



BEEKEEPERS

May 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

Best laid plans

Every year I wait desperately for swarm calls to make up for winter losses! This year I have or had 5 colonies surviving through the winter only to lose one when my bee trailer was vandalised. I then decided to split the remaining colonies and now have bees in all available boxes and nucs. I then bought two colonies housed in nationals and had to shook swarm them into Langstroth boxes (the last two kept aside for emergencies and swarm collection) only to find one colony was on the point of swarming! Now I have two more colonies in brood boxes and another two Nucs. If they all succeed and survive without reuniting I will be happy even if it means no honey. I now have no more boxes to keep bees in and have turned down swarm calls. The only good thing about doing splits is that you don't have to inspect the queen less halves every week.

Asian hornet presentation by Lynne Ingram

This was almost everything we need to know about these invading insects. Lynne Ingram's talk was very informative, educational and enjoyable.

Next Meeting: "A New introduction to Beekeeping" DVD part two presented by Mike Benson. I found the part one DVD a really useful refresher its amazing how you can forget and slip into bad practice after 8 years.

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.

Twigs Apiary

We held our first Taster Day of the year on 11th May. All the people who took part in the day really enjoyed it – especially handing the bees. Two of the attendees are booked in to the Starting Beekeeping Course together with two who took part in a Taster Day last year.. The two club hives were inspected and capped queen cells were found in both of them. A nuc was made up so now club has 3 colonies!!

Park Farm apiary

The two original colonies are now four having been split with the help of members. Hopefully two new queens will be raised and we can then move one or two colonies back to Twigs?

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.

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

May	30th	DVD - A New Introduction to Beekeeping – part 2 (Mike Benson)
June	27th	Open Forum
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

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

TWIGS

23 rd June	Open day (TWIGS)
21 st July	Open day (NGS)
5 th 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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