



# BUZZWORD

*First prize, National Honey Show*

The Newsletter of the  
Norfolk Beekeepers' Association

## February 2020

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### Next issue in April

All articles, events and things of interest to the beekeeping world should be sent to the Editor by

**28<sup>th</sup> March 2020** at:

[buzzwordnbka@gmail.com](mailto:buzzwordnbka@gmail.com)

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## Chairman's Buzzwords

Graham Wrenn



Most of you will have heard of Anna Sewell, who wrote *Black Beauty*, and some may know that it is the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her birth, in Norfolk, this year. But I wonder how many will know that she was a beekeeper and preferred to drive or smoke her bees from the skep rather than holding them over a sulphur pit to kill them in order to get the honey and wax crop.

The story goes that, one day, whilst having her carpets beaten over the washing line, the man beating the carpets caught one of the skeps and sent it flying with the usual result of being attacked by hundreds of the bees and fleeing down the road with his coat over his head. Well whilst helping a fellow beekeeper get some hives back on their stands following Storm Ciara, a similar thing happened despite our best efforts. Two hives went well but the third, a notorious hive in spite of requeening last summer, really went for it. Fortunately we were both suited up and I suffered the sole sting!

Let us hope that the bees we get for the new apiary, which is progressing well (more on that in a later issue), will be better behaved and that yours are as well. If any turn out to be "angry" bees, for your own sake and that of friends and neighbours, can I please urge you to requeen at the earliest possible moment.

I am standing down as Chair of the Association at the forthcoming AGM and so would like to take this opportunity to wish my successor well and offer my continued support.

Graham ([chairnbka@gmail.com](mailto:chairnbka@gmail.com))

### Can you help a refugee beekeeper in Norwich?

Marwan Shaaban is a refugee from Aleppo in Syria. His grandfather introduced him to beekeeping when he was 6 and he is now a very experienced beekeeper, having kept bees near Aleppo for nearly 50 years. Before he left he had around 15 hives, all of which he lost. After spending two years in Turkey, he and his family have been in Norwich since September 2017.

He would like to do some beekeeping again, in Norwich. He wonders whether anyone in the South Bluebell allotment area would welcome help with their bees – or could help him to obtain some bees and/or beekeeping equipment for his potential allotment. His English is still limited, but other members of his family are more fluent English speakers.

If you would like to know more, please feel free to contact Alec Fisher, on 01603 870495 or on [alec.fisher@uea.ac.uk](mailto:alec.fisher@uea.ac.uk). If you feel there is anything you could do to help Marwan, please e-mail his son at [radwan149shaaban@gmail.com](mailto:radwan149shaaban@gmail.com).

# A mead-makers tale: or how I won the NBKA mead-makers Jubilee Quaich for sweet mead 2019

Alan Chapman



At the 2019 NBKA President's Evening at Felthorpe Pavilion, I proudly received the award of the Quaich for taking first prize for sweet mead at the Summer Show. As I received the trophy and returned to my seat, I felt rather guilty. This feeling being compounded as I was approached by our *Buzzword* Editor. He was wanting me to pen a mead-making article for *Buzzword*, obviously regarding me as some sort of mead-making expert. I have only ever made one batch of sweet mead and this is the truth of it.

Many of you will know John Watts, a true master of mead making, who can boast of having taken first prize at the National Honey Show on more than one occasion.

It was in 2016 that I attended an NBKA mead-making presentation given by John Watts at Easton Agricultural College. I was immediately taken with the thought that I wanted to have a go, especially after tasting the results of John's work.

I purchased a copy of *NBKA Honey – The beekeepers guide* DVD, which has a section in which John demonstrates the art of mead making. I was hooked and contacted John with a number of queries and questions. He was most accommodating and invited me to visit him at his home, where he went through matters in some detail. I came away with his mead recipe and a quantity of suitable bottles, which he kindly gave me.

Further conversations led to Paul Metcalf, our President, giving me a couple of demijohns which he had surplus to requirements. I was all set to go.

