



WISBOROUGH GREEN BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

A DIVISION OF WEST SUSSEX BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

AUGUST 2017

Website: www.wgbka.org.uk

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DIARY OF EVENTS



APIARY MEETING EVERY SATURDAY (unless notified as cancelled)

12th August Apiary Meeting - Visit by Seasonal Bee Inspector.

If possible please arrive at meetings early this helps the meeting leader to arrange the right number of groups and allocate colonies. Please sign the attendance book.



Please monitor your email for apiary meeting updates.

EVENTS 2017

Wisborough Green BKA Honey Show - Bank Holiday Monday, August 28th.

See page 3 of this newsletter

Wisborough Green BKA End of Season Supper - Saturday 23rd September.

See page 12 of this newsletter

See the West Sussex BKA Newsletter for events organised by other local divisions.

To help reduce the carbon footprint, parking and traffic on the roads we ask members to share vehicles if possible when attending meetings.

We advise all beekeepers not to purchase bees and queens that may have been imported. This is to reduce the risk of importing pests and diseases. Very often they are unsuitable for our climate and it is possible that aggression may show in subsequent generations.

Dounhurst Apiary Dates

The following apiary meeting dates have been scheduled for August and September.

Saturday meetings: *Gather from 1.30 p.m. Notices at 1.50 p.m.*

August	September	
5th	2nd	*19th August: Extracting. *12th August: Visit by Seasonal Bee Inspector
12th *		<i>Please remember to sign-in when attending meetings.</i>
19th *		<i>Please read the updates in each addition of this newsletter and continue to check email regularly for any amendments to existing dates or times, and ad-hoc meetings.</i>
26th		

Apiary Teas - August

We need volunteers for tea duty at the August meetings.

If you are able to attend one of the meetings scheduled for August, please send Jeremy an email and offer to organise the teas. Jeremy.Windwood@Tesco.Net. Now that we have a new 'self service' boiler to heat the hot water, it is a lot easier than watching three kettles come to the boil.

You will need to bring water and milk, and set out everything ready for people to help themselves to tea. Then it's a case of washing up and putting the items away again.



Teaching Apiary Safety

Safety at the Teaching Apiary

We take our 'Duty of Care' responsibilities seriously. Members and visitors are advised that natural hazards are present at the apiary, as you would expect in any natural location. It is the responsibility of all attendees to take all reasonable precautions to ensure the wellbeing of themselves and those in their charge. Head protection should be worn when close to the bees. Any accidents and injuries should be notified to the Demonstrator in charge of their group.

Children should remain within eyesight. Parents and Guardians are advised that it is their responsibility to supervise and monitor any child in their care at all times while in the apiary or within its vicinity.

WGBKA Executive Committee

WG Honey Show

The annual Wisborough Green BKA Honey Show will be held on August Bank Holiday Monday (28th).

Please note that the final Show Schedule, Rules and Entry Form for the 2017 Wisborough Green Honey Show are attached to the email distributing this newsletter.

To ensure there is sufficient time to collate all the entries, the closing date for this year's show is 5pm on Saturday 26th August 2017.

Last month's newsletter set the scene for the Wisborough Green Annual Honey Show, describing what happens on the day and the process for entering exhibits into the show; giving you time to think about the items you would like to exhibit. The article also outlined how members could help with the organisation of the show, including stewarding on the day; it is disappointing no new volunteers have contacted me. I need to know now who is helping, so that I can organise the rota for the day of the show. If you are able to help, please send me an email or give me a call.

How do you actually enter your exhibits? Keep reading.....

The *Show Schedule* and *Rules* are there to help you, so please take time to read them **prior** to filling out your entry form. It is such a shame when someone has to withdraw their entry at the last minute because they have failed to read the *Show Schedule* and *Rules* adequately.

