

## Fleet Beekeepers Association

### Newsletter October 2009

Ok - stop looking for your copy of the September Newsletter - there wasn't one, but at least during the interim period I have mailed out several items.

#### A quick review ----

A really enjoyable day at Jane Malarkey's apiary in Hartley Wespall at the end of August, with 18 attendees, including 6 'newbys' all fighting to get their hands inside the hives! A lovely summer's day and as ever, Jane's bees were well behaved - I wonder how she manages that?!!

The 'Extracting Honey' evening in early September was an absolute roaring success, with 36 attendees, including 11 potential members. The 'Brand Brothers' really put on a masterful demonstration of expertise on the complete process of honey extraction.

#### FBKA Diary Dates for later on----

**Tue 13<sup>th</sup> Oct** Fleet BKA Honey Show at the WI Hut adjacent to the car park at the rear of Crookham Village Social Club in Crookham Village. 8pm  
A DVD, 'In Company of Ants & Bees' by Prof J.Gould, covering evolution over 50 million years will be shown whilst Show judging takes place.

**Tue 10<sup>th</sup> Nov. 'Two Video' Evening.** (1) 'The Industrious Bee - The Honey Harvest' - a food scientist explains why honey flavour and colour differs and (2) 'Dancing for their Supper' by Prof Francis Ratnieks - how to decode the bee dance and do your own research using an observation hive.

**Tues 12<sup>th</sup> January 2010** "Ecology tests for pesticides on honey bees" by FBKA member and novice beekeeper Dr Gabe Weyman, who is a risk assessor and former tester of pesticides on bees, other small beasts and plants. Especial interest to all of us with the current speculation about Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD).

**Tues 9<sup>th</sup> Feb 2010 at 8pm AGM.** Details later.

#### Other Diary Dates

**29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> Oct.** National Honey Show at St George's College, Woburn Park, Weybridge. *An absolute MUST* for everyone.

**Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Nov.** Hampshire Beekeeping Association Convention & Honey Show at Barton Peveril College, Eastleigh. Tickets available from me - £10 each in advance, £12:50 at the door. Full details at:

<http://www.beetalk.org.uk>

and click on 'News - Convention'; 10 tickets sold to FBKA folk so far.

**Hive Sitings.** I receive calls from individuals and organisations wanting beekeepers to locate a hive - or two - on their premises. Perchance you don't have sufficient space in your own garden, you may wish to follow-up on these opportunities - any agreement or arrangement you conclude is your personal responsibility, ok? One such contact is listed in an Attachment, the other is Denise Russell, 46 South Lane, Ash, Aldershot, GU12 6NJ Tel: 01252-316841.

**Training.** At a recent Committee meeting, it was decided to continue with plans to run training classes for members, aiming to offer a six week course comprising a series of weekly two-hour classes commencing in the Jan/Feb 2010 timeframe. This would be followed up with 'hands on' instruction in an apiary and then, following procurement of a hive, each trainee would undergo continued supervision under a 'buddy' system, whereby several trainees would be supervised by an experienced member. Hopefully, we will run the classes in the new, excellently appointed village hall in Hook. Charges and dates are still being worked on. Obviously, the final decision to run classes will depend on sufficient members signing-up to attend. So, even though you may have indicated to me previously that you would like to undergo training - could ***ALL those folk plus anyone else whose intention it would be to attend, PLEASE e-mail me to this effect asap.***

**Website & Literature.** We are just about to go 'live' with a Fleet BKA website; it will be rather sparse initially, but once established various items/information will be added; also considering putting the Newsletter up there too!!; the website address will be circulated soon. A three-fold FBKA advertising leaflet has also been produced and was used for the first time last weekend at the Aldershot Green & Global Fun Day - more details on the leaflet will be released later. Special thanks to member Simon Cavill who has done all the work associated with both these projects.

**And finally, folks - don't forget our Honey Show next week on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October; submit your entries from 7:30pm onwards.**

(Hey! - heard today about a Member who baked his cake last weekend, all ready for the Show last night!!! - well planned - but a week early - now that's being really keen!!)

That's it - see you all on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> Oct.

Geoff  
Sec Fleet BKA

