

# BOURNEMOUTH & DORSET SOUTH BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

## Newsletter



## March 2021

### Association Diary Dates

#### *West Parley Memorial Hall*

No meetings till further notice but do look at your emails for information about virtual meetings. Let's hope later this year we can meet face to face again.

### Collecting Pollen...it is already happening



#### **Worker bees laden with pollen coming in to land at a flight angle.**

A full pollen load weighs about 35% of the bee's body weight, carried on the hind (third) legs, and behind the centre of gravity when unladen.



#### **Different coloured pollen because of multiple sources**



#### **On average, 15%-30% of a colony's foragers are collecting pollen ...**

- Brushed off their hairy bodies and collected in baskets on the third leg of the worker bee
- Brought back to the hive and unloaded directly into open cells (between the brood and stored honey)
- House worker bees pack the pollen into cells with their heads
- Pollen is mixed with nectar and bee salivary secretions ("bee bread")
- Composition (sugars, proteins, minerals and vitamins, fatty acids...)
- 100 lb for colony survival / year of which 15 lb over average winter

It is often thought, that the pollen contained in locally produced honey protects against respiratory allergies such as hay fever and asthma. Bees do collect pollen from trees that are wind and insect pollinated, but for the most part bees directly collect pollen from the anthers of flowers dedicated to insect pollination.

Extracts of honey pollen does cause more of a skin reaction (skin prick testing) in individuals with respiratory allergies than those without. De-sensitising with extracts of airborne pollen (grass and ragweed) may be of value in allergic

individuals. Serious reactions with such therapy when professionally administered are uncommon.

Apart from pollen, bee pollen contains bacteria, fungi, bee faecal material and insect body parts and so it is not surprising that there are case reports of serious allergic reactions in pre-disposed individuals fed bee pollen supplements.

In summary enjoy your honey for the pride and satisfaction it gives, but not because it protects you against allergies.

**... and another thing, we have recently lost a world renowned immunologist, Professor Sir Peter Lachmann FRS, who was also a keen beekeeper...**

"Lachmann had been introduced to beekeeping by his wife, whose mother had kept bees. He established a couple of hives at his home in Cambridge, and a demonstration hive on the wall of his study. He was fascinated by bees and they became part of his eclectic contribution to medical research. He harvested bee and wasp venom for a pioneering clinic developing desensitisation therapy for those with life-threatening allergies to their stings. Among his many publications was a book, *Why Mankind Has Needed Religion Whereas Bees Have Not*, which argued that religious orders had provided the building blocks for the cultural evolution of mankind. An unequivocal atheist, he even persuaded the former Archbishop of Canterbury Lord Williams of Oystermouth to write a foreword."

(quote from the Times Obituary)

[Professor Sir Peter Lachmann obituary | Register | The Times](#)

**Adrian Rozkovec**

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**Bee Supplies – Mike and Liz Duffin**

Many of you will know Mike and Liz Duffin, both for their national contributions including judging, and as long-term contributors to our Association and the Annual Show.

If you need bee equipment or supplies please be aware that the Duffins, are the local agents for Thornes (EH Thorne Beehives Ltd), a major national Beekeeper supplier. They are very helpful, keep a good stock and you don't have to pay for packaging and postage! Please support them!

Upper Hurst  
Snails Lane  
Blashford  
Ringwood  
BH24 3PG  
01425 474552

**Hive Insulation Covers...to keep your colony warm**

Some 8 years ago our Association arranged a talk by Derek Mitchell. He explained that he was merely the husband of a beekeeper. He was an engineer by profession. Noticing the relative flimsiness of wooden hives had caused him to consider the importance to bees of insulation. He explained a method of constructing a hood or cover for a hive which greatly improved the retention of heat and the regulation of humidity within a colony.

