeycomb, the team showed that darkened wax eventually appeared in queen cells, evidence that workers were selectively gathering and transforming material for royal use.

The process, Baer said, resembles something closer to a royal court than a simple insect nursery. It is clear that bees form a dedicated group of bees focused entirely on raising the queen in a tightly coordinated effort devoted to producing the colony's next ruler.

For decades, queen bees seemed to offer one of biology's simpler stories: special food makes a special insect. The new findings suggest that a queen emerges not from diet alone, but from an entire society working together to shape her future.

Yet another wonder revealed by these fascinating creatures.

With acknowledgement to the University of California Riverside for the original research (UC Riverside / University of California, Riverside) and Science X Science X – Science News Network | Phys.org, Medical Xpress & Tech Xplore for permission to publish.

TAKING BEES TO THE HEATHER



Yes! It's that time of year again. Love it or hate it, heather honey is popular on the sales table at our shows and attracts a premium price. For some, it is the only honey to use in honey cakes and has proved a particularly successful ingredient in those submitted at our honey shows.

Branch members have been wending their way north for many years now to take 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.

In preparation, you need to consider the strength of your bees, a subject on which we devote an entire article to in this issue (turn to page 5).

Based on experience from the last couple of years, you should take a couple of supers initially. An interim visit after 2-3 weeks to check on the filling of your supers is prudent but members who intend to make this journey will often check on other member's hives and add supers if you let them have empty ones.

Being thixotropic, heather honey won't spin out as runny honey does and so the usual way hobby beekeepers extract heather honey is by cold pressing. The heather honey comb is cut out of the frame, wrapped in a filter cloth and inserted into our very own heather press to squeeze the honey out. Wireless and drawn thin foundation is best for the supers as not only does it enable you to make delicious cut comb honey but also makes extraction so much easier. Our co-op stocks this foundation.

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 all around the country with accordant risks. The farm we go to is about 1000ft up so the lighter-coloured Italian bees and variations of them may not do so well as whilst we may be 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. If you don't have and can't borrow one, a modified mesh floor will suffice. The boxes will need to be secured with two proper hive straps or ratchet straps. The floor, particularly the Thorne 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 mesh floor for which Thorne 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 (clout) nails are required to fasten it securely.

Bees can suffer badly in the August high temperatures particularly if confined for long periods or held up on the journey to the heather. So, traditionally, we have left Warwickshire around 5.00am thus avoiding the heat of the day and traffic. When transporting bees, wedge the brood frames with foam or cardboard to prevent them flapping around and place the hive with the frames orientated in the direction of travel i.e. from front to back of the vehicle.

The site is secure with reasonable access for an average car driven carefully along a mile-long, seriously pot-holed track, past the farm to a field at the edge of the moor. However, the field is steep and rough leading to where we keep the bees which can sometimes also be rather soft. We now have a hive barrow (above) which can be borrowed to make it easier for members who do not have four-wheel drive/high ground clearance vehicles to carry their hives the short distance where ground conditions may be difficult. It is a modified Thorne's barrow adapted to deal with the terrain (image on page 9).

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 75mm x 75mm so offcuts of old fence posts are ideal and, if they are cut to a length to fit inside a roof, it makes packing in the car easier. Four of these together with a few short pieces of small timber offcuts facilitates levelling of hives.

Having set the hives up, it is again traditional to have breakfast - in my case a cold bacon sandwich and flask of hot coffee around 7.30 - 8.00 a.m. overlooking the purple cloaked vista of the moors. Magical!. This all adds to the sense of adventure associated with the entire exercise. For those who seek a little more comfort, there is a Premier Inn located at the junction of the mile long, pot-holed track and the main road.

For this year the arrangements will be as follows:-

- Indicate your interest in taking some bees to the heather by completing the form at this link: [Bees to the Heather - Expressions](#)



of Interest

- There is scope to share transport with other members. Indeed, because of the terrain and unpredictable weather, it is strongly advised that at least two of you team up to go to the heather to help

with the manhandling and for safety reasons. This is particularly relevant when returning with your hives and, hopefully a bumper crop.

- You can indicate whether you need a lift or can share space in your vehicle on the expression of interest form and we will try to match you up.
- We will be in touch with the farmer towards the end of July to ascertain the state of flowering of the heather and will alert members when it is appropriate to make the journey.
- We will provide you with contact details and a map nearer the time.
- The 'rent' paid directly to the farmer is one 1lb jar of honey per hive taken.

We hope that you will want to try taking bees to the heather. At the very least you will be able to use the trip as an opportunity to explore this part of the Peak District which includes Chatsworth House just a few miles down the road.

Bernard Brown

HINTS AND TIPS

Many thanks to Mike Townsend and Clive Joyce for the following gems.

- 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.

- 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 40 OC for 3 days to separate.
- 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.

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

Helen Essex



The editor of Bee Talk is Tanya Weaver.
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