I followed John's recipe to the letter, using Paul's demijohns in the process and decanting the result into John's bottles.



I entered a bottle in the sweet mead section of the NBKA Autumn Honey Show 2017, where I was awarded second prize. Beaten

only by (yes you have guessed it) John Watts.

My bottles of mead remained gathering dust on a shelf in the garage at home, until a chance conversation with Pat Marshall, our Show Secretary, just before the 2019 Summer Show. "I hope you are going to put some entries into the show" she said. "I have some light liquid honey". "Anything else?" "I've got some old mead in the garage". "That'll do, put it in". Knowing that it is folly to argue with Pat, I did as I was told, dusted off a bottle and duly entered it.

The entries on the day were judged by Fiona Dixon and very much to my surprise my sweet mead was awarded first prize. I should add that John Watts had not entered any of his mead on this occasion.

John Watts personally congratulated me as I was leaving the President's Evening, Quaich in hand. On returning home I polished the Quaich prior to putting it on display. It was then that I noticed it was engraved 'Donated to NBKA by John Watts 2012'. In fact, there has only been one other year (2013) when John has not won it!

So, in the true spirit of the Oscars, I would like to add, "I accept this award on behalf of John Watts, Paul Metcalf and Pat Marshall. Not my recipe, bottles or demijohn!" A real team effort.

I won the NBKA mead-makers Jubilee Quaich for sweet mead 2019 – or did I?

## Try your luck in a show

Pat Marshall is always looking for people to enter mead (and other honey-based products) in the various honey shows, however good or bad potential entrants think their exhibits might be. She needs as many entries as possible to make the shows worthwhile and you never know your luck.

## Bees in the News

February 2020

### First Asian hornet queen of 2020 reported

It was reported by a member of the public in St Brelade (Jersey) on Sunday 2nd February. <http://bit.ly/37Sf2Pa>

### Loss of bumblebees driven by climate chaos

A new analysis shows the likelihood of a bee being found in any given place in Europe and North America has declined by a third since the 1970s. <https://bbc.in/37MSIMl>

### Lessons from Europe's last wild beekeeper

Honeyland chronicles a period of a wild beekeeper's life when her ancient methods of beekeeping conflict with those of a newcomer to her remote region. <https://bbc.in/2PfaOLh>

### Like trying to round up cats on a horse

The handful of bee brokers who facilitate the biggest movement of livestock in Australian history.

<https://ab.co/2uZlaXE>



The magnificent NBKA Quaich for sweet mead, awarded to Alan in "a real team effort" (but he won it).

A Quaich is a traditional shallow, two-handled drinking cup or bowl, often of Scottish origin

# Abberton Native Honeybee Project update

Kevin Thorn, BIBBA Trustee and Group Coordinator

Kevin Thorn gave a talk to NBKA in May 2019, where he described how the notion of reintroducing a native honeybee into Essex started and how the group was formed and funded. He now describes progress and plans for the future expansion of the native bee project.

Our group started three years ago at Abberton in Essex and we now have two full seasons under our belt. We are working with Essex Wildlife Trust, Essex and Suffolk Water, Colchester BKA and have had grant funding from Tesco Groundworks and Essex and Suffolk Water. We now have a solid base of regular group members and the equipment and bees needed to be successful. The support of Colchester BKA and their Chair, Barbara, has been fantastic and around half the group are members.

The main aim of the group is to re-establish the native honeybee in this remote part of Essex by drone flooding the area. While our initial matings will be hybridised by mating with local drones, the queens we produce will be producing up to 5,000 native drones each and this is key to the project.



Kevin Thorn at the lecture he gave to NBKA at Easton describing the early stages of the Abberton native bee project

There has been quite a journey with many lessons learned along the way. We started with three native queen bees from Cornwall overwintered in nucleii and a group that included a high proportion of beginner beekeepers. We now have 18 colonies of bees in two apiaries, to support our activities and a capable group.

