



BEEKEEPERS

March 2020 Newsletter

Committee members 2020

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| 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 |

The corona virus (Covid19)

Whatever your thoughts and feelings are on this matter it is affecting us all now.

The committee has taken the decision to cancel all club meetings for the immediate future. All forthcoming training and teaching events have been put on hold

Ron Hoskins

By now most of you will have heard that Ron's Stanton Park apiary was badly damaged by mindless vandals and he has lost some colonies as well as thousands of pounds of equipment including a shed and greenhouse. There is a crowd funding appeal to try and help Ron replace the physical stuff but he cannot replace his precious self-cleaning bee colonies. Please give or offer any support you feel able to Ron.

A timely reminder again that nobodies' apiaries are safe.

The Apiary in March

I hope that like mine your colonies are now on the increase; please continue to check they have enough stores to sustain them until spring proper. Many of you keep bees in out apiaries and suffer like me with inaccessible approaches because of the saturated ground. The bees I keep in the bee trailer remain dry and are way ahead of colonies in hives standing in the open. If this weather becomes the norm should we not all be thinking seriously about bee keeping in some form of raised shelter – how about an old garden shed or caravan?

Are trips to out apiaries essential? From our perspective YES and the fact that many out apiaries are in isolated sites means the risk to us and other people is extremely low. So I for one will continue to visit the bees.

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.

Training

Starting Beekeeping

June 6 13 20 Postponed

Taster days

May 9 and 23 Postponed

July 18

August 15

Club apiaries.

Three colonies still active at Park Farm.

The trees at Twigs have been shaved back closer to the boundary so the Twigs apiary is much more open and amenable to keeping bees (No more Pigeon poo!!!)

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

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| Mar 26 th | CANCELLED |
| Apr 30 th | Swarm control CANCELLED |
| May 28 th | Open forum and Club Archive CANCELLED (unless restrictions lifted) |
| June 25 th | Geraldine Lenert – Hive Products |
| July 30 th | |
| Aug 27 th | |
| Sep 24 th | Honey Show |
| Oct 29 th | AGM |
| Nov 26 th | |
| Dec 10 | Skittles evening. |

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

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

Twigs Open days

April 26th Twigs **CANCELLED**

May 17th NGS

June 14th Twigs

July 19th NGS

Oct 3rd Apple Fair.

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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