



NEWSLETTER – September 2023

STEERING GROUP 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

Hopefully you have finished feeding, but if colonies are still taking syrup keep feeding it. If the weather turns colder then 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).

Personally, I take out the queen excluders from all my colonies. If you do the same, then give them a through clean and scorch before storing (or put them under the lid of the hive they came from).

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.

Club Meetings

28th September – SDBKA Honey show -The club held an informal honey show last year and we will be repeating it this year. The categories & schedule are detailed in the link below. We hope members give it a go.



SCHEDULE 2023.pdf



HONEY CAKE
2023.pdf

Our next meeting is the AGM (26.11.23). The Agenda etc will be sent out in the next few weeks. This year this will be followed by an "auction" of the Club's surplus equipment and books. If time we hope to play a few games of skittles and of course "killer" where you will have a chance to win the coveted trophy!!!!!!

Club 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 APIARY

Nothing really to report except that the two colonies are still active. If you aren't attending the WBKA Show why not come to TWIGS Apple Day 11am – 4pm 7.10.23.

PARK FARM APIARY

Having merged a nuc which was queen less with a full-size hive at park Farm all was running well. This hive then had its super removed and as well as the extra brood box. This meant it was extremely busy, but stores were light. Feeding had commenced with sugar syrup at a ratio of 2:1. being used.

Unfortunately, during the night of Sunday 17th September, a storm swept across Swindon and caused the stream which runs adjacent to the apiary to flash flood. This caused the new storage box which even though it was full of supers and brood boxes to float into this hive and knock it from its stand.

On arrival at the apiary at 9am the water was still flowing in the apiary, but the hive was lying on its side. Most of the bees were still with the hive but very wet. It was placed back on its stand and the bees were cleaning and drying themselves and it was checked that it was full of capped stores from feeding which we hope they can still use. This will be checked again next week to see how it has progressed.



DATES TO NOTE

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

This is a fantastic day out for people thinking about taking up beekeeping, as well as old hands who want to learn a whole lot more. It also incorporates the County Honey Show. Please see the link below which details what activities are scheduled.

[Wiltshire Beekeepers Association Wiltshire Bee & Honey Day 2023 - Wiltshire Beekeepers Association](#)

National Show

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

Site link:

[National Honey Show](#)

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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