

## **NHBKA Summer 2014 Newsletter**

It seems the door to summer that had inadvertently been left open has been closed and a cool breeze is now blowing through the door to autumn and winter. It has been a peculiar season. The first swarms appearing in early April and continuing until late September. The beekeepers' adage for swarms collected in May, June and July may need embellishment.

We visited three member apiaries during the summer starting at Pat Veasey's, and ending at Robin Dartington's Buzzworks, with Peter McKenna's Little Offley apiary sandwiches in between. Apiary visits are always hugely enjoyable social occasions and we extend a big thank you to the members who hosted them and those who helped with the organisation and the refreshments.

Our experimental social evening during the summer at the Buck's Head in Little Wymondley drew all the usual suspects. North Hertfordshire boasts a good number of pubs offering a variety of excellent real ales so perhaps it's an evening we can build on - we live in hope (or should that be in hop).

It has been a mixed year for honey with some colonies producing very little whilst others seem to be full to overflowing. Even allowing for beekeepers' estimates that owe a little to the angler's story of the one that got away, it was certainly true that with the unusually warm end to the season the bees seemed to want extra room for their foraged nectar, filling roof spaces and eaves where the beekeeper was reluctant to add more space.

The Herts Show at Redbourn and Stevenage Day were just a couple of the successful events during the summer and several members attended the General Husbandry Course and Bee Disease Recognition Day hosted by Welwyn BKA.

Welwyn are running another General Husbandry Course and the first session, Scoping and Planning, is on Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> October at Trinity Church Hall, Knebworth, 10.00am to 5pm. If you are interested please confirm your attendance to Mike Goodhew by email ([mike.goodhew@ntlworld.com](mailto:mike.goodhew@ntlworld.com)) and send him a cheque for £20 for the Scoping and Planning day as soon as convenient to Mike Goodhew, 3 Deards End Lane, Knebworth, Herts, SG3 6NL; made payable to Hertfordshire Beekeeping Association.

This year will be our last at the Odyssey Health Club as the owners are developing the site and require the land we use for our Association apiary. We always knew that the site wasn't permanent but it has been a convenient site for introducing prospective beekeepers to the craft.

Just a reminder to attach mouse guards to your hive entrances as the mice will be looking for a winter home as the weather cools.

Our first indoor meeting following the summer break is on Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> October at Howgills and starts at 7:30pm.