



BEEKEEPERS

## September 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	

Thanks to Ron Hoskins for his presentation and talk on the “small hive beetle” at the last meeting, this was extremely interesting and informative. Some of us are wondering why we became beekeepers!

### **Next Meeting:**

Thursday the 27<sup>th</sup> September at Haydon Wick – THE CLUB HONEY SHOW! Dust off your photographs, make cakes, fill jars with honey and enter something!

### **Apiary tasks**

I am feeding 8 colonies this week, not all mine. Every one of them is taking 2 litres of syrup every 24-48 hours. The more beekeepers I speak to the more apparent it is that colonies all over our area have not been able to amass sufficient stores to get them through the winter. Please feed them, starting now. Don't let the weather stop you putting feeders on, you can do this quickly and the bees won't be affected too much.

A phone call from Alan Holland at Twigs re. Bees in all three poly tunnels resulted in Mike Benson and I going to look. I tried smoke and jetting with water but the bees would not move. Mikes arrival from a similar situation elsewhere showed that they were not honey bees but a species of *Colletes* solitary bees, which for some strange reason were congregating en masse. We then went to a landscape gardening business near Lydiard, where a poly tunnel had thousands of these bees. Again we walked away not knowing what was happening!

Do any of you have any idea what is going on or experienced the same thing somewhere else.



We walked away scratching our heads

### **Training and Education**

If you are considering any form of training or further education to improve your beekeeping skills then please contact any committee member.

### **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)

### **Wiltshire Bee and Honey Show**

This is taking place on Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup> of October at the Corn Exchange in Devizes. This is the big one for beekeepers in Wiltshire and you can view the schedule on:

[www.wiltshirebeekeepers.org.uk](http://www.wiltshirebeekeepers.org.uk)

It is not too late to enter the various categories.

Not to be confused with our S&DBKA honey show on the 27<sup>th</sup> September at Haydon Wick

### **Honey Bee Times**

Is anybody interested in taking over the editor's role for this prestigious beekeeping publication? Please contact Mike Benson.

### **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, Blunsden Road, Swindon SN25 1JD. Start time 1930 hrs

27 <sup>th</sup> September	SDBKA Honey show
25 <sup>th</sup> October	SDBKA AGM and open forum
29 <sup>th</sup> November	DVD and open forum
11 <sup>th</sup> December	Skittles

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

This Newsletter is more than list of events and needs input from members so 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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