A common mistake is having the wrong number of jars for honey classes; with the exception of three of the classes, each honey class requires **two identical jars** of honey. The other three honey classes require jars as follows:

- * Honey as offered for sale requires **three identical jars**. (*These are the only jars you label, as if for sale.*)
- * Liquid honey for comment requires **one jar**.
- * Liquid honey to be judged on taste requires **one jar** (*covers for jars are supplied on the day*).

Extracted honey must be in clear (and clean) 1lb British Standard squat glass honey jars. Lids must be matching screw or twist-off types; either lacquered metal or white plastic. I know this should be obvious, but please note all honey jars should be full. Honey jar lids should be clean; travel staining (a little honey on the lid due to transportation) is ok, dirty lids are not.

So you know how to prepare your honey jars; what do you need to consider when entering some of the other classes in the show? Continue reading for some tips.....

If exhibiting cut comb, drain the entries of loose honey; the judge will inspect both sides of the comb and prefers not to get too sticky. Make sure your cut comb falls within the weight detailed in the rules. Your cut comb containers should be matching.

Comb honey suitable for extraction must be shown in an exhibition display case. Select your comb on a hive inspection, clean it of excess wax with your hive tool and replace in the hive; hopefully the bees will clean and dry it for you by the following day.

Wax moulds must be exhibited in a transparent plastic bag*. Where one specific weight is specified in the schedule, the wax exhibit must be within 10% of that weight.

**If you are unable to source a suitable bag, I have a small supply that will be available on the morning of the show.*

Not forgetting the baking classes.....

The cake and biscuit recipes are detailed within the show schedule; only use the ingredients detailed in the recipe. Please ensure you use the correct size cake tin. Note the exact number of biscuits required. The judge will be supplied with details of the recipes; there is no need for you to supply a recipe card with your exhibits.

This year the class for sweets has changed. This class now requires six pieces of fudge, made to a recipe detailed in the show schedule. As with the previous two classes, please only use the ingredients detailed in the recipe. The judge will be supplied with details of the recipe; there is no need for you to supply a recipe card with your exhibit.

All cakes, biscuits and fudge must be placed on a white paper plate or a plate with a white doily; and exhibited in clear unsealed plastic bags*.

**If you are unable to source a suitable bag, I have a small supply that will be available on the morning of the show.*

A note about the show rules.....

Our honey show is judged by a BBKA accredited judge; and therefore our show rules have to be aligned with the *National Honey Show rules*. Please ensure you read the *Show Rules* and note anything specific to the classes you are entering.

We have a space within the Horticultural Society's marquee and must abide by their show rules. These include all timings for leaving and entering the marquee; and staging and removing exhibits. The rule of no dogs being allowed into the marquee is also set by their committee.

Some additional information regarding the Novice Class.....

The Novice Class is open to WG members only and includes members who have not won a 1st prize for honey in a WGBKA show in the last three years. For example, if a member was awarded a 3rd in the Novice Class last year, they can now enter again this year; having put into practice the judge's comments. So even if you have been beekeeping for several years, you may still be able to enter the novice class.

If you are thinking of entering the classes for 'light', 'medium', or 'dark' honey; you will need to read the next bit.....

When you are completing your entry form, please do not tick more than one class for the same exhibit; it causes a lot of confusion on the morning of the show. Below is an explanation of what you should do if you are entering honey in Classes 1 to 3 (the light, medium, and dark honey classes).

Hopefully it should be easy to decide if your two jars of honey are tending toward the light or dark end of the scale. Deciding if your honey falls into the medium category is a little trickier. So this

is what you do:

- * If you think your two jars of honey are dark, then enter in the dark category (Class 3).
- * If you think your two jars of honey are light, then enter in the light category (Class 1).
- * If you think your two jars of honey are medium, then enter in the medium category (Class 2).
- * If you haven't got a clue as to whether your jars of honey are light, medium, or dark; enter your exhibit into the medium category (Class 2). Please do not tick all three categories on the entry form for the one exhibit; if you do, I think I have more entries arriving than there are, plus it wastes my time prior to the show writing three lots of cards and labels.

