

## The Bee Keeping Year

- January: Check roofs and mouse guards. Ensure entrances are clear.
- February: Heft hives and feed with candy/fondant if required.  
A couple of combs of sealed stores would be even better.
- March: Change/clean floor (note weight of the hive).  
Monitor Varroa – refer to Managing Varroa 2007 advisory leaflet from DEFRA/CSL.
- April: Inspect on suitable day for health, stores and Queenright (must be brief as danger of Queen loss and brood chilling).  
Replace two brood combs with foundation (on edge of the brood nest at end of the month).
- May: Start swarm prevention inspections.  
Add supers as required.
- June: Swarm prevention - give room as necessary.  
Remove spring crop if required (e.g. oil seed rape).  
Beware of starvation especially of newly hived swarms in June Gap.
- July: Add supers as required.  
Continue to monitor for Varroa and treat if necessary.
- August: Remove main crop and treat for Varroa.  
Restrict entrance to prevent robbing.
- September: Complete feeding by the end of the month.  
Remove Apiguard treatment trays after six weeks.
- October: Fit mouseguards and woodpecker precautions.
- November:} Check out apiaries, make Christmas lists, candles and mead.  
December:}