



Southampton & District Bee Keepers Association

March 2009

Foragings

Newsletter

Contact Details

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Dates for the Diary

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**Friday 20th March 19:30**, The sutton Hall, Stockcross, Nr Newbury, Berkshire, RG20 8LN

#### **The dark European honeybee, Tom Robinson**

Newbury Beekeepers' Association warmly invites you to the 27<sup>th</sup> annual Leaver Memorial Lecture, to be given by Tom Robinson of the Bee Improvement and Bee Breeders' Association.

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Saturday 21st March 10:00, Wickham Community Centre, Wickham

South Hants Spring Convention

The first local bee 'event of the year. Advance tickets @ £10 available from the Newsletter Editor. 4 great speakers and will be an enjoyable day.

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**Saturday 28th March 19:30**, The Four Horseshoes, Nursling

#### **Skittles evening, £11.00 including hot buffett**

The first social of the year. Come along and enjoy a pleasant evening over a drink and showing your skills at skittles! Interested, Contact Steve Irish (023) 8078 3788

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Sunday 29th March 14:00, Broadlands Apiary

Apiary Meeting Spring Inspection

The first Apiary meeting of the year. A chance to look at the hives (inside if it's warm and dry!) to assess how the colonies have come through the winter.

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**Monday 6th April 19:30**, Waterloo Arms, Waterloo Road, Shirley

#### **Rules and regulations for selling honey, Lucas Marshall**

Lucas has agreed to re-schedule his talk after the earlier time had to be cancelled. I'm sure this will prove to be an informative insight into the current legislation around selling honey and hive products

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Re-schedule

PESTS & DISEASE

In line with the CSL guidelines the Varroa count for March

Level and Control Required	Average Mite Drop per Day	Proportion of Infested Drone Pupae
Low No Action	2 or less	
Medium Plan Action	Between 2 and 9	
High Take Action	More than 9	

Southampton and District Bee Keepers Association Membership numbers

Current year to date compared to the end of the last year.

Year	Registered Member	Partner Member	Country Member	Honorary Member	Members Friends	Friends	Total
2008/09	44	4	1	1	9	3	62
2007/08	46			1	27	6	80

Why is Southampton such a rich source of nectar?

Andy Willis

During the poor seasons of year (both S&DBKA and HBA) brook, Maybush, etc at that 2007 and 2008, it was more that I wondered if there were time.

apparent than usual that bees any names and years that were Whilst most of the shrubs of kept within the City of South- the same on both sets of tro- these amenity plantings have ampton yielded far more honey phies, i.e. one person from now been removed many of the than in most other places. How Southampton had won the trees remain. These are now and why this should be is not as county trophies as well as our mature and flower prolifically obvious as it might first appear. own association trophies. most years. It is these flowering

Urban areas are of cause fur- Strangely other than my own trees that make up a great deal nished with a tapestry of gar- name in 2007 and 2008, the of Southampton's greenness dens, all with a huge variety of only other name that appeared which is the lasting legacy of Mr plants and flowers, which is in the same year on both sets of Bill Porter, and are what makes sadly missing in the country- trophies was Mr W (Bill) Porter, our bees more productive than side. back in 1963. While I was giving most.

This doesn't explain why a talk/slideshow for Romsey Strangely the Council have no Southampton's urban areas Beekeepers, Don Hannon men- records of Mr W Porter, but his perform better than other ur- tioned Bill Porters name again name lives on, engraved on the ban areas such as Bourne- as he is reputed to have been silver trophies of our associa- mouth, Portsmouth or responsible for the planting of tion and for just one year, on Basingstoke. While climate and good bee forage through out the HBA County trophy as well. weather doesn't vary much be- Southampton. Bill was Parks Su- It is with great pride that my tween these areas, soil does perintendant for the Southamp- name now appears along side his. I believe generations of and will have an effect. This still ton City Council and lived near his. I believe generations of doesn't explain why Southamp- to the sports centre. He was a Southampton Beekeepers are tion is reputed by many keen beekeeper and exhibitor indebted from his long term (including a past bee inspector) at shows and using his position planting for bees and owe a to be the richest source of nec- within the Council was able to huge debt of thanks. It is not tar in Southern England, as its influence what the Council were often that a single beekeeper soils are not particularly unique planting as street trees and the can be credited for unselfishly or rare. landscaping that was planted in improving the bee forage for generations of beekeepers in a

It was while I was polishing the trophies that I had won this the new Council Estates of Mill- a whole area.