



## August 2017 Newsletter

**President: Bryan Hopper**

### **Committee members 2017**

Mike Benson	Chairman
Deborah Cosgrove	
Ian Cowdy	Editor - Newsletter
Stephen Greenaway	Vice Chairman, Spray and swarm liaison.
Clive Harris	Treasurer
Kathy Hobson	Secretary, membership secretary.
Andy Jones	
Nicola Perrett	
John Woodstock	

### **Apiary tasks**

Now is the time to remove honey from the hives remembering to leave at least 30lbs for each colony. Get the extracted super frames back on asap so the bees can clean and repair the comb. When this has been completed move the supers to your winter storage.

Decide what you will use to feed the bees with before the winter clusters start. Make up syrup and start feeding if the colonies feel light. Purchase fondant slabs to put over crown boards in case they need further feeding later in the year.

After honey removal you can carry out a Varroa count, treat any colonies with mite counts above three per day.

### **Wasps**

Wasps continue to be an increasing problem at this time of the year, weak colonies that let wasps enter freely should have their entrances reduced to ONE hole and wasp traps hung around the apiary. My traps continue to catch hundreds of wasps even though I have been forced to move my last two colonies to my other apiary. These were strong colonies but wasps were entering and leaving as if the hives were their own homes!

### **Swindon and Wiltshire Honey Shows**

The Swindon honey show will be held on 28<sup>th</sup> September, the more entries the better so dust off your photographs, start preparing your honey entries (If you need a 1lb jar for the entry please contact Kathy Hobson before the end of this month), bottle your mead, polish your candles.

The show schedule will be sent to all later.

The Wiltshire honey show is being held in Trowbridge on the 21st October. The Swindon BKA will not be hosting a stand this year - unless at this late stage someone would like to organise a one!!!!

### **Club logo clothing:**

Nicola Perrett holds a small stock of fleeces, polo and sweat shirts. If you would like to purchase one please contact her at [nicola.perrett@btinternet.com](mailto:nicola.perrett@btinternet.com)

**Club Apiary:**

The club colonies continue to thrive except for one which became queen less and developed laying workers.

All colonies are storing honey made mainly from nectar obtained from the wild flower meadow and gardens at Twigs.

**Training and education:**

Wiltshire BKA exams and Education will be running a Microscopy course details of which will be forwarded to all of you by Kathy Hobson

**Club meetings:**

Meetings are held on the last Thursday of the month throughout the year except December.

Venue is in the Skittle Alley at the Haydon Wick Club, Blunsdon road, Swindon SN25 1JD.

Start time 1930 hrs

**Next meeting on the 31st of August**

Uniting and splitting colonies, Varroa treatment.

Future meetings for 2017:

September Swindon honey show

October AGM

November Mead making by Mike Benson and Clive Harris

December Skittles evening

2018 meetings – topics are open for suggestion, definitely for March or April we will a swarm prevention talk and demonstration.

Any suggestions for talks etc. please pass to Kathy Hobson or Mike Benson

**If you have pictures of anything related to beekeeping or something unusual please send to me so it can be included in future newsletters.**

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