



NEWSLETTER – July 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

The heatwave of June is now well and truly gone but may return again.... Although showery weather does bring in moisture, but it quickly evaporates or is absorbed into the ground. Like us bees need water to survive, have colonies got a local plentiful source of water close by? A plant pot saucer filled with water and pebbles, sponge, twigs etc is well worth having if there's no river/stream/water trough etc nearby. The local bird, hedgehog and other wildlife will likely thank you for it too!!

Now we're well into July, hopefully, the swarming season has finished (although it could still happen), and colonies are at their peak numbers so they can bring in as much nectar as possible before they start getting ready for winter (sorry for mentioning winter but now is the time to start thinking about it!).

When inspecting now it's worth checking varroa numbers. If they are easily found, or numbers on varroa boards are high, it's worth doing a treatment before winter to reduce the load. But remember that not all treatments can be used when there are supers on the colony. In the past I have found that treating with MAQS strips (other treatments are widely available) after I've taken the last of honey off has worked well and doesn't stop queens laying for long (if at all) which is one of the main concerns.

Asian hornet- as we come into August hornets are likely to be in large secondary nests. An Asian hornet was spotted (by 3 people) earlier this year at Brinkworth. There are traps out, no further hornets have been caught to date, but there may well be others in the area. Now, until the autumn, is when you may find hawking workers in front of your hives – this is the problem period for honeybee colonies as Asian hornet workers can decimate a honeybee colony. Please put out wasp traps baited with smelly protein bait consisting of anchovies, sardines or other stinky high protein substance. The current guidance is that we all spend at least an hour each day observing the entrances to see if Asian hornets are around. I doubt any of us have that luxury especially if you have two or more apiaries, but regularly spending a bit of time watching what's happening at the entrance to hives is no bad thing anyway! 10 minutes is better than nothing and if nothing else you'll see how active your colonies are and just what they're bringing in at the moment.

Bee Keeping Equipment for sale

Mark Rees has many items which are up for sale. Kathy recently sent out an email in respect of this. Attached is a list. For further details please contact direct Mark direct on ijmarkrees@btinternet.com
Please note that any agreement to buy or sell equipment sits between the buyer and vendor and the SDBKA does not act for either party in this matter.



Bee Keeping
Equipment For Sale.doc

Club Meetings

Up and coming meetings:

27th July 23 - Open Forum at Park Farm (SN5 3NY)

31st August 23 - Varroa and the Asian Hornet

28th September - Honey show

Club Meetings are held on the last Thursday of each month (no meeting December and January) in the Skittle Alley at the Haydon Wick Club, Blunsdon Road, Swindon SN25 1JD, start time 7.30pm. Please come along, all are welcome.

Date to note

Saturday 7th October 2023 Wiltshire Bee and Honey Show - The Corn Exchange, Devizes, SN10 1HS

Thursday 26th to Saturday 28th October - National Honey Show at Sandown Racecourse, Surrey.

TWIGS APIARY

The Club has 2 healthy colonies so hopefully we will have some honey to sell at the TWIGS Open Days. As with Park Farm any new/potential beekeeper wanting to get more handling experience is very welcome. Contact Kathy Hobson.

Members helping at the 4 TWIGS Open Days so far this year have had good honey sales and several visitors signed up for Taster Days. It is amazing how interested people are in Honey Bees and Beekeeping and all members who come and help enjoy sharing their knowledge. Why not come along to one next year?

We held another successful Taster Day yesterday but sadly due to the rain the handling section had to be cancelled. We have arranged for everyone to go to Park Farm next Saturday.

PARK FARM APIARY

There are 2 hives running with 2 supers on top one of each ready for extraction. One of the hives is expanding rapidly after feeding. There is one nuc which had a queen and eggs last week but this week no sign of her and an emergency queen cell was present. There is a very bad wasp problem, so all hive entrances have been reduced to help the bees repel the invaders.

Mick would like to thank all those that have come and helped recently, they have seen quite a difference in each hive making it a good experience.

Should any new members with or without their own bees wish to come and help/learn then please contact Mick Carter by email on michael_carter32@yahoo.co.uk.

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

justin.downes@yahoo.co.uk