The first lesson learned was that in order to run a queen-rearing apiary you need a lot of bees and three overwintered nucs doesn't come close to what is needed. The first two years have therefore been about getting the equipment we needed and propagating the bees we needed from swarms and donations of frames of bees and brood from our members. Bees are needed for strong starter colonies and to populate mating nucs.

## Method

We have used various methods to propagate queens and one of the aims has been to find a method that works on 7-day intervals. The method that has been most successful has been:

- Set up a queenless starter colony by combining the bees and brood of 2–3 colonies (making up 3-frame nucs with the queens).
- Graft into this – we will call this day 1 (day 4 from egg). We use Chinese Nicot-type cells to graft into.
- A week later (8 from graft, 12 from egg) at the next Saturday meeting check queen cells. Destroy any the bees have made on the comb. We then put “hair roller” cages on to protect.

- The following week (15 from graft, 19 from egg) we, hopefully, have virgin queens ready to be introduced into mini nucs.

The first time mini nucs are set up we need to take these away and put in a dark room for 72 hours, returning at dusk to release the nucs to be able to mate the queens. After this, mated queens can be picked and new virgins immediately given in queen cages with candy plugs with an 80%+ acceptance rate. This is the only variation to the once-a-week schedule.

## The group

As mentioned, the group was largely inexperienced with a couple of other experienced beekeepers. The group is informal, organised by email group and Facebook. We have no constitution or bank account but we have been able to operate through BIBBA receiving grants and making reimbursement against receipts. This means minimum admin and we fall outside GDPR requirements so we can focus on the bees!

Having beginners as members while needing to spend time on basics has been both rewarding and means that they are learning queen rearing at the same time as other skills so it is not seen as an additional or even advanced skill – just part of beekeeping as it should be. It was illuminating seeing people grafting successfully before they even had their own bees! This shows any one can graft as long as they can see clearly and have a steady hand.

A number of the group helpfully volunteered to make up our equipment – bought as seconds in the winter sales.

Another key thing we learned has been how important general husbandry is in maintaining a successful queen-rearing apiary. While it seems obvious now, all the usual tasks in apiary maintenance need to be undertaken. So our group has done many manipulations, including shook swarms and bailey comb changes.

## Funding

We have been fortunate to be able to request funding from both Tesco Groundworks, who granted us £2,000 for equipment, and to Essex and Suffolk Water, who have granted £2,800.

*Continued on p5...*



Top and right, “hair roller” cages put on to protect the grafts



# 46th Apimondia, Montreal, Quebec 8–12th September 2019

Julie Wessels

Combining a trip to her very first Apimondia in Montreal with her 30th wedding anniversary, a visit to Nova Scotia and seeing her husband's brother from Ottawa, Julie seems to have had a trip to be envied. She describes the Apimondia part of her experiences for us.

Over 6000 beekeepers and researchers attended the conference which was held at the well-equipped Palais des Congrès in downtown Montréal. The commercial exposition was on one floor with five simultaneous lecture streams in large lecture theatres on the floor above. Each morning there was a keynote lecture given by a well-respected researcher. These included Dr Gene Robinson, Dr Issac Rufus, Dr Peter Rosenkranz and Dr Tom Seeley covering a wide range of topics from genetics, bee health, crop pollination to Darwinian beekeeping, respectively.

The keynote lecture was followed by three 2-hour sessions consisting of a number of related talks for each of the 5 lecture streams, interspersed with a well-needed 30–60 minute break. The lecture streams covered biology, economics, bee health, pollination, technology, apitherapy, development and cross-cutting symposia which bridged more than one of the aforementioned areas. Lectures finished at 5.30pm and were followed by evening workshops until 9pm.

## Impact of pesticides

I attended several lectures on the impacts of pesticides on bees. L. S. Goncalves from the University of San Paulo disturbingly revealed that Brazil had lost 15,500 honeybee colonies, equivalent to 70 million bees, and 1500 stingless bee colonies between 2013 and 2016 due to pesticides and that these figures did not include wild or feral colonies. Fipronil, neonicotinoids, non-systemic pesticides such as organophosphates and fungicides had been blamed.

