



BEEKEEPERS

September 2020 Newsletter

### **Committee members 2020**

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

### **THANKS TO IAN RE NEWSLETTER ETC**

Ian Cowdy has decided to take a back seat in the Club and concentrate on his own bees. He will still look after the Club's bees at Park Farm. A big **THANK YOU** Ian for all your hard work for the Club over the last few years.

### **APIARY NOTES**

Hopefully you have finished feeding. If colonies are still taking syrup, unless the weather is exceptionally warm it's probably better to switch to fondant as bees don't have to evaporate the water off. It's well worth hefting hives now, any that feel light may need some extra attention and fondant over the winter.

If you've got any small colonies it may be worth moving them to a poly nuc as the smaller hive will be easier to keep warm and give them fondant later in the month (they'll have fewer frames of food to see them through winter). Take out the queen excluders from all colonies. Don't forget to strap hives down if they're in exposed places.

Keep monitoring for Asian hornets right through October. Check for hawking in front of active hives and/or around ivy if it's being worked by bees.

**Tim Bullock**

### **AGM 29.9.20**

Please make sure you reply to the email by 8.10.20. **IT IS IMPORTANT!!!** Thank you to everyone who has already replied.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

It's that time of year again. I attach the renewal form – please make sure you return it to Kathy Hobson even if you pay online so the membership records can be kept up to date with the Club and the BBKA.

### **EMAIL FROM A LONG-STANDING MEMBER**

*I am writing to let you know that we will be moving to Devon, hopefully by the end of the year.*

*I just want to thank all at the Swindon and District Beekeepers for help and advice over the years that I have belonged. I have not contributed much to your Club but I really appreciate the time and effort put in to the meetings. I have not been a regular attendee but have always learned from those with much more experience. I am sure that, a bit like farming, however old we are, there is always more to learn and experience.*

*I am going to take my bees with me, and will find fellow beekeepers in the village. I hope that your Club continues to thrive. Special thanks to Ross Gregory who started me off, even though I did not understand most of what he told me to begin with!!, and to Mike Benson, who is very encouraging and kind.*

**Marilyn Sweet**

**The Blackthorn Centre Blackthorn Beef and Lamb**

## **CLUB APIARIES**

### **PARK FARM**

Of the five colonies two have now been moved back to Twigs. One more will follow before the end of October. The two colonies that will be left at Park Farm will be managed as breeder colonies next year so we can always have replacements for Twigs. In fact, one of these two appears to have laying queens above and below the excluder so without planning we are making increase in colony numbers.

Sadly, Sheila's colony became queen less when it was too late to find a replacement without buying in a new queen from somewhere. As we all should be avoiding buying in queens unless they are locally bred it means the supply of suitable queens will become problematic so we have to start raising our own by any method you feel comfortable with.

The easiest way (I think) is to split strong colonies early in the spring.

### **TWIGS**

We had a queen less colony at TWIGS and member Anna-Marie Dutton kindly offered to donate a queen. Kathy and Anna-Marie met at TWIGS today only to find brood, larvae and eggs on several frames!!!! The queen had to go back home as she was surplus to requirements.

### **Future Meetings**

Haydon Wick Club is still only open to members so our meetings will remain on hold for now.

**Please send Kathy anything odd or unusual (or just anything!!!) to add to the newsletter all contributions gratefully received**