



NEWSLETTER – July 2022

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Tim Bullock	- Chairman
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Justin Downes	- Newsletter Editor
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Website Manager -Christopher Wilkinson

APIARY NOTES - Tim Bullock

As I write this we are in the middle of the heatwave, like us bees need water to survive. Have colonies got a local plentiful source of water close by? A plant pot saucer filled with water and pebbles, sponge, twigs etc is well worth having if there's no river/stream/water trough etc nearby. The local bird, hedgehog and other wildlife will likely thank you for it too!!

Now we're well into July, hopefully, the swarming season has finished (although it could still happen), and colonies are at their peak numbers so they can bring in as much nectar as possible before they start getting ready for winter (sorry for mentioning winter but now is the time to start thinking about it!).

When inspecting now it's worth checking varroa numbers. If they are easily found, or numbers on varroa boards are high, it's worth doing a treatment before winter to reduce the load. But remember that not all treatments can be used when there are supers on the colony. In the past I have found that treating with MAQS strips (other treatments are widely available) after I've taken the last of honey off has worked well and doesn't stop queens laying for long (if at all) which is one of the main concerns.

Asian hornet- as we come into August colonies are likely to be in large secondary nests. Now, until the autumn, is when you may find hawking workers in front of your hives – this is the problem period for honeybee colonies as Asian hornet workers can decimate a honeybee colony. Please put out wasp traps baited with smelly protein bait consisting of anchovies, sardines or other stinky high protein substance. The current guidance is that we all spend at least an hour each day observing the entrances to see if Asian hornets are around. I doubt any of us have that luxury especially if you have two or more apiaries, but regularly spending a bit of time watching what's happening at the entrance to hives is no bad thing anyway! 10 minutes is better than nothing and if nothing else you'll see how active your colonies are and just what they're bringing in at the moment.....

Club Meetings

Up and coming dates of interest:

Honey Extraction Demonstration at Park Farm, Hook Street Lydiard Tregoze SN5 3NY - 28.7.22.

This will be a 'dummy' demonstration covering the process and what equipment is required. There will also be a demonstration on how to make your own 'DIY' nuc/brood/super boxes by Richard Bunce.

Apiary Preparation for Winter- 25.8.22. How to prepare for cold months

SDBKA Honey Show – 29.9.22. This will be fairly low key, with members encouraged to enter their own produce with some friendly judging/advice being provided. More information will follow in due course.

AGM & Skittles night – 27.10.22

Bee Safari - This was originally planned for August; however, this has now been cancelled and put back to next year.

Meetings are held on the last Thursday of each month in the Skittle Alley at the Haydon Wick Club, Blunsdon Road, Swindon SN25 1JD, start time 7.30pm. Please come along, all are welcome.

County

Honeybee Health Day - 3.9.22

Once every four years county beekeeping associations host a team from the National Bee Unit to update members on many aspects of the diseases, pests and pathogens that affect honeybees. This year it is the turn of Wiltshire BKA. The Wiltshire Honeybee Health Day on 3rd September will include a series of talks in the morning followed by workshops in the afternoon. These workshops will include an opportunity to handle frames infected with either AFB or EFB; an update on Varroa and a reminder on best practice for maintaining hygiene in the apiary. The day will end with a Q&A session. The day is being led by John Geden, our Regional Bee Inspector, assisted by Avril Earl, our Seasonal Bee Inspector, and other SBIs from neighbouring counties. The Wiltshire Honeybee Health Day is a great learning opportunity it is also an ideal event to meet fellow beekeepers from across the county. For more information and to book your place see link below

[Wiltshire Beekeepers Association Wiltshire BKA Honey Bee Health Day 2022 - Wiltshire Beekeepers Association](#)

Wiltshire Bee & Honey Day – 8.10.22

A fantastic day out for people thinking about taking up beekeeping, as well as old hands who want to learn a whole lot more. Incorporates the County Honey Show at the Devizes Corn Exchange, Market Place, Devizes SN10 1HS.

- Talks beekeeping, pollinators and the environment and how to get started in beekeeping
- The annual county honey show with open classes for the kids – see downloads below
- Candle rolling – perfect for Christmas presents
- A model of a solar farm with solar-powered toys and experiments for children
- Craft-making: helping children make flowers and insects for a big pollinator display
- Exploring inside a virtual hive
- Honey beer tasting courtesy of Wadworth brewery
- Mead tasting
- Exhibitors offering bee related food, drinks, gifts and products as well as beekeeping kit.
- A silent auction

More Information Link - [Wiltshire Beekeepers Association Wiltshire Bee & Honey Day 2022 - Wiltshire Beekeepers Association](#)

SDBKA APIARY AT TWIGS

All four colonies are currently doing well and there should be a crop of honey to sell this year. Any new or potential beekeepers are welcome to come along to gain handing experience. Please contact Kathy Hobson should you wish to do so

SDBKA APIARY AT PARK FARM

We have three colonies and one nuc. One colony currently has two supers on and again is looking good for a crop to sell.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

If you feel you would like share anything of note or which may be of benefit to other members, then please let me know.

Justin

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