Peter Rosenkranz from Germany described analysing 2000 samples of bee bread in which he found 90 different pesticides with an average of 6 per colony: only 8% of the tested colonies had no residues.

Dr Williams found no difference in the survival of queens exposed to various neonicotinoids or worker longevity but the workers did have smaller hypopharyngeal glands and poorer quality brood food. Drone longevity was reduced as was sperm quality.

## Social immunity and bee health

Bee health lectures focused on pests and diseases with varroa as usual being one of the main points of discussion. Social immunity was discussed by a number of speakers with varroa-sensitive hygienic (VSH) behaviour acting via an increase in olfactory sensitivity and brood odour discrimination stimulated by changes in the cuticle of the brood. This is said to lead to brood removal before it gets to the infective stage. The other aspect of social immunity is the care component consisting of grooming, secretion of antimicrobial substances and sanitation.

Queen health and the possible causes of poor queen quality were discussed. Canada imports queens from a number of different countries, including USA, Australia, Chile and New Zealand. Although sperm numbers in the local and imported queens is similar, the sperm viability is much poorer in those imported with possible causes including temperatures during transport or chemical exposure. Imported queens also have more viruses and the attendants have higher nosema counts.

## Darwinian beekeeping

As usual Tom Seeley gave an interesting talk: this was on Darwinian beekeeping and described how bees live in the wild compared to our managed colonies and discussed how we should try to return our managed colonies back to a more natural environment. He discussed using locally adapted bees, housing in small hives, spacing colonies widely, having small bottom entrances, allowing colonies to line the hives with propolis, providing as little disturbance as possible and refraining from treating for varroa unless necessary. It was stressed that this policy is only possible for beekeepers with a small number of hives.

I attended many other talks and this is just a small selection of the variety of topics covered.

## Commercial show

The commercial show was large with exhibitions from all over the world covering a range of areas from new hive monitoring technology to large-scale extraction equipment to cosmetics. There was also a honey show where honey, wax, photos and new ideas were exhibited – interestingly just under half of the honey exhibits had been removed due to a failure to meet the required standards and I was informed the majority of these failures were due to contamination. Posters were available throughout the day and changed daily but unfortunately there was little time to view all of these if you wanted to attend the lectures.

## Intermiel

The four lecture days were followed by a couple of days of tours to various bee-related sites of interest.

On the final day I went on a tour of 'Intermiel', a commercial company sited just outside Montreal with



The "well-equipped" Palais des Congrès



The storage facilities at Intermiel

*Continued on p5 (opposite)...*

## Abberton native bee, continued from p3

This has enabled us to acquire, amongst other things:

- 17 Double brood hives (standard national);
- 10 BS Honey Bees double nucs;
- 10 Abello double mini plus nuclei.

This gives us capability to mate 40 queens at a time at the moment.

We currently are awaiting the outcome of a bid request to Essex and Suffolk water of £6,500, which includes stands for the hives (an oversight in the initial bid), more mating nucs and 18 more hives for drone-rearing apiary sites to be established.

To fund our day-to-day costs of bee feed, treatments and foundation, I have been doing talks to beekeeping groups and associations around the region. These have been willing to make a donation of between £50 and £100 and I also ran a day's apiary training at my own queen-rearing apiary for a BKA which I would like to do more of.

### Achievements

- The successful establishment of the group as a team is probably the most important one. In addition, I've been able to move from being completely hands-on to the team members carrying out the tasks themselves.
- The successful fund-raising and the acquisition of equipment gives a great base and we no longer need to borrow kit from members to operate.
- The production and acquisition of bees to have 15 full colonies and five nucs going into winter is a huge step forward from the three nucs just two years ago.

### Continued from p4 (opposite)

8000 hives producing a wide variety of hive products including mead. This was a very informative and interesting visit during which I observed the uncapping and extraction room, viewed the filtering and bottling equipment and also the -15 °C storage facility for the supers to prevent wax moth and the adjacent 5 °C warehouse where the hives and bees are overwintered from November until early March.

