



BEEKEEPERS

January 2018 Newsletter

President: Bryan Hopper

Committee members 2018

Mike Benson	Chairman
Tim Bullock	
Ian Cowdy	Editor - Newsletter
Stephen Greenaway	Vice Chairman, Spray and swarm liaison.
Clive Harris	Treasurer
Kathy Hobson	Secretary, membership secretary.
Andy Jones	
Nicola Perrett	
Christopher Wilkinson	

Apiary tasks

Don't get complacent because the days are lengthening and Spring isn't that far away! Check that each colony has enough stores. Look under the hives, I checked my four colonies and three had biscuit coloured brood wax debris underneath indicating laying queens. The fourth however had a layer of small black bits on the paving slab which on closer inspection turned out to be bits of bees! I can't find out what's going on until I can get into the hive by which time it may be too late!

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Training and Education

If anybody wants to undertake the Basic assessment next year (March to April) please contact Stephen Greenaway asap

If you know anybody interested in starting beekeeping we are running Taster and Starting beekeeping courses this year. Please contact Kathy Hobson for details.

Chapel Hill

Three committee members visited the site near Blunsdon and after discussing their findings the committee has decided that this site is not suitable as an alternative club apiary, however if any member is interested on a personal level please contact Kathy Hobson and she will let you have the details of the person to contact

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

Club Apiary:

We have three viable colonies but are not going to expand the number this year due to lack of interest in running the club apiary.

The site needs cleaning and maintenance so over the next few months we will require volunteers to help with this.

TWIGS Open days

15.4.18 TWIGS
20.5.18 NGS
24.6.18 TWIGS
22.7.18 NGS

Although these are primarily Twigs days we do open the beekeeping shed so visitors can view the apiary. This requires help from members who are prepared to answer questions related to beekeeping. You can of course sell your own honey at the same time.

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

25 th January	Starting the beekeeping season
22 nd February	Richard Oliver (County Chairman and Training Officer)
29 th March	Robert Carpenter-Turner (Seasonal Bee Inspector)
26 th April	Swarm prevention and control
31 st May	Thornes
28 th June	To be arranged
26 th July	Beekeeping video
30 th August	Ron Hoskins (Microscopy)
27 th September	SDBKA Honey show and quiz night
25 th October	SDBKA AGM and open forum
29 th November	To be arranged
11 th December	Skittles (date to be confirmed)

Above list will be subject to change depending on availability of speakers.

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

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

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