On the morning of the show, the stewards will check your two jars of honey against the grading glasses. If the honey matches a grading glass lighter or darker than the category you have entered, then we will move your exhibit into the appropriate class and issue you with new exhibitor labels.

All you need to do now is submit your entry form

Entries will be accepted by either post or email, using the *WG Honey Show 2017 Entry Form*. The entry form is an *MSWord* document, that can be opened, data typed onto it, and saved to your computer. It can then be forwarded by email. The email will replace a physical signature. Alternatively the blank entry form can be printed, completed by hand, and then signed ready for posting (or scanned back into your computer and emailed.)

Each year I receive a number of emails without a completed entry form; this means I have to transfer the information onto an entry form myself. Often the information in the email is unclear; resulting in a significant amount of my time telephoning members to clarify exactly what they are intending to exhibit. If you experience a problem accessing the published *Entry Form* on your computer, then send me an email that clearly details the class number and how many entries you are making for the class; put the details for each class on a separate line. Each exhibitor must have a separate entry form. If you wish an exhibit to be entered in your name then I must have an *Entry Form* in your name.

In previous years some exhibitors have forgotten exactly which classes they have entered and have left entries at home by mistake. Don't get caught in this trap. Take a copy of your entry form before you send it. That way you can make sure you prepare the correct exhibits and you can check you have loaded them all into the car before leaving home. It also saves the Show Secretary and stewards a lot of additional work and a huge headache on the morning of the show.

Please also come along in the afternoon and support those who have exhibited; and the volunteers who work hard to ensure the show is a success and a credit to our Association. There will be some of the Division's honey on sale (just in case you are running out of your own); and the Horticultural Society Show is also a sight to behold and well worth a visit; also don't forget the fun and games on the green, hopefully in glorious sunshine.

I look forward to receiving your entry forms and seeing you on the day.

Caroline

Wisborough Green Honey Show Secretary

WISBOROUGH GREEN DIVISION W.S.B.K.A	
CLASS NO.3.....	ENTRY NO.45.....
NAMEW G Member.....	
.....	
.....	

Patterson In Print



Nell and friend

As I have done for the last 15 years or so, I'm off to the Irish Beekeeping Summer School at Gormanston. There are several good large beekeeping events during the year and this is one of them. Beekeepers usually come from different locations with different conditions and legislation. This gives attendees a chance to learn about how other people keep their bees, which all adds to our overall knowledge of the craft. I will give more information next month.

When demonstrating, I encourage beekeepers to look at the first frame they take out of the brood box at every inspection that has brood in all stages. If the frame is well covered with bees you may need to shake some of them off. Wherever I am I do this as a matter of habit, giving me a chance to look for American Foul Brood (AFB) in sealed cells and European Foul Brood (EFB) in unsealed cells. At a recent meeting this was questioned, with the view that in the early stages Foul Brood may not show on all combs, so why not check them all. This is sound thinking, but is probably more relevant in the early stages of infection, as it will spread throughout the colony very quickly and may be detected at the next inspection. I don't inspect all combs for two reasons; firstly, because I look at brood on other combs as part of the inspection anyway and I will probably spot something, secondly, shaking bees off every frame at every inspection is very invasive and may lead to stress. On many occasions I have seen and heard the advice to only do a Foul Brood inspection at the first and last inspections of the season, but on one occasion I discovered EFB in a colony a week after the Bee Inspector passed the whole apiary, so it can show up quickly. Some people are paranoid about Foul Brood, but all it needs is a little care and observation. As always, be able to recognise good healthy brood. If it doesn't look right, investigate further. A simple way is to take a photograph and check online or email to an experienced beekeeper or the Bee Inspector.