Whilst on this visit I did have a very interesting discussion with a businessman from Tanzania who had 15,000 hives spread throughout the country. He had studied agriculture followed by apiculture at university and was providing hives and training to families and in particular women allowing them to become independent with a secure income. He provided the extraction facilities and purchased the honey and products from the beekeepers. Each 100 hives provided employment for 2 people. He was selling the finished products both locally but also to markets in Europe, China, Iran, Dubai and Saudi Arabia. The enterprise was also preventing deforestation by providing alternative forms of income.

Overall this was an extremely good, well-organised conference with excellent lectures and the chance to meet beekeepers from around the world and to see how beekeeping is done in other countries.

For congress proceedings, please see:

<http://bit.ly/2umCHcT>

### Next Steps

Our plan is to move forward in stages. Stage one, which was to get our queen rearing infrastructure established, is now complete.

Stage two is to produce enough daughter queens to flood our area with native drones. To do this we will distribute these to beekeepers within 3 miles of the site and we are looking to establish new drone production sites ourselves.

As the number of hives we have is as many as we want to look after we are looking to recruit beekeepers to help us. The basis on which this would work is that we will provide site, hives and bees to a beekeeper, who wants to look after more bees but maybe doesn't have the funds to expand. The beekeeper can keep any honey produced but they must keep two drone combs in each hive and should the queen fail we will replace with another daughter. The equipment and bees remain ours.

Stage three we will be able to mate our queens with the native drones we are producing and we are getting consistent results. At this stage we can switch our focus to bee improvement. The Cornish bees are incredibly calm and we want this to continue.

Stage four will be to expand the area outwards, supporting other groups in adjacent areas to replicate what we are doing. The next BKA along the coast are already looking to do this.

If anyone is interested in the project and would like to establish a similar group or would like to improve the locally adapted bees in their locality please contact me at [groups@bibba.com](mailto:groups@bibba.com) and I can provide more detailed help and advice.

## Not an easy decision...

### Janet Wickings

Changes in my husband's work pattern next year means we will not be able to give our two colonies the time they deserve, so we made the sad decision to rehome them next spring. I feel happier taking them through the winter rather than rehoming them now, so I know they have survived (fingers crossed) and we will be selling thriving colonies. Or maybe it's because I just cannot bear to part with them and am holding on just that bit longer.

I was surprised at how emotional I became when sending the initial e-mail to Chris at *Buzzword*, asking him to advertise them. Bees become part of your whole being, part of your way of life and the thought of living without them wasn't easy! We have kept bees since 2010 and a lot of blood, sweat and tears has been shed at times, literally! I found out I was allergic to bee venom so did a desensitising course at Addenbrooke's, well worth it to anyone who is in the same position.

Still, the decision has been made and we have two beekeepers who they are going to in the spring and will no doubt give them the care and attention they deserve.

Mind you, we are keeping our beesuits and a couple of empty hives. We had a swarm turn up in a bait hive this year (not one of ours!) so you never know, our beekeeping life may not be over! Happy beekeeping everyone.

# A Norfolk beekeeper's record 1918–1932

Peter Beckley

## 1925

By 1925 our beekeeper's apiarian activities had settled into a regular and steady pattern. He had settled on a 'brood-and-a-half' system with regular but not too frequent inspections.

He maintained a keen interest in the antecedence of his queens with a preference for Penna Italians. He finds his own hybrid bees workable and productive but seems to remain convinced that the Penna queens are the best.

Honey production now becomes a significant interest and he has quite a good success with the production of sections and wrestles with the logistics of putting the section rack on top of the first super or below.

Tucked in the notebook were various cuttings from the British Bee Journal. The one for March 12th 1925 was much concerned with legislation and registration with regard to Foul Brood by the British Bee-Keepers' Association which they had been working on since 1895 with the Board of Agriculture!

