



NEWSLETTER – May 2023

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2022/2023

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

Website Manager -Christopher Wilkinson

APIARY NOTES - Tim Bullock

May has been an interesting month to say the least, wet and cool for the first 10 days then drying and warming up since then (at the time of writing), so who knows if we'll have a June gap this year or not. Personally, I think there won't be – things have been later than 'usual' but things are catching up now.... Keep checking that there are enough stores in colonies to keep them going. 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 should now finish 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.

I'm sure that swarming is going to be an issue right through June this year, 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, not much of an issue at the moment but as natural water sources dry up make sure that there are water sources for colonies – I have 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!)

Asian Hornet

On Thursday 13th April the National Bee Unit received a credible Asian hornet sighting from Folkestone, Kent. The following week the National Bee Unit received a credible Asian hornet sighting with a photo taken on the deck of a ferry from Poole, Dorset to Cherbourg on 10th April 2023. Since then, further credible descriptive sightings have been forwarded without photos.

We ask beekeepers and the public to remain vigilant and monitor for Asian hornet across the south of England. Please report suspected sightings using the 'Asian hornet Watch' app for iPhone

Bee Keeping History

Did you know?

1538 – The Spanish imported the first colony of honeybees to South America.

1730 - Colonisers in America set up over 170,000 beehives, challenging the price of hogs and sheep.

1779 - The Continental Congress in the United States adopted the image of a beehive as the logo for its currency.

1851 - L.L. Langstroth, the father of American beekeeping, modifies Dzierzon's design to create a completely movable frame.

1890 - William Broughton Carr, an English beekeeper, invents the WBC beehive, a double-walled hive with a pitched roof. It contains wooden boxes to hold the frames of brood and honey.

TWIGS

Thanks to Nicola, Kathy, Andy, Andrew, Kevin, Tim, Shirley and Penny for their hard work at the Club's Apiary last Saturday. Special thanks to Andy for taking nearly 100 frames home to make up!!!!

The garden at TWIGS is open from **12pm until 4pm this Sunday 21st May**. It would be great if any of you could come along and help talking to the visitors about bees and beekeeping whilst they look out of the shed window at the hives. If you can help for only an hour that will be appreciated. You are welcome to bring your honey to sell. Please contact nicola.perrett@btinternet.com if you can help

SDBKA Website

The club website has had a refresh. We would like to include more members' photographs so if you have any interesting or unusual photographs you will be willing to share and have placed on the website, please get in touch. Any images should be your own and royalty free.

Club Meetings

Up and coming meetings:

25th May 23 – Open Forum

29th June 23 – TBC

27th July 23 – Open Forum and Park Farm

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.

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. Please remember that this is your newsletter and your voice to share news with other members.

Justin

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