



January 2020 Newsletter

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 30th January

Anne Rowberry is coming to talk to us about Spring management. A talk not to be missed!!!!

Membership

Those of you who have renewed your subscription should have received, in the last few weeks, a BBKA receipt etc. This was issued from the new BBKA database so please let Kathy know if this has not been received. Members who have not yet renewed should have received a reminder (again from the new BBKA database). If you do not wish to renew it would be appreciated if you could let Kathy know so the records can be updated.

The Apiary in January

This is the danger time for colonies to starve! There may be stores but isolation starvation is more common than total lack of food. Heft your hives, if you think they feel light put fondant over the crown board holes. Check mouse guard entrances for blockages (dead bees).

If you want to know whether the bees are alive then press your ear against the brood box and a sharp knuckle rap should elicit a roar of bees inside. If you do not hear anything then wait for a day when the temperature is 10 or above and very quickly look under the crown board. If all is well you will see the top of a cluster of live bees. Shut up straight away.

Asian hornet

Please keep looking for overwintered queens who may be out foraging on warmer days and or starting primary nests in outbuildings and sheltered places.

If your apiaries are near woods etc. look carefully in the bare tree canopies for last year's nests. Last year saw a number of sightings around Wiltshire so it is highly likely that they will encroach into our county this year.

Training

The club is running training courses again this year so if you want to or know someone who would like to attend the "Starting beekeeping", "Taster day" or study for the Basic qualification please contact Kathy Hobson asap.

Starting Beekeeping June 6th, 13th and 20th

Taster days May 23rd, July 18th and August 15th

Food preparation qualifications

Beekeepers who sell honey through third party outlets or craft fairs etc. may be approached by Food Hygiene inspectors and questioned how and where they process their honey. There exists a Level 2 basic hygiene certificate which can be obtained via Google and will satisfy food preparation requirements.

Twigs and Park Farm apiaries.

All colonies are still alive.

Bee Safaris

We would like to start these up again this year, would any of you be prepared to allow a group of beekeepers (maybe with the Seasonal inspector) to visit your apiary later in the year (summertime). The only requirement is for a number of vehicles to be parked safely somewhere.

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, Blunsden Road, Swindon SN25 1JD. Start time 1930 hrs

Jan 30th - Anne Rowberry, Spring management
Feb 27th - Open forum or Avril Earl (Seasonal Inspector)
Mar 26th - Swarm control
Apr 30th

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

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.

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