

## Diary Dates

**Sunday 6th February 2005** - Branch Apiary Meeting. The opening of hives depends on the weather. Starts 11:45am. Includes refreshments.

**Tuesday 15th February 2005** - A lecture by Terry Clare entitled 'Integrated Pest Management' (IPM for short). Starts 7:30pm at the apiary club house. Includes refreshments.

**Sunday 6th March 2005** - Branch Apiary Meeting. The opening of hives depends on the weather. Starts 11:45am. Includes refreshments.

**Tuesday 15th March 2005** - Lecture details to be announced. Starts 7:30pm at the apiary club house. Includes refreshments.

**Sunday 3rd April 2005** - Branch Apiary Meeting. The opening of hives depends on the weather. Starts 11:45am. Includes refreshments.

**Sunday 1st May 2005** - Branch Apiary Meeting. The opening of hives depends on the weather. Starts 11:45am. Includes refreshments.

## For more information

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# Bromley Bee News Monthly Update Published by the Bromley Beekeepers Association

Welcome to the **January 2005** issue of Bromley News.

My beekeeping starts in earnest towards the end of February with full hive inspections if the weather allows. Strong colonies will require supers as you don't want the brood chambers clogging up with any early nectar. You may recall from last month's newsletter that I store my supers wet, this has the advantage of attracting bees into the supers to clean them up and stimulate more brood rearing. I like to encourage strong colony build up so that my early Spring shook swarms recover more quickly.

## Mites

I'm predicting that resistant varroa mites will be a big problem for 2005/6 unless we start taking integrated pest management (IPM) more seriously. The lecture fast approaching on **Tuesday 15th February** given by Terry Clare will be on this very topic. Starts 7:30pm at the apiary club house. **DON'T MISS IT.**

## Honey Jars

When you buy honey jars I would strongly recommend that each jar is thoroughly washed in hot water with the smallest amount of washing up liquid or put through a dish washer. Even the manufacturers of lidded jars recommend washing them before use in case glass shards remain.

## Lids

I have noticed that after washing the gold lacquered honey jar lids that rust has come through, spoiling the appearance of the inside of the lid. Another beekeeper also mentioned this to me in passing and so I'm thinking this was not an isolated case. Plastic lids are an option but most beekeeping prefer the gold coloured lids. I think the best solution is to rinse the lids under a hot tap and dry them very quickly with a glass cloth, so far the problem of rusting inside the lids has not re-occurred.

*Steven Turner*

## **National Beekeeping Events**

**Saturday 16th April 2005** - The British Beekeepers Association Spring Convention at Stoneleigh-Park Exhibition and Conference Centre, Warwickshire CV8 2LS. Opens 09:00–1700.

**BBwear** the manufacturer of beekeeping clothing have re-vamped their website and are taking orders online URL:

<http://www.bbwear.co.uk/>

## **Apis-UK a FREE Online Beekeeping Magazine**

Apis-UK January issue No.31 prints to 28 sides of A4. Contents: Editorial; Beekeeping news; Bee press; Research News; Articles: Bees and Magnetic Fields (part 2 of 3) Ian Rumsey; Of Dubious Ancestry Mike Oliver; Two Queen Systems John Yates; Do You Suffer from Honey Guilt? Chad Cryer; Recipe of the Month: Honey Mushrooms; Fact File: Syndromes; Historical Note On the breeding of bees by the rev. John Thorley of Oxon 1742; Readers Letters: Sarah Burke, John Phipps, Niki Rooney, Israel Onyemaechi, Mike Oliver, Peter Smith, Arun Sawarker, David Foster; Diary of events; Quote of the Month and more. Total D/L 323KB URL:

<http://www.beedata.com/apis-uk/newsletters05/apis-uk0105.htm>

## **Apiary News**

What a wonderful turnout it was for our annual BBQ. Over 60 glasses were washed up and with several abstainers giving an indication of the numbers present.

Just 30 turned up for Ian Currie's talk on weather and folklore and that included three of our allotment friends. Satisfactory I suppose, but with close on 70 members I would have thought we could do better than that. When I am looking for speakers for the four lectures we promote in the early part of the year I am loath to call on big names for fear of lack of support. Even the normal 20 stalwarts who usually turn up for the meetings hardly justifies bringing speakers from far flung corners of the country. Perhaps I've got it wrong and getting a big name to come and talk may attract useful numbers. You tell me.

On the subject of Ian's talk, I thought it was really great and several of you have expressed the same opinion, thanks once again Ian and look in the post in a couple of years for a repeat invitation.

This month's talk will be by Terry Claire and is entitled "IPM – Where are we now?" and if you don't know what that means come along and find out on the 15th. Terry is a well-established beekeeper from Kent and has recently been co-opted onto the Executive Committee of the National Honey Show dealing with the lecture program and is doing a fine job in that post.

You will be pleased to hear that Dave Harris is up and about once again and is able to use his car if only on short trips at the moment. I am sure that you all join me in wishing him the very best for the future and we all look forward to seeing his happy smiling face at our future meetings.



It is now getting near time to look out your spare supers. Any that is still holding liquid honey should be moved to a warm place some time next month and left for a few days, then extracted. The supers with solid honey are probably dealt with best by carving large chunks out and dropping them into a plastic bucket then warming up in a container filled with water, then after the molten wax has set pour the now liquid honey through your strainer. Whether you bottle it at that stage or store it in buckets is up to you. If you leave say a quarter of an inch of comb and honey it will make a good starter for the bees and will save having to fit new foundation. The stickies can go back in the hive at any time now provided they are installed late in the day and that the bees have been flying well.

That brings me to just one last thing and that is to wish you all the best for the forthcoming season.

*Peter Springall*