



Registered Charity No: 1015801
www.valeanddownlandbees.org.uk

2019 PROGRAMME

President	John Valentine
Vice-President	Peter Barker
Chairperson	Michael Havard-Bilton 01235 523420 chair@valeanddownlandbees.org.uk
Vice-Chairperson	John Broadbent vice-chair@valeanddownlandbees.org.uk
Hon Secretary	Caroline Simmonds 01993 841345 secretary@valeanddownlandbees.org.uk
Hon Treasurer	Lyn Barker 01235 524054 treasurer@valeanddownlandbees.org.uk
Membership Secretary	Lilian Valentine 01235 767524 jvalentine515@btinternet.com
Programme Secretary	Samantha Chapman programme@valeanddownlandbees.org.uk
Communications Officer	Sam Burford 07777 464446 press@valeanddownlandbees.org.uk
Exam/Education Coordinator	Lilian Valentine
Association Apiary Managers	Lilian Valentine John Valentine
Executive Committee	Heather Burford Helen Davison David Mead Simon Rogers
BBKA Delegate*	Judy Rogers
BBKA Delegate's Assistant*	John Broadbent
Assistant Assoc. Apiary Manager*	Sam Burford
Librarian*	Patricia Tynan librarian@valeanddownlandbees.org.uk
News editor*	Lister Hickson 01488 648518

* non-committee

GENERAL INFORMATION

BEE PROBLEMS

If you suspect anything wrong with your bees please contact John Valentine (01235 767524). Arrangements will then be made for one of our experts to inspect them for you. Travel costs by arrangement.

BROOD DISEASE

If you suspect any brood disease in your bees (EFB or AFB) please contact Regional Bee Inspector Peter Davies
Peter.Davies@apha.gov.uk
 07900 292160

LIBRARY BOOKS

Please return all books promptly. Other members may be waiting to read them. If you are late in returning books you may be asked by the Librarian for a lateness fee. You may contact the Librarian for renewal.

HIRE OF EQUIPMENT

For hire of the Association's equipment (Wax Extractor, Honey Extractors, Pollen Traps etc) contact Michael Taylor (01235 751646)

QUEEN MARKING COLOUR

White for any year ending in	1 or 6
Yellow for any year ending in	2 or 7
Red for any year ending in	3 or 8
Green for any year ending in	4 or 9
Blue for any year ending in	5 or 0

RECIPES FOR FEEDING BEES

Spring and Summer Feeding

1 pint hot water to 1 lb of sugar

Autumn and Winter Feeding

1 pint hot water to 2 lbs of sugar, this gives a 62% concentration of weight.

Stir until the sugar is completely dissolved. During winter months fondant is fed if food is short.

VARROA TREATMENT

Treatment should be carried out at least once a year at the beginning of August after all honey has been taken off. You can also treat with Oxalic Acid in late December/early January when there is no brood or very little brood, this method has proved popular as it really clears out any varroa before the bees settle for winter. You can treat with other varroa treatments early in March or when the outdoor temperatures have risen, but remember you should not have any supers on whenever treatment is taking place. If you feel that your bees are heavily populated with the mites during the season, then artificial swarming can be done and treatment carried out to the stock with the brood and no supers of honey. To help keep the mite population down during the season destruction of sealed drone cells can be carried out, depending on whether drones are needed for mating.
Resistant mites: Mike has the necessary equipment for you to borrow to test for resistant mites. If you require more advice please ring Mike Taylor (01235 751646) for assistance.

SUSPECTED POISONING

If you suspect that your bees have been poisoned contact your local Bee Inspector or one of the team at the National Bee Unit immediately, they can advise you what to do. However, it would be a good idea to collect a sample of the affected bees. A sample of at least 200 bees is required for the analysis, approximately the number that will fit into a large 'Cooks' matchbox, and it may be advisable to collect a sample for yourself, should you wish to have an independent analysis carried out. These need to be securely packaged but not in a plastic bag and preferably not flattened. Please send them to the following address, contacting a Bee Inspector before submitting a sample: National Bee Unit, The Animal and Plant Health Agency, Sand Hutton, York, YO41 1LZ.

SPRAY WARNING OFFICER FOR 2019

Lilian Valentine 01235 767524

MENTORS FOR NEW BEEKEEPERS PLEASE CONTACT

Lilian and John Valentine 01235 767524



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2019 PROGRAMME

Friday Winter Indoor Meetings are held at East Challow Village Hall, Main Street (A417), East Challow, Wantage OX12 9SR, commencing at 1930hrs. Parking facilities are available on the site adjacent to hall

Saturday Beginners and Improvers apiary meetings are held every Saturday afternoon commencing at 1500hrs, from April to the end of season, at the association's Teaching apiary. Any member with beekeeping problems is quite welcome to attend.

