

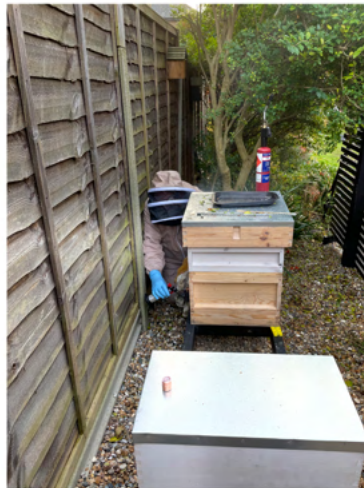


January Newsletter

Hello Members,

I hope you've all enjoyed a fantastic festive period and wish you all a happy and healthy 2022. Hopefully Santa filled your stocking with all of those beekeeping items you've coveted and you're now beginning to focus on your aims and objectives for the coming season! I've certainly taken advantage of some of the new year sales to stock up on essentials.

Despite a couple of colder snaps, it remains mild and per the whatsapp group, there are lots of accounts of apiaries and hives being quite active and anecdotal reports of various flowers in bloom locally that perhaps wouldn't ordinarily. With this in mind, it may be worth considering a few rounds of oxalic acid treatment a few weeks apart if you are using a vaporiser as there is considerably less chance the colony will be brood-less when the treatment is applied. I know our apiary managers Gary and Michelle are experimenting with multiple treatments this year and it seems to have really made a difference to the varroa counts within the hives they've selected for the experiment.



Being a new keeper, I took Gary up on his offer of treating my hive and nuc, in the photographs left he is using the 'Gas Vap' which has the advantage of being much more portable than many of the other battery operated systems on the market. You can find out more here: <https://gas-vap.com>

As always, please refer to the manufacturer's instructions as to appropriate P.P.E when using these sorts of devices and noxious chemicals

Notices:

Lesley is busily working on the 2022 programme and details will follow as soon as possible. The club's January meeting is organised from 2-4pm on Saturday 29th January at the NT Visitors Centre Barn in Lodge Lane Cobham DA12 3BS. I understand we will be able to park opposite in the Farmer's yard. Peter Cox one of our long standing members will be talking to us about "Preparing for the New Season" and as usual refreshments will be available.

Beekeeping Bingo!

As its that time of year where we all look back, look ahead and make our plans and resolutions for the year ahead, I thought I'd introduce a fun way to keep you motivated and perhaps help you think about your objectives for the season ahead in the form of 'Beekeeping Bingo'! I've attached your bingo card below, you can play conventionally and complete a row, column or get a full house or you may wish to just pick one objective. Sadly there isnt a prize but perhaps you can reward yourself for achieving your aims by finally buying that new piece of equipment you've been telling yourself you don't really need but that you'd really like :) Or you could take a victory lap on the whatsapp group having gotten a full house!