Now I'm on the subject of Foul Brood, we will have a visit at the Saturday 12th August apiary meeting by Seasonal Bee Inspector (SBI) Diane Steele, who will demonstrate how a Bee Inspector inspects a colony for disease. The Bee Inspectors make occasional visits to beekeepers and this will be an opportunity to put a face to a name, especially for new beekeepers who may not have met Diane. Our members cover a wide area, so some may have a different SBI allocated to them. Please be aware that Bee Inspectors are focussed on disease, so will be very thorough in the way they handle bees and equipment, especially in the sterilisation of equipment. Although they may help in other areas, they are not beekeeping advisors. This is the first visit from a Bee Inspector at the apiary for several years, so please make an effort to attend.

This brings me to the subject of attendances at apiary meetings, which have been disappointingly low for the last couple of years compared to the previous few years. We sent out a questionnaire some time ago where members overwhelmingly stated the apiary was important to them. Since then we have greatly increased the number of sessions and introduced short presentations on topics that are relevant to practical beekeeping, in the hope they help members understand their bees better. At each meeting there are lots of things to see, some of which are new to me, so there is a lot to learn.

I think our teaching apiary is a great resource, but it is only of value if members attend. I fully accept that members have interests other than bees, but I would like to know why members aren't supporting events, so I can provide what you want when you want it. I'm happy to talk to you in

confidence, so please speak to me in person or give me a call.

I write PiP without knowing the contents of "County News", so there may be some repetition here. As the National Honey Show is only a short distance away, I would like to draw your attention to the Lecture and Workshop programme <http://www.honeyshow.co.uk/lectures-and-workshops.php>, where there are topics to suit all beekeepers. In particular the Beginners Lectures on the Saturday will be of interest to our newer beekeepers. You will notice that two of the four speakers come from Wisborough Green! The workshops must be booked, but they aren't online yet. This is usually done around the beginning of September, so keep checking, as some fill up very quickly. Workshops have a small charge, but lectures are free, although you have to pay entry, which covers you for all three days. When there, you can visit the rest of the show, including the competitive exhibits and the extensive trade hall where you can buy your needs for next season, often at reduced prices. The cost is £12 per day or £20 for all three.

At this time of year when the nectar flow has stopped, robbing can become a problem. Make sure that entrances are reduced to a single bee space and that colonies are fairly strong. Don't do anything that denudes a colony of flying bees, such as moving them in the same apiary, otherwise they are sitting targets because they can't defend themselves.

When putting on clearer boards ensure there are no gaps in the supers. Wasps and other bees can remove undefended honey at an alarming rate.

Feeding can be started once the honey is removed, but this may have to be done around your varroa treatment. In my view, feeding little and often is best, as it gives bees a chance to seal it as they go. I suggest feeding thymolised syrup, as it prevents fermentation of stores the bees are unable to seal, therefore reducing the risk of dysentery during the winter. For details see the page on Dave Cushman's website <http://www.dave-cushman.net/bee/thymolisedsyrup.html>.

If you do have a robbing situation, such as leaving supers unattended outside (can happen if you answer the phone) and bees find it, then remove it quickly and replace it with a small amount of honey. When bees have finished it they will be satisfied, otherwise they will continue looking for the source and may be a nuisance.

Roger

2017 BBKA Modules

An important message from our BBKA Exam Secretary.

Members who intend to sit the November 11th modules should send their completed and counter-signed application forms, with the appropriate cheque made payable to BBKA, **to ensure they are received by the exam secretary no later than 20th September.**

Please send to the following address:

Kaz Powell,
71 Cuckfield Crescent, Worthing, BN13 2EB

examsecretary@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk



LATE SUMMER VARROA TREATMENT, 2017

Now is the time to think about (and carry out) the most important anti-Varroa treatment of the year. It is vital that we reduce Varroa numbers before winter, and as far as possible before the winter bees are produced; these bees, which have to live for six months, must be in the best possible health.

There are a number of approved products for treating Varroa in honeybees. Some are 'chemical' treatments and other more 'natural' products. Some years ago the standard treatment was the 'chemical' method, with synthetic pyrethroids that are still available under the brand names Apistan and Bayvarol. However, after some years the mites developed resistance to these chemicals, and we do not recommend their use unless you have tested your bees (mites) for resistance.