In the notebook there is a copy of a 'Return to the Ministry of Agriculture' as it had become by 1925:

### Parish of Norwich and Hoveton:

Number of stocks in April 1925:

Norwich 2. Hoveton 1.

### Increase in 1925:

Norwich 0. Hoveton 2.

Stocks from which honey was obtained in 1925: 4.

Total honey taken in 1925: 220 lb.

*(An average of 55 lb per production stock is very good and an average against all stocks of 44 lb is still very good. Peter)*

Added to this is the production of 21 sections.

Mr Thouless listed where every jar went (home consumption, given away and sold) in date order throughout the year. *(I have listed them into categories 'home and given away' and 'sold'. I have quoted all the names since they are of interest. I have assumed the names without a designation are male as would have been the practice at the time.)* The numbers refer to transactions throughout the year:

Home 29	Mick 1	To Bath 4*	Mrs Dixon 1
Alice 2	To Close 2**	Minns 2	Mary 2
Wilfred 1	Margaret 1	Sladden 2	Miss Geldant 2+half
Miss Noverre 1	Christmas Market, St. Thomas	2+half***	

\*There is no evidence but it is fanciful to speculate there were relations in the City of Bath.

\*\*Cathedral Close Norwich?

\*\*\*Mr Thouless lived in College Road so it is more than likely this is St. Thomas' in Earlham Road.

Honey was sold at one shilling a 1 lb jar. This is (I believe) the equivalent of £5 per 1 lb jar in today's prices, which should give us all pause for thought! Sales were as follows (purchases were not all at one transaction but regular amounts throughout the year):

Middleton 88 lb *(there is no indication in the notes as to who or what Mr Middleton was. He bought honey, three at a time throughout the year. Was he a local shopkeeper? Or did he just have an insatiable taste for honey?)*.

Chalker 7 lb    Wilson 12 lb    Mother 2 lb

*(Charging his own mother for honey? – I like to think she said "No dear, I must pay you for it".)*

Mrs Vaughan 2 lb *(for which he received two shillings and sixpence. Perhaps Mrs Vaughan did not have a florin and said "Never mind, have half-a-crown")*.

Roys (of Wroxham) 72 lb at fifteen shillings per dozen *(now this is an interesting phenomenon – a commercial outlet being charged more than 'at the gate' prices!)*.

Hoveton Dairy 12 lb at 14 shillings *(a smaller 'outlet' being charged slightly less?)*.

Sections. There is no indication that sections were charged for. They were distributed as follows:

House 6	Mrs Vaughan 1 <i>(a nice compensation for 'overcharge' for honey perhaps?)</i>	
Middleton 1	Mary 1	Mrs Barnard 1
Maude for Bertie 2	Left at Mary's 1	Bee 1
Bungalow 2	Sibyl 1	

An interesting list which, I think, gives us a small glimpse at honey production and disposal at a time when honey must have been considered by most as a luxury item. Peter

## Padmore Memorial Lecture

The Padmore Lecture will be given this year by Peter Beckley on "The Honeybee and Man", and will be at Easton College on Saturday 7th March, after the AGM.

Peter has filled most posts on the NBKA committee, including Librarian, Secretary, BBKA Delegate, Vice Chairman and Chairman. He was also Vice-Chairman of the BBKA at one time. He was made a fellow of the Royal Entomological Society in 1986 and awarded an MBE in 2003 ("nothing to do with beekeeping", he says modestly).

During a varied career, he was also the beekeeping adviser on an episode of "Tales of the Unexpected", and all the beekeeping filming was done at his home in Norfolk. He conducted research into varroa in the Balkan region of Vojvodina (Serbia), before it came to the UK, and advised "a large State Beekeeping Unit" on extracting honey using an electric honey extractor when there was no mains electricity! He also wrote a book "Keeping Bees", first published in 1977.

Although he says, with tongue in cheek, his highest 'claim to fame' is appearing in the children's programme 'Rosie and Jim' as the beekeeper in one of their adventures!

# Buzzword Questionnaire: the results

Thank you to all who filled in the brief questionnaire and gave us your views. We had a total of 66 responses, representing well over 20% of members, which is a good response rate.

