



BEEKEEPERS

## June 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 - 27 June 2019**

An open forum – discuss anything related to bee keeping

### **Bee keeping in June**

The weather again has been all over the place, we had a very dry spring, now a summer of hot spells and heavy rain.. You should all have received an NBU email warning about starving colonies! This I now have direct experience of, having been called to find out why there were hundreds of dead bees outside two colonies. Looking at the frames revealed lots of bees bottom up in the cells and deceased. Not a trace of stores anywhere. Small dead adults, bald brood everywhere but still a queen. Fed with syrup and keeping fingers crossed. If you think your colonies are short on stores then feed them for a week or two a little at a time so the syrup is not stored as honey.

Carry out a mite count and respond as you think necessary.

While at your apiaries please stay longer than usual and watch the front entrances for hawking hornets specially the darker slightly smaller Asian hornet. If you do see one please contact me asap. The Asian workers are now hunting for protein so a bait trap using smelly fish or meat should attract them if present.

### **Swarm collection**

The swarm collectors list is now on our website. It is also on the BBKA map. If you wish to be added or your names have been missed then please contact Kathy Hobson or Stephen Greenaway asap.

### **Twigs Apiary**

As usual the colonies are packing honey away! This is one of the best sites I have experienced for forage, a huge range of flowering plants.

The Nuc resulting from a split colony has a laying queen.

### **Park Farm apiary**

After splitting both colonies to make increase, I can report that two new queens have started laying (both being found by new members attending the Park Farm apiary sessions) The colonies will be left at this site for another two months before deciding whether we move one or two to the main apiary at 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.

## 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

June	27th	Open forum
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

21 <sup>st</sup> July	Open day (NGS)
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.

Ian Cowdy [ian.cowdy@btinternet.com](mailto:ian.cowdy@btinternet.com)