The most popular products for use at this time of year (directly after honey harvest, and before temperatures drop in autumn) are based on thymol, a natural material found in oil of thyme. This is licensed in three different products, all of which we stock. For details see below. This material is much more 'natural' and though less efficient than the synthetic pyrethroids before resistance occurred, it is unlikely that resistance to thymol will develop as it has a broader mode of action.

Treatment with thymol should be done immediately after taking off the summer honey, while temperatures are still relatively high - to be effective we need daytime temperatures to be 15 degrees C or above.

For all thymol products it is likely to increase the effectiveness if mesh floors are sealed during the period of treatment, but if the weather is too hot the vapour may drive the bees out in the first few days after application, so take care on this aspect.

Recently a further chemical treatment based on amitraz has been approved. This material has been in use for some years in other countries, and to treat mites and fleas on animals. The product, Apitraz 500, is not yet freely available and we are concerned about its effects, so are not recommending it currently.

Finally, there are two other approved products suitable for treatment at other times. Formic acid, available as MAQS, can be used while supers are on (and needs that volume for safe treatment) so can be a useful in-season treatment, with no legal problems over residues in honey. Due to short shelf life we are not stocking MAQS. Then there is oxalic acid, approved for use only in the product Api-bioxal, for application in the broodless period in mid winter, and which we will have available at the appropriate time.

PRICES AND AVAILABILITY

We have been able to obtain supplies that allow us to sell on to members at prices that are much lower than from the main suppliers, and of course there is no carriage to pay. We are pricing all the same for 5 hives:-

Continued on next page.....

Apiguard: thymol (12.5g) in a gel base that allows for controlled release over a period of time. Requires two packs per full hive, applied at a 2 week interval giving a 4 week treatment period.

For more detail see www.vita-europe.com/products/apiguard/

Price £2.20 per sachet or £20.00 per pack of 10 (to treat 5 hives).

ApilifeVar: thymol (8g) plus eucalyptus oil, levomenthol and camphor in the form of a brittle foam strip from which the active ingredients vapourise (**** note that the oils in ApilifeVar will dissolve polystyrene ****). Requires two sachets per full hive, applying half a pack (the strip is pre-cut) each 7 days over a 4 week treatment period.

For more details see www.bees-online.co.uk/resource-downloads/APILIFEVAR.pdf

Price £2.20 per sachet or £20.00 per 10 sachets (to treat 5 hives). (Limited stock)

Thymovar: thymol (15g) in a thin fibrous cloth base; it is applied in two stages 3 weeks apart giving a 6 week treatment period. Only supplied in a pack to treat 5 hives (**** note that the oils in Thymovar will dissolve polystyrene ****).

For more details see <http://www.thebeebusiness.co.uk/thymovar.php>

Price £20.00 per 5-hive pack.

Please order in advance for supply at the apiary (or if you can't get to an apiary meeting, then by arrangement to collect from Tom in Petworth). Rates of application are based on a full colony; you should adjust for nuclei and very small colonies.

Email orders to Tom at: stone.house@btinternet.com

“Bee Improvement for All”

An all-day event aimed at encouraging all beekeepers to improve their bees.

The purpose is to help all beekeepers to continuously assess their colonies, so they have a good idea of which queens to cull, and which colonies to take queen cells from when they need new queens. There will be tuition on how to raise queens using queen cells that bees often present us with during the summer, as well as some simple “artificial” techniques that may be suitable for the more advanced beekeeper, or those working in groups.

Further details can be found on <http://bibba.com/>

Date: Sun 19th November 2017

Time: 9.00 for 9.30-4.30 approx.

Venue: Rudgwick Village Hall, Guildford Road, Bucks Green, Rudgwick, WSussex. RH12 3JJ.
A map to the venue is available on the BIBBA website.

Cost: £10/head adult. £7/head for under 18, who must be accompanied by a fee paying adult.

Refreshments included, but bring your own lunch.