The following method of construction is based on the method described by Derek Mitchell. If you are minded to make a cover I would strongly recommend that you ask a fellow-beekeeper or friend to help, as at every stage of cutting and assembling two pairs of hands will make it quicker and easier

**Material Required (enough for two covers)...**

- 1 sheet Recticel/Celotex 1200x2400x50mm
- 1 roll aluminum tape 45mx 100mm ( in width)
- 1pkt. Bamboo skewers

**Tools required...**

Rule, pencil, metal-strip of not less than 1200mm length, saw, sand-paper, hammer and scissors

**Method**

1. Carefully calculate the dimensions of the five pieces of sheet required. You will need the length, width and height of your brood-box with a crown-board in place. (Note: no roof is required on the hive when the cover is in place)

End-piece x 2

Width = width of brood-box + 1cm

Height = height of brood-box and crown-board

Side-piece x 2

Length = length of brood-box + 1cm + 10cm

Height = height of brood-box and crown-board

Roof

Length = length of brood-box + 1cm + 10cm

Width = width of brood-box + 1cm + 10cm

2. Measure the sheet and cut out the pieces required. It is important that all cuts are at right-angles to the surface of the sheet. Clamp the metal strip to the sheet along the line of each cut and press the blade of the saw against it. Each draw of the saw should be as long and slow as possible so that the sheet does not tear. Lightly sand-paper each cut edge.

3. Cut each skewer in half.

4. Place the brood-box on a flat surface and arrange the end and side pieces around it with the truest edge of each piece on the flat surface.

5. Move the brood-box to one corner and push in 3 skewers from the outside of the side-piece into the thickness of the end-piece. Make sure each skewer is pushed in straight and does not come out through the flat surfaces of the end-piece. Use the hammer to tap in the last bit of each skewer so that it is flush with the surface of the side-piece. Repeat process for the other three corners.

6. Lift the partially assembled cover and turn it over (having

removed the brood-box). Turning it over ensures the roof will fit snugly on top of the four sides.

7. Place the roof on the cover and push in 3 skewers through the roof vertically into the walls of the cover. Again make sure each skewer does not come out through the flat surfaces of sides of the cover.

8. Turn the cover over and tape the bottom of each side. Next tape each corner and finally tape along where the roof touches each wall.

The pictures show the underside of a completed cover and one in situ on a hive.



#### Cost

From Jewsons

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Recticel Eurothane GP sheet         | 44.89 |
| Pakex Insulation Aluminum Foil tape | 14.17 |

From Travis & Perkins

|                                    |       |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| Celotex Insulation sheet GA4050 50 | 31.76 |
| Own brand Aluminum Foil tape       | 17.00 |

From Lakeland

|                           |      |
|---------------------------|------|
| 1 pkt 30cm Bamboo Skewers | 1.49 |
|---------------------------|------|

Note: If several sheets and rolls of tape are purchased together, substantial reductions in price are available. Another good reason for making these insulation covers co-operatively!

David Aldersey

## Beginners Course

A course has been organized again for this year. It will start on 27<sup>th</sup> March with an introductory talk about bees and beekeeping by Adrian Rozkovec. This will be followed by six sessions covering such basic beekeeping skills as frame-handling, use of hive-tool and smoker, the reasons for weekly inspections, identification of healthy brood, supering, Varroa and winter feeding etc. Covid restrictions permitting, most sessions will take place at High Mead apiary so that practical experience of opening hives and manipulation of colonies can be given. The first session will be on 3<sup>rd</sup> April followed by sessions on successive Saturdays. Each session will begin at 10.30am. The cost for members is £45.00. Presently the group is fully subscribed. However if anyone would be interested in attending please let our secretary know. He will place your name on a waiting list.

David Aldersey  
Education Officer

## Welcome to our new Swarm Co-ordinator...

Hi, I'm Clare. This year I am taking over from Natalie as swarm co-ordinator. This is my 4th year of beekeeping, I joined BADS in 2018 and took the beginners course, at the end of which I was lucky enough to get my first bees. I've had ups and downs but I really enjoy beekeeping, I'm lucky to have space for hives in my garden so many an hour is spent watching the bees come and go. Due to lockdown I have been working from home for a year now, and many lunchtimes last summer were spent sat watching bees (and more than once I forgot the time!). I hope we are able to get back to meetings later this year and look forward to seeing everyone.

Clare can be contacted through the BADS-BKA website or by mobile 07926 202323

Clare Tilly

**This is YOUR Association Newsletter.** Please feel free to share your beekeeping experiences – good or bad – along with photos, honey recipes, hints and tips, anecdotes and links to any interesting articles.

In response to the members, please note that we have agreed to provide a 2 monthly, rather than quarterly Newsletter, so all the more reason why we are requesting contributors.

Please email Adrian Rozkovec: [newsletter@bads-bka.org](mailto:newsletter@bads-bka.org)

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