

NEWSLETTER #230 – October 2017

Next meeting: 26nd October: “Creepies, crawlies, bugs & nasties”. This month we will have an external talk by **Fiona Highet** (<https://www.sasa.gov.uk/content/fiona-highet>).

Now is the time....

...to make sure everything is ready for the winter. Are the mouse guards on? Has feeding and treatment for Varroa been completed? Neither is it too early to plan what form of winter Varroa control you intend to use. HDBA recommends a mid-winter treatment when brood is at its lowest ebb, whether by trickled or sublimed oxalic acid.

Visiting Austrian Beekeepers

We had been approached via the SBA asking if we could meet a group of 30 Austrian Beekeepers touring Scotland for an hour on 11th October. Details remained vague about timing, numbers, language skills etc, so 5 of the committee arranged to be at the Ardencaple for a 12.15 meet-up. In



the event, 42 people arrived at 12.45 and stayed for just over an hour and a half! We did a short presentation about beekeeping on the Atlantic seaboard at latitude 56° north (north of Moscow, same as places in Alaska and Siberia...), and compared rainfall in Vienna (650mm/25.6” per year) with Argyll & Bute’s 2.2 metres (7.2’)! There was discussion with both the full group and at the tables - they were a nice group of people, some with over 1000 hives(!), and they obviously enjoyed their meeting with HDBA.

-Tim Syddall-

Source:Nikki Monaghan

Association honey

There is still honey from the association apiary available for sale and will be available for purchase at the coming meeting. Please email [Sandy Abel](mailto:Sandy.Abel@hdba.org.uk) with any orders.

Speaking of honey....

At our September meeting we had numerous members’ honey to test with an amazingly diverse array of flavours.





Developing Beekeeper Skills

At the September meeting we also took a look at the SBA development structure in some detail. The first step is the Basic Beekeeping certificate, which covers all the basic skills and know-how needed to begin practical beekeeping, and is also the gateway to the rest.

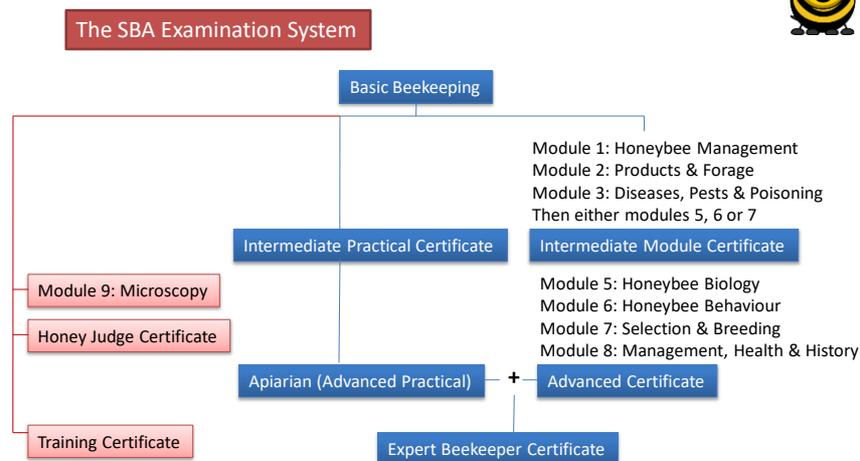
The Basic Beekeeper syllabus covers:-

- Manipulating a colony
- Equipment
- The practice of Beekeeping
- The natural history of the honeybee
- Diseases, poisons and pests

This is intended to be run by Local Associations, and there was a deal of interest in doing the course shown at the meeting. Although we now need to plan this, the broad aim is to do the “off job” part in February and March next year, leading directly to practical work as the season warms up, and potentially assessments for certificates in mid-summer.

We also looked at the more advanced structure:-

DEVELOPING BEEKEEPER SKILLS



September 2017



Look out for contact in the next few weeks about signing up for the Basic Beekeeper programme, and for follow up discussions with those interested in either the Practical Certificate or the Module Certificates.

Link of the month: <https://weprint.avery.co.uk/blog/labelling-for-honey-jars>

We have received an email bringing our attention to the above suppliers of jar labels. Notably, they produce small batches rather than commercial masses that will never be used.

Even better, there's a *special offer for all beekeepers of 25% off* valid till December 4th 2018* – Enter Honey25 at the checkout to get 25% off an order.

*this is the date in the email but is suspiciously far ahead (if anyone's wondering, the 4th is a Friday)