Bookings and Enquiries to: Daisy, 23 Hayes Lane, Slinfold, Horsham, WSussex. RH13 0SQ.
Tel 01403 790 167 or 07980 280 852

wellingtondays@hotmail.co.uk.

A Booking Form is available to download from the BIBBA website: <https://bibba.com/event/bee-improvement-bifa-day/>

Details of the event are also on the WSBKA website: www.westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk/

Tales From An Out-Apiary

Caroline Drewett shares the joys and frustrations of running an out-apiary.

At the end of June three of my colonies were experiencing 'queen problems'. A month later have the issues been resolved?

'Buttercup' had a single sealed queen cell raised from a frame of donated eggs. When I inspected the hive on Sunday 9th July the cell was sealed and, based on previous inspections, I made the assumption that it had been sealed that day; and the queen would emerge the following weekend. I opened the hive eight days later, Monday 17th, for a quick check; the queen had emerged and the cell was being cleaned by a worker bee. I didn't spot the queen, but it was only a quick look to check the queen cell. The new queen was seen on my next inspection seven days later; she is black in appearance and calm on the comb. She had not yet produced any brood, but it's still early days. Hopefully she mated despite the recent bad weather. I opened the colony today, 31st July, and found eggs; there were no larvae and so she has only been laying a couple of days. I spotted her ambling across the comb. Hopefully all will be well with this new queen, I won't know for sure until after two complete brood cycles (the last queen started off ok.....).

The next colony where the queen had 'disappeared' failed to raise a queen cell on both occasions it had been given a frame with eggs. The bees continued to behave as if a queen was present, but there was no brood; and I could not find a queen during inspections. When I next inspected the colony on 17th July I found eggs and larvae on two frames; but no queen was seen. I had last seen the queen and eggs fifty days previously, 28th May. I can hear you all shouting "laying worker"; but I didn't think so, as the position of the single eggs in each cell indicated a laying queen. I would need to check again when the brood was sealed; drone brood would indicate a laying worker or 'failed' queen. I returned to open the hive seven days later and found eggs, larvae and sealed worker brood across six frames; and I spotted the queen! Where had she been all this time? Do bees take career breaks? Alright, I can sense you all jumping up and down saying it's a different queen, they must have superseded the original one; but no, this is the original queen. How can I be sure? The last time I had seen her I had made a very poor attempt at marking her and the workers had removed most of the marking, but there was still a hint of colour to confirm it was the same queen. The bees obviously knew what they were doing, and correctly ignored my attempts to get them to raise a replacement queen. What made the queen go 'off lay' for nearly fifty days? Possibly hard for fellow beekeepers to believe; but true.

The third colony, 'Cowslip', had gone wrong from the start and all the brood had been drone. The fact the cells contained a single egg indicated a drone laying queen, but I could not find one; so was it a laying worker? I have been waiting for the other two colonies to sort themselves out before doing anything with this one. I will now assess the colony and if I think it appropriate I will unite the remaining bees with the second colony detailed above. I will update you in next month's newsletter.

Back in May of this year I found queen cells in 'Sweet pea' and performed an artificial swarm; placing the queen in a new brood chamber and adding ten frames of foundation. I have been undertaking a little experiment. One of the new frames contained a sheet of drone foundation, placed two frames out from the centre frame. I had read that this would prevent the bees from building drone cells on any other sheets of foundation, or on the bottom bars of the frames. Some commentators had implied this should be used for drone culling and varroa control; others said it would

cause the colony to be overrun with drones and varroa; others commented that it allowed the colony to reach the optimum number of drones (only the bees know what this number is). My ethos as a beekeeper is to work with my bees and to allow them to do what is natural to them; within the restrictions imposed upon them by putting them in a square box with structured frames. It makes sense to me that a colony will only raise the number of drones it needs and no more; and it would be interesting to see how they progressed; in particular, to see if they built drone comb in any other area of the brood chamber.