Most of the members felt that they liked the new-look *Buzzword*, with 74% saying it was 'really very good'. We only had 3 members marking it as average and there were no scores below that.

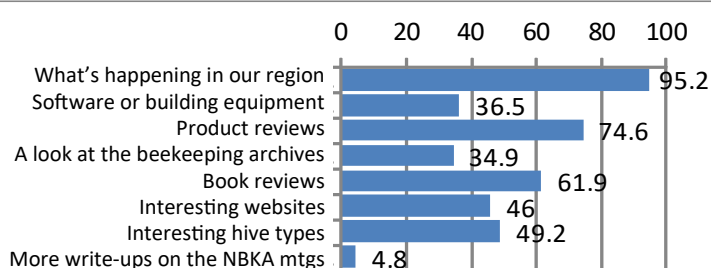
When we asked how much they read, almost 65% said most of it and a gratifying 22% said 'they couldn't put it down'. I don't know whether they were being sarcastic and maybe we should have asked where they were reading it for further enlightenment...

When we asked members do we need *Buzzword* at all, 95% said yes, and only one said it was nice to have and 2 people said they could get by on just emails from the Secretary. I know the Secretary will be pleased that he doesn't have to take the place of *Buzzword*.

When we asked what members liked, 47% said they liked the design (the Editor is very happy to change the design but would need some input on what would be better). A very substantial 95% said they liked the articles and 88% said they liked the local news and views. The 'For sale' entries were liked by 52% and luckily no-one ticked the box for not liking anything at all.

Interestingly, there was not much appeal for the Norfolk BKA-arranged meetings to be written up. That may be because those attending are also the ones who have responded to the questionnaire or maybe NBKA doesn't have things that appeal to our wider membership. That may need more unpicking.

You can see for yourself in the chart below that there was most interest in what's happening, product reviews and book reviews, with a little less interest in interesting websites and hive types and around a third of you wanted software or equipment and a look at the beekeeping archives.



The really interesting part is the free-text section, where members were able to say what they want to see more of and the 'anything else' bit. Apart from the very flattering: "The only thing that could be better is for it to be published more often!", we had comments that can roughly be split into two broad categories. Unfortunately we haven't got space to publish everything that was said verbatim:

## New beekeepers and general advice:

- Advice for new and recent beekeepers
- An ongoing dialogue on practical tips and recommenda-

tions through the season/Articles based on what is about to happen/look for rather than after the fact

- Educational articles
- Encouraging all to participate in learning
- Articles about alternative/less intervention bee keeping techniques in the uk

## More established beekeepers:

- Local topical seasonal problems
- How to, why to articles. Best practice and accumulated wisdom.
- Beekeeping facts and figures .
- New happenings, what's new in treatments, styles of hives, etc.
- A letters page encouraging members to correspond with each other/A problems page and a question and answer page/Encourage members to contribute.
- How about surveys – it would be interesting to compare conditions, timing etc. across the membership
- A feature using hive products in cosmetics, or food like cakes, mead etc./How to make mead
- History of beekeeping
- Gardening for all types of bees
- Seasonal tips are always useful, not only for the beginner but for those who have kept bees for donkey's years.

Hopefully we will continue to improve *Buzzword* with the help of your feedback. I would just like to end by echoing a comment made: "thank you to all who take the time to write in *Buzzword*". If you gave your email details in the survey, the Editor will be in touch.

## Advert for Cambridge BKA spring meeting: Bees, Forage, Pollination and Sustainability

This event will be held in Cambridge on **Saturday March 7th 2020** at Storeys Field Centre in Eddington, Cambridge. Everyone would be most welcome. We believe we have a most interesting line up of speakers including:

- Norman Carreck: Planting for bee forage;
- Hamish Symington: The science of pollination;
- Laura Jones: Investigating the foraging preferences of honeybees using DNA techniques;
- Roger Patterson: Sustainable bees and queens for everyone.

