



## March 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	

### **Next Meeting:**

Thursday the 28th March at Haydon Wick – Richard Rickitt who for the past few years has been the editor of the Honey Bee times will talk and present his experiences of beekeeping titled “From Buckfast Abbey to Buckingham Palace” This I am looking forward to as Richard is a well-respected and knowledgeable beekeeper. I hope that as many members as possible will attend this evening.

**Please note that the door in the car park is the one to use for this meeting as we will not be able to go through the big room as the Haydon Wick Club’s AGM is being held in there.**

### **Wiltshire Honey Show 2019**

The planning committee will meet again in April. Is there anybody in the Swindon group who could spare the time and commit to helping? Currently Swindon is the only branch without presence.

### **Asian hornets**

I still have 5 Asian Hornet traps with sachets of lure to pass out and am looking for beekeepers with apiaries East of Swindon. Please let me know if you are willing to host one of these traps and are prepared to look at it regularly.

### **Swarm collection**

The swarm collectors list is now on our website and registered with the BBKA, if you wish to be added or your name added please contact Kathy Hobson or Stephen Greenaway asap.

### **Apiary tasks**

We are very close now to being able to open colonies up for full inspections. Food reserves may be low so be prepared to feed with small amounts of fondant or syrup so the workers can feed the increasing numbers of larva and draw wax. Anybody nervous about opening for the first time this year and would like another beekeeper with them don’t be afraid to ask.

## Twigs and Park Farm apiaries

Bees are flying from all four club colonies, Saturday inspections at Twigs should start soon and the Whatsapp group for Park Farm is up and running - if you wish to be included please let Andy Jones know asap. I hope to carry out the first inspection of the Park Farm colonies in the next few weeks and Whatsapp is the fastest way to tell you in time.

## 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.

The Basic course will start soon to ensure that at assessment time the colonies are in full strength showing all stages of development.

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

March	28th	Beekeeping from Buckfast to Buckingham Palace (Richard Rickitt)
April	25 <sup>th</sup>	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 <sup>th</sup>	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

28 <sup>th</sup> April	Open day
19 <sup>th</sup> May	Open day
23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Open day
21 <sup>st</sup> July	Open day
5 <sup>th</sup> 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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