



April 2019 Newsletter

President: Bryan Hopper

Committee members 2019

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

Next Meeting:

Thursday the 25th April at Haydon Wick – Lynne Ingram who is the Asian hornet action coordinator for the BBKA will give a talk and presentation about her experiences with dealing with this new threat to bee keeping, Lynne went to the Channel Islands to help and learn how to develop strategies for dealing with Asian Hornets. This is a very interesting and informative talk and I strongly recommend everybody to try and attend.

Swarm collection

The swarm collectors list is now on our website, if you wish to be added or your names have been missed then please contact Kathy Hobson or Stephen Greenaway asap.

Apiary security

We have all heard about some unfortunate bee keepers having their apiaries stolen or vandalised. Like driving you never think an accident will happen to you.

My bee trailer was visited by mindless numbskulls who tipped one of the hive stacks over, threw full brood boxes outside onto the ground. They set light to the plastic bucket full of smoker fuel. The vinyl flooring was partially burnt and one of them must have had second thoughts because the burning bucket was then thrown outside. It took nearly a week of leaving everything open to remove the smell of burnt plastic. Thankfully the other colony wasn't touched and appears to be ok. I hope they got badly stung.

Are your apiaries safe?

Twigs Apiary

Following the first full inspection we can report that both colonies are doing well. Hopefully we will be able to split them this year (during the Starting Beekeeping course would be ideal).

Park Farm Apiary

The two club colonies at Park Farm are healthy and strong, queens laying well and expanding the brood. Unfortunately the colony we gave to Sheila failed. This was purchased from the same supplier as the club colonies but sometime later in the 2018 season. We had noticed that the queen was totally different to the queens in the club colonies, and looking back through records it appears that this queen did not lay any eggs at all. The nucleus supplied to us was just brood frames and a "queen" from somewhere else.

We have now made up a new nuc for Sheila comprised of two frames of brood and stores from the strongest of the club colonies plus bees of course. This should result in them raising a new queen.

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.

The Taster Days and Starting Beekeeping course dates are shown on the website.

Ross Gregory is prepared to run a Microscopy study group for those of you wanting to take the BBKA microscopy exam (you can of course like me just attend the study group). If you are interested please contact Ross directly (details in yearbook).

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

April	25th	Asian Hornet experiences in Jersey by Lynne Ingram (BBKA AH leader)
May	30th	DVD - A New Introduction to Beekeeping – part 2 (Mike Benson)
June	27th	tba
July	25th	Preparing for a honey show (Clive Harris and Mike Benson)
August	29 th	tba
September	26th	Club Honey Show
October	31st	Club AGM
November	28th	tba
December	12th	Skittles

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

TWIGS

28th April **Open day**

19th May Open day

23rd June Open day

21st July Open day

5th October Apple fayre

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

This Newsletter is more than a 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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