Sunday afternoon meetings at members' hosted apiaries, addresses will be sent by email nearer the date

Saturday 26 JANUARY 2019, 1100hrs-1500hrs
Practical workshop for beginners in Scout Hall

Experienced beekeepers would be welcome to help the beginners build their hives and frames. Contact Lilian for details.

Friday 25th JANUARY 2019, 1930hrs
The Asian Hornet

Talk by Regional Bee Inspector, Peter Davies, followed by a practical workshop to make an Asian Hornet Monitoring Trap to complete and take home.

Saturday 9th FEBRUARY 2019, 1030hrs~1600hrs
Bucks County BKA Spring Seminar 2019

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bucks-county-beekeepers-spring-seminar-2019-tickets-51118098609?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

Friday 22nd FEBRUARY 2019, 1930hrs
The Colony Mind or If Heath Robinson was a Beekeeper
Talk by Grahame Royle

Saturday 9th MARCH 2019, 0900hrs~1630hrs
TRADEX at National Agricultural Ground, Stoneleigh
This is an opportunity to purchase your beekeeping equipment for the coming season.

Friday 22nd MARCH 2019, 1930hrs
How to use our new External Automatic Defibrillator
Talk and demo by Matt Richards

Fri 12 ~ Sun 14 APRIL 2019

BBKA Spring Convention and Trade Show

To be held at Harper Adams University College, Newport, Shropshire TF10 8NB. Lectures and Workshops are held on Friday to Saturday, Trade Show will be open on Saturday only.

Timetables and booking can be found on

<https://www.bbka.org.uk/Event/spring-convention-2019>

Saturday 27th APRIL 2019, 1500hrs

First apiary meeting at the Association's apiary

This meeting will give us a chance to assess how the bees have come through the winter and to do any tidying of the apiary.

Every Saturday during MAY 2019, 1500hrs
Association apiary meeting for Beginners and Improvers

Sunday 19th MAY 2019 (time and location tbc)
Apiary Meeting at Sam and Heather Burford's apiary

Every Saturday during JUNE 2019, 1500hrs
Association apiary meeting for Beginners and Improvers

Saturday 22nd June 2019 (time tbc)
Berkshire Bee Health Day (run by the NBU)
Earley St Peter's Church Hall, Earley. Reading

Sunday 23rd June 2019 (time and location tbc)
Apiary Meeting at John and Daniel Gillett's apiary

Every Saturday during JULY 2019, 1500hrs
Association apiary meeting for Beginners and Improvers

Sunday 14th JULY 2019 (location and time tbc)
Apiary Meeting at David Mead's apiary

Sunday 25th and Monday 27th AUGUST 2019
Uffington White Horse Show

The V&DBKA has a stand at this event and needs volunteers to help out on the stand to make it work. Please contact Lilian if you are able to help. We had a very successful stand last year let us make it even better this year.

Saturday 7th SEPTEMBER 2019, 1500hrs
Association Apiary

We will be inspecting the bees at the site and preparing them for winter.

Saturday 5th OCTOBER 2019 (time and location tbc)
V&DBKA Fun Honey Show

Friday 18th OCTOBER 2019, 1930hrs
V&DBKA Annual General Meeting

Your chance to vote new members onto the committee. If you think you would like to serve on the committee or have an item added to the agenda please contact the Association Secretary. To be followed by a series of members' short talks.

Thursday 24th to Saturday 26th OCTOBER 2019
National Honey Show

The National Honey Show will be held at Sandown Park Race course Esher, Surrey. This is a chance to see many types of honey and new experimental equipment.

Friday 22nd NOVEMBER 2019, 1930hrs
Members' DIY sharing ideas/inventions

Evening Summer Meetings for Beginners and Public

It has been decided to hold 4 evening meetings during the season for beginners and public. These meetings will be held on Wednesday 1st May, Wednesday 5th June, Wednesday 3rd July and Wednesday 7th August, all starting at 1900. If you know of anyone who would be interested in attending any of these meetings please contact Lilian Valentine 01235 767524. Venues for these meetings will be decided upon nearer the time.

Refreshments for meetings

It would be appreciated if members could provide sandwiches or cakes, on a voluntary basis, for our summer meetings.