



July 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

July's Club meeting

This is a must if you are not sure about how to prepare your entries for Honey shows, Clive Harris and Mike Benson are experienced “Showers” and we can learn a lot from them and maybe even pip them at the post at this year's club show.

Open Days at Twigs

A big thank you to all SDBKA members who have volunteered their time at Twigs open days this year. For those of you who haven't been before, the club apiary is located on the Twigs site and is where we hold our taster days and starting beekeeping courses. When Twigs holds an open day, we open the apiary shed to visitors to let them look through the window to see the bees flying in and out of the hives, and we talk to them about bees and beekeeping.

It is also a chance for our volunteers to sell honey and hive products which is always popular with garden visitors, and this year a volunteer brought an observation hive which was much admired. I always enjoy the Twigs open days. The gardens are beautiful and on a lovely day it is hard to imagine anywhere more peaceful. The interest shown by garden visitors in our work never fails. It is also a wonderful opportunity to get to know other SDBKA members and to have a good chat about our bees. Thanks again to all volunteers this year for making the open days such a success.

Link to Twigs; <https://twigscommunitygardens.org.uk/gardens/>

Nicola Perrett

Bee keeping in July

Odd as it sounds we are approaching the end of the beekeeping season, colonies should be up to full strength and busy putting away stores for the end of the year. We are still getting swarm calls even though the bees should have given up any idea of swarming by now. Perhaps this is global warming upsetting everything we have come to assume about the bee keeping year.

When you inspect your colonies now is the time to compare them, any that look significantly smaller than others should be united to stronger colonies or if more than one unite them to make a bigger stronger colony. If you find anything you are not sure about “Don't Panic” and ask for help. Every month I will ask you to watch out for Asian Hornets at your apiaries, now is the time when hornet foragers will predate colonies of bees.

Next Meeting: Preparing entries and exhibits for a honey show, presented by Mike Benson and Clive Harris

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

The club colonies are well, packing honey away.

Park Farm apiary

The four club colonies survived the "June gap" although one was totally devoid of stores and looked weak, this was fed syrup.

Sheila Rummings's Nuc colony finally has a laying queen after last month's insertion of a frame of eggs and tiny larva from one of the club colonies.

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

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 and Open forum
November	28th	tba
December	12th	Skittles

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

TWIGS

21 st July	NGS Open day (1pm to 5pm)
5 th October	Apple Fayre

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

This Newsletter should be 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.

Ian Cowdy ian.cowdy@btinternet.com