



## NEWSLETTER – May 2022

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2021/2023

<b>Tim Bullock</b>	- Chairman
<b>Stephen Greenaway</b>	- Vice Chairman, Spray and Swarm Liaison.
<b>Clive Harris</b>	- Treasurer
<b>Kathy Hobson</b>	- Secretary, Membership Secretary
<b>Justin Downes</b>	- Newsletter Editor
<b>Nicola Perrett</b>	
<b>Mike Benson</b>	
<b>Mick Carter</b>	
<b>Juliette Cavilla</b>	

**Website Manager** - Christopher Wilkinson

### APIARY NOTES - Tim Bullock

Keep checking that there are enough stores in colonies to keep them going as we may find that we have a 'June gap' any time soon. This is the period between early spring nectar (from trees, osr etc) and all the main summer flowers. Colonies can run out of food especially if supers have been removed for extraction. If you do need to feed then go for the little and often method as we don't want them drawing syrup down into the brood box or supers, feeding now is for consumption.

The oilseed rape has now finished flowering so if you have colonies close by now is the time to clear supers and extract the honey if you haven't done it yet as it will granulate quickly. Better that this happens in a honey bucket rather than in capped supers.

Swarming is still likely to happen during June so stick to a maximum of 7 days between inspections. It may be worth doing an artificial swarm on strong colonies even if they aren't showing signs of swarming – at least we're in control and you get the benefit of another colony!!

Don't forget that water demands will be high, less of an issue if the weather is showery (or wet), but as natural water sources dry up (I'm assuming that June will be drier than May here!!) make sure that there are water sources for colonies – I've had a large plant saucer with a sponge in full of water close to the outside tap available - it also gets used by the local hedgehogs as a bonus!

### SDBKA APIARY AT TWIGS

A lot of work to tidy up the apiary has recently been carried out with various members lending a hand. A special mention must go to Clive Harris who has clearly given up a lot of his own time painting the areas which were long overdue some attention. On behalf of the club, I wish to extend our thanks to Clive for his commitment.

## **Club Meetings**

### **Avril Earl – Seasonal Bee Inspector**

Avril attended the club meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> April and covered a few topics which proved both enjoyable and informative. A big thanks goes to Avril for taking time to give us the input and to those club members who attended.

## **Future Meetings**

**Swarm Control** -26.5.22

**Skittles Evening** – 30.6.22 (TBC)

**Honey Extraction Demonstration** – Park Farm 28.7.22

**Beekeeping Safari** – August – TBC For this to be organised we need an idea of numbers of those who are interested and likely to attend. If you are interested, then please let Kathy know.

Meetings are held on the last Thursday of each month in the Skittle Alley at the Haydon Wick Club, Blunsdon Road, Swindon SN25 1JD, start time 7.30pm. Please come along, all are welcome.

## **TWIGS**

**Open Days** - There are a number open days coming up, these are:

**NGS Open Day Sunday** - 22nd May 12pm-4pm

**Summer Open Day Sunday** - 19th June 11am-4pm

**NGS Open Day Sunday** - 17th July 12pm-4pm

It would be greatly appreciated if some members could come along and assist, even just for a short while to speak to members of the public about beekeeping and show them our bees through the shed window. If you have honey to sell, then you are welcome to bring it along – lots of visitors like to buy honey who I'm sure will enjoy the fruits of your labour!!

## **TRAINING COURSES - 2022**

The dates for the courses are:

• **Taster Days** - 11.6.22, 9.7.22 and 6.8.22.

• **Starting Beekeeping** 28.5.22 and 4.6.22. Is there anybody that can help with the bee handing session from 12pm on 4.6.22 for a couple of hours – if you can please let Kathy Hobson know asap. Many thanks to Ian Cowdy, Andy Jones and Clive Harris for running this course.

## **New Beekeepers**

Back in February I mentioned the formation of a new beekeepers 'first year peer group' group' where participants can share experiences, ideas, equipment and learn along with each other. This has started with a few members involved and is proving beneficial. The group is still and will remain open for others to join - even if they don't have bees but wish to learn. Please get in touch with me by the email address shown below if you would like to get involved.

[Justin.downes@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Justin.downes@yahoo.co.uk)

## **TV Show**

For those who may be interested there is TV show titled 'Bee Czar' currently being shown on the 'Discovery' channel on Sundays at 8pm. It follows the exploits of an American commercial beekeeper/swarm collector. He is quite a character with some interesting ways. Its not a bad watch for a Sunday evening.

## **NEWSLETTER ARTICLES**

If you feel you would like share anything of note or which may be of benefit to other members, then please let me know.

Justin