



Editorial

January is generally not an active month for our bees but we still should visit the hives to check they are standing up well to the weather and have not been damaged by pests or intruders. It is likely that remaining stores will have been depleted so it will be good to ensure the colony does not run out of food. Hefting a hive will identify the colonies low on stores. If the hive is light, the best food to provide this time of year is candy such as Ambrosia Paste or similar. This should be placed immediately over the brood on top of the frames.

Also January is a good time to treat bees with oxalic acid as part of the proactive control of varroa. When there is no brood in the nest varroa mites are in the phoretic stage. This is when mites stay on adult bees, mostly on nurses, to feed on hemolymph. During the latter, the parasites enter brood cells and repro-

duce. This is when varroa most vulnerable to oxalic acid.

If using an oxalic solution, such as Api-



Bioxal please read and dispense in line with the manufactures instructions. Oxalic solutions should be used when there is a minimum quantity of sealed brood.

If left to late the mites will be safe in sealed cells and unlikely to be affected by the treatment. If possible apply oxalic acid on bright days when the bees in the colony have broken the cluster. This will help the acid to get distributed through out the colony.

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Web Sites Links of Interest:

- [Bee Trade Exhibition – 3rd March](#)
- [BBKA Spring Convention 2018 – 13th to 15th April 2018](#)
- OBKA.org.uk
- [BeeBase – Advisory Manuals & Fact Sheets](#)

For Sale

A brand new, boxed Flow Hive Classic Cedar 6 Frame for sale. Details of the package can be found at <https://eu.honeyflow.com/products/flow-hive-classic-cedar>. If interested please contact Sue Wilkinson either by email at sue-wi2306@virginmedia.com or by mobile on 07798925671. The cost of the same hive now is about £550. This is brand new and still in its box, so a sensible offer would be acceptable, Sue is based in Abingdon and the buyer would need to collect or arrange a courier, this can be discussed if interested.

Upcoming Events

Event	Date	Location	
Museum Visit (TBC)	18:00 Hrs Tuesday 30 January	Natural History Museum, Park Road, Oxford OX1 3PW	
George McGavin Lecture	19:30 Hrs Friday 16 February	Natural History Museum, Park Road, Oxford OX1 3PW	
OBKA AGM	19:00 Hrs	Eynsham Village Hall, Back Lane, Eynsham OX29 4QW	
Beetradex 2018	09:30 – 16:30 Saturday 3 March	Hall H, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire CV8 2LG	All major suppliers are represented with bargains together with seminars running through the day from The Bee Unit and others.
BBKA Spring Convention	Friday 13 to Sunday 15 April	Harper Adams University, Newport, Shropshire TF10 8NB	Event details awaited
OBKA Woodstock Apiary Spring Cleaning	11:00 Saturday 28 April	Marlborough School, Shipton Rd, Woodstock OX20 1LP	Lunch will be provided for all volunteers.
Honey Bee Farm—Open day	14:30 Saturday 19 May	Lower Lea Farm, Swalcliffe, Lea, Banbury OX15 6ET	
OBKA Woodstock Apiary Autumn Clean Up	11:00 Sunday September	Marlborough School, Shipton Rd, Woodstock OX20 1LP	Lunch will be provided for all volunteers.
OBKA Honey and Cake Show	14:00 Sunday 14 October	Cumnor Village Hall, Leys Rd, Cumnor, Oxford OX2 9QF	
Marin Anastasov Lecture	Friday 23 November	Eynsham Village Hall, Back Lane, Eynsham OX29 4QW	Details to follow
OBKA Social and Various Bee Talk		Eynsham Village Hall, Back Lane, Eynsham OX29 4QW	

Important Information

Mentoring Coordinator

If any of our members would appreciate assistance from a mentor, particularly if you have taken up beekeeping over the last couple of years or would like to start beekeeping this year please contact our mentoring coordinator Mo Leen at: mo.leen@ntlworld.com

Similarly if you would like to assist in mentoring other please forward your details to Mo Leen along with your post code.

This is a great opportunity to share knowledge, learn from each other and learn together.

Any assistance you can offer will be greatly appreciated by the mentees and the OBKA in progressing this much needed important initiative.

OBKA Treasurer

The post of treasurer is still vacant. Peter Randall has temporarily taken on the role again with the resignation of Phil Spillane due to ill health, but Peter is very keen to pass on the role to “new blood”. If you have accountancy /bookkeeping experience and can help us please contact myself or Phil Sharman. Peter Randall will be happy to explain what is involved. **Please remember, the treasurer’s role is the most important post in OBKA. As a charity OBKA has to present annual accounts to the Charities Commission. If these are not produced we can no longer function as a Charity and OBKA would be forced to disband.**
Pete Chaut

Apiary Visits 2018

We would like to reintroduce our programme of apiary visits during the summer months of June – August. These have proved very popular in the past and are particularly valuable to new beekeepers who can experience beekeeping techniques in practice in a range of settings. If you would be willing to host a “field trip” on a weekend afternoon during one of these months please contact Janet Robinson-Wood who would love to hear from you! Janet’s email address is janetrobisonwood@gmail.com

p.s it doesn’t matter if you have one or twenty hives, all volunteers are equally welcome.

Pete Chaut



Oxford Beekeeping Association is a registered charity
Number 1005846.

The OBKA website is on-line. Visit www.obka.org.uk to see details of
future events, links to other useful sites and other relevant
information.

Oxford Bee Keeping Association

Chairman - Philip Sharman

Tel: 01869 340626

Mobile: 07912120337

Email: phil.sharman@btopenworld.com

Swarms Liaison Officer— Maurice Lean

Tel: 01865 773626

Email: mo.lean@ntlworld.com

**Any articles or information for the
Newsletter, items wanted or for sale, or
any comments for the editor, please
contact Mark Blanchette at
mblan@tiscali.co.uk**