The tickets cost £30 for the day to include a light lunch and refreshments and can be bought on the CBKA website <http://bit.ly/2Vc0N54>, where you can also find further details.

## Changing the colours at *Buzzword*

Notice the 'topline' on the front cover of *Buzzword* has changed colour? This is to keep us up-to-date with the changing colours of queen marking. Last year it was green; this year it's blue. What it will look like as white next year remains to be seen.

## Members' things 'For Sale'

Adverts are free to members.

Contact the Editor on [buzzwordnbka@gmail.com](mailto:buzzwordnbka@gmail.com)



James Walker has an extractor for sale. He is looking for around £100.00 for the extractor. (New price around £400.00). James's contact number is 01362 698860.

## Apiary sites offered:

### Brundall Gardens

Brundall Gardens, outskirts of village, overlooking river valley and close to farmland, including that on which 'Brundall Mint' (yes there is a specific variety of mint from Brundall) is grown for Colman's for their mint sauce. Contacts are Glyndwr Thomas and Claire Webster-Thomas. [clairelouisethomas1970@gmail.com](mailto:clairelouisethomas1970@gmail.com).

### Mousehold South Allotments

The Chairman of the Mousehold South Allotment Association has asked if any members would be interested in keeping hive or hives on their members' allotments. Contact the Secretary ([secretarynbka@gmail.com](mailto:secretarynbka@gmail.com)).

## Thank you!

A very big thank you to all the folk who contributed to the Sanyu Orphanage in 2019. We have sent off a magnificent £2201.

Ruth and John Everett

## Local suppliers listing

This list is made up only of the suppliers in Norfolk who are known to us. To add your name to this list (for which there is **no** charge), please contact the Editor at [buzzwordnbka@gmail.com](mailto:buzzwordnbka@gmail.com)

### Applebee Apiary, Rockland St Mary

John Everett, Master Beekeeper

We carry a large range of beekeeping equipment from Thornes and other suppliers.

We breed and sell honey bees. Large stocks of hives, frames, foundation, jars and other beekeeping sundries always in stock; beginner's courses from May.

01508 538231 [everettapplebee@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:everettapplebee@hotmail.co.uk)  
<http://applebeeorchard.co.uk/>

Closed Sundays

### Don Cooper, Roughton NR11 8QP; 01263 761517

5/6-Frame BS nucs available in May from £150

30lb Buckets of honey

Advice on "all things bees"

### Glebelands Apiary, Rocklands St Mary NR14 7BX

Peter Beckley, Thornes agent (reportedly the longest serving in the UK). 01508 480262; [orns@btconnect.com](mailto:orns@btconnect.com)

### Stephen Crowe, Lingwood NR13 4BL, 01603 712101

Have been keeping bees for 30 years and sell 1lb jars of local Norfolk honey. Have bees and nucs from £150 this spring to cut down my colony numbers.

Also have 30lb buckets of honey for sale.

## Forthcoming Events

Date	Time	Event	Venue	Contact
<b>March</b>				
7	14:00 – 17:00	AGM and Padmore Lecture: The honey bee and man by Peter Beckley	Easton College*	Secretary
20	19:30	Paul Metcalf: Starting the bee-keeping year	Easton College*	Secretary
21	TBA	Module exams	Easton College*	Exams Secretary
<b>April</b>				
3 – 5	All day(s)	BBKA Spring Convention	Telford	Secretary
4	14:00 – 16:00	Opening up (Apiary Demo) at Jill Webb's apiary	Aslacton	Secretary
16	9:00	Spring Fling	Norfolk Showground	Secretary
17	19:00–21:00	Executive Committee Meeting	Easton College*	Secretary
<b>May</b>				
16	14:00-16:00	Swarm demo	TBC	Secretary
TBC		Husbandry course	TBC	Secretary
29	19:00–21:00	Executive Committee Meeting	Easton College*	Secretary
<b>June</b>				
13	14:00–16:00	Apiary demo	TBC	Secretary

\*Rooms are on the first floor of the Sports Centre