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11.08.2025



Borage is well visited by honeybees. It starts to flower in April and can carry on through to the cold weather and the frosts.

Hello All

I hope your beekeeping is all on track. The wasps appear to have been a problem this year judging from my own experience and the conversations I have had with other beekeepers.

Our meetings will start again in September. This is our shared meeting with South Cheshire.

Our speaker is Steve Riley
This is one not to be missed!

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Thursday September 11th 2025

Clayton Community Centre

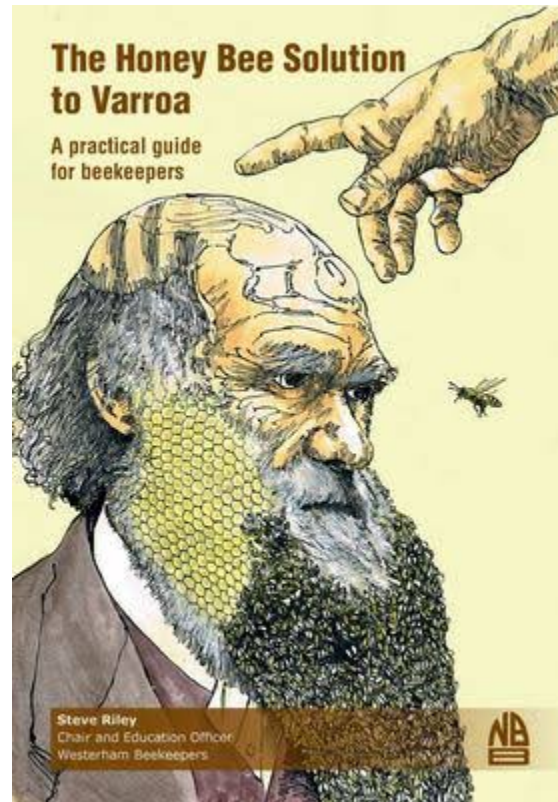
7.30 pm

Joint Meeting with South Cheshire BKA

Steve Riley

Varroa Resistance through Bee Improvement

note: raffle donations would be greatly appreciated



Steve Riley is the author of The Honey Bee Solution to Varroa. His book explains the practical steps beekeepers can take to identify and select for easily observable varroa-resistant traits in their colonies and follows Steve's own journey as a beekeeper to becoming treatment free.

He is the current Chair and Education Officer at Westerham BKA in the south west of England and also a member of the 'Path to Varroa Resistance in the UK' team that launched the education and science website: www.varroaresistantuk in April 2023

The presentation covers how to select and monitor for varroa resistant traits, whilst transitioning off miticide treatment/IPM. This includes the pitfalls of getting started and dealing with mite susceptible colonies (varroa breeders). The benefits of working collaboratively is highlighted to spread the best traits amongst fellow beekeepers



MICROSCOPY WORKSHOP

Note....Our 2025 Microscopy Workshop will be taking place on 14th September.

Covering the different aspects of using a microscope, this is a great opportunity to gain some hands on experience of the world of the honey bee we are unable to see with the naked eye..

Sean's microscopy skills are well recognised and you would normally have to travel to attend one of his courses.

However, our Programme Secretary Lynn Cartwright has worked hard to organise this local event.

We only have four places left to fill. So, if this is something you are considering attending then you must act fast. You can sign-up by going to our website:

<https://northstaffsbees.org.uk/event/nsbka-basic-microscopy-course/>

Here is a taster of the things you will be covering.
Follow this link to Sean's National Honey Show lecture:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K0WAWwzrUwI>

Join us if you can !



Varroa check

For those who are considering treating for Varroa: Once you've completed harvesting your honey, then this is a good time to carry out the treatment. To do this now as we head to Autumn can help protect the bees that are destined to carry the colony into and through winter.

You can treat while you are feeding syrup for winter.
Try to avoid simply blanket treatment . This doesn't help the bees develop natural strategies in combating the infestation.
Monitor the natural mite drop on the varroa board over a seven

day period . Divide this figure by seven to get your daily drop.

The National Bee Unit document whose link is given below suggests that 'Broadly speaking, average daily mite drop should not be more than thirty as this indicates a serious mite infestation and treatment is urgently needed, while below ten is considered acceptable and you do not need to treat just now. Between ten and thirty, you are in a zone where you should be treating imminently.'

[https://www.nationalbeeunit.com/assets/
PDFs/3_Resources_for_beekeepers/articles_reports/
BBKA_news/BBKA_60_BBKA_News_-
_Varroa_treatments_June_2020.pdf](https://www.nationalbeeunit.com/assets/PDFs/3_Resources_for_beekeepers/articles_reports/BBKA_news/BBKA_60_BBKA_News_-_Varroa_treatments_June_2020.pdf)

The Silver Bee Programme

Thanks to Dave Pepper for his article 'Buzz from the Fairway' which gives a brief account of his involvement in the 'Silver Bee Programme'.

Why don't you join us next year for another round of Silver Bee activity. Just send me a message if you are interested.

Brian 07969805252

Silver Bee Breeding - Buzz from the Fairway

What a season it's been! As someone just starting out in beekeeping, being part of the NSBKA Silver Bee programme has made all the difference. Since kicking my second season off in early May, our apiary on Newcastle Golf Course has been buzzing with activity — we've already harvested over 100lbs of honey!

Despite the appearance of wasps, May's early swarming behaviour threw up opportunities to expand. Thanks to the queen rearing programme, which came with loaned Nuc hives, lots of helpful advice and an active WhatsApp group, we went from two colonies to four in June, of which three are looking really promising. With a bit of luck, they'll be even more productive next

year. There's even been chatter around the golf club about fruit trees suddenly bearing fruit — maybe our bees are lending a helping wing with pollination? As the summer nectar flow slows down, the bees are already shifting gear and prepping for winter. For us, that means less honey coming in, but there's still plenty of jars in the clubhouse.



The Honey Show 2025

The Honey Show is only a few weeks away now (1st Oct at the Friends Meeting House) and its time for you all to prepare for the event.

We are lucky to have secured Terry Ashley again as the Honey Show judge. He is good value for his knowledge but also for the entertainment.

If you have any questions you can call Mike and Jennie Birks on 07817665339



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