I first inspected the hive fourteen days after performing the artificial swarm. The weather had been poor, slowing down the rate at which they were drawing the frames of foundation; but they had brood on four frames. I next opened the colony twenty-four days later to find that there was brood on eight frames and the drone frame was completely sealed with drone brood. I noted that the other frames were drawn very neatly and there was no brace comb or drone brood anywhere on any of these frames. I can hear shouts of “remove the frame for varroa control” but that would be interfering with what the bees were trying to do; reach the optimum number of drones within the colony. A further seventeen days passed and I found that the queen had lain in the drone comb as before. Eight days later, on 9th July, I noticed that not all of the drone cells contained brood; a few were empty. Was the queen not laying in them, or had workers removed eggs that had been deposited? The next inspection was on 19th July. The last few drones from the previous brood cycle were emerging; a few cells had been re-laid, others contained fresh nectar. When I checked today, 31st July, there was no fresh brood in the drone comb; one or two drones had yet to emerge, the other cells on that frame were either empty or contained nectar. I moved the frame further out to the periphery of the brood nest.

I have not been monitoring the varroa drop rate, (I simply haven't had the time), and so am unable to give details of how the varroa level has been affected; but as far as the equilibrium of the colony is concerned, I believe it has been beneficial to include a frame of drone foundation within the brood chamber and I will do this in other hives next year.

I choose not to clip my queens and to inspect colonies every seven to eleven days. You will note from the above that following the artificial swarm I did not keep to my usual seven day inspection routine; with one gap of twenty-four days. If you are a beginner do not do this! I felt able to extend the time between inspections for the following reasons; I know my bees; each time I visited the apiary I spent a little time watching what was happening at the entrance and how the bees were behaving; the previous inspection gave no indication that anything would be amiss; I had performed an artificial swarm and the colony had three supers to utilise, so there was no reason to suspect they would raise swarm cells or abscond; if I did find a problem on the next inspection, I had other colonies within the apiary to help sort out the lack of a queen, brood, or stores; also, I was able and willing to sort any consequent mess out by myself, without relying on others to sort it out for me.

One of the most important things you need to learn as a beekeeper is how to read your bees; to be able to interpret what is happening within the colony and to act accordingly. Yes, you must know the life cycle of the three casts; how to prevent swarms; what the bee diseases look like, how to check for the signs, and what to do about it; but unless you get to know your individual colonies and how to ‘read between the lines’ you could be working against the needs of the bees rather than with them. Books are full of theory, and you may be able to quote whole chapters written by renowned authors; but that is of little use if you are unable to apply that theory when inspecting a colony.

Caroline



Annual Supper

To be held on Saturday 23rd September.

This year's annual bee supper will be held on Saturday 23rd September in Wisborough Green Village Hall, starting at 7pm.

The cut-off date for booking tickets is 11th September. Please book your tickets with Daisy at wellingtondays@hotmail.co.uk or 07980 280852. Ticket price is £7.50 per person and you can pay on the door.

The Division will provide alcohol and meat/fish - everyone booking tickets to indicate whether they wish to bring a pudding or a salad.

There will be a raffle and hopefully some entertainment during the evening. If you haven't been before it's a lovely evening and a chance to bring partners along if you wish.

Daisy

Division's Extracting Equipment

The Division's extractor and associated equipment is available for loan to WG members (no fee). If you wish to borrow anything, please contact **Graham Elliott** by E-mail at grahammt@sky.com.

Equipment available:

- ◆ 3 frame manual extractor
- ◆ 50kg bottling tank with strainer
- ◆ Plastic uncapping tray

Apiary Meeting Saturday 12th August

Demonstration

See how a Bee Inspector checks for bee diseases.

Our Seasonal Bee Inspector, Diane Steele, will visit us to demonstrate how Bee Inspectors look for disease.

This is a great opportunity, please make every effort to attend.

Thanks to this month's contributors. If you have similar articles or beekeeping experiences you would like to share, please supply articles and any photographs for the **September edition** no later than the **20th August**.

If you need any help submitting an article, please give me a call.

Caroline