

NEWSLETTER #232 – January 2018

Next meeting: 25th January: Seeing is believing: an introduction to bees and microscopy. Ben has many years of experience when it comes to microscopy and bees and will demonstrate this at the meeting. He has kindly donated his microscope to HDBA and the association has bought a device to project the image onto a screen. This should provide a general introduction to those interested in pursuing SBA modules involving microscopy, e.g. for diagnostics.

Movement of the Annual General Meeting

Clause 6.1 of the HDBA Constitution states that the AGM is normally held in January, or within 3 months of the end of the financial year. You will no doubt have noticed from the email the Secretary sent that this year *we will instead hold the AGM at the February meeting*. Due notice will be provided but please make every attempt to attend.

Approaches to Varroa control



At the November meeting Mike Thornley and Colin Campbell provided a great insight into the approaches that are currently available for the control of the *Varroa* mite. Keeping *Varroa* levels in check is now a crucial aspect of beekeeping in order to prevent the spread of viruses that lead to weak (or even the death of) colonies. Whichever method is used however, a key message is that continually monitoring the level of *Varroa* infestation is important when it comes to deciding when and how to treat. Hopefully everyone performed a mid-winter treatment with Api-Bioxal (i.e. oxalic acid) whilst the brood levels are at their lowest level.

A big thankyou to Mike and Colin for providing the information.

Winter festival

Once more the winter festival was a success, providing an outlet for members to sell their (as well as the HDBA) produce to the public. Thanks again to Nikki Monaghan for organizing things.

Link of the month: <https://www.paynesbeefarm.co.uk/sale/>

It's that time of year again when the sales are around. Many companies have them, but for a quick look here's the link for Paynes.