



NEWSLETTER – January 2024

STEERING GROUP MEMBERS 2023/2024

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	
Mick Carter	

Website Manager -Christopher Wilkinson

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR MEMBERS



APIARY NOTES - Tim Bullock

February and March are the mostly likely times that colonies could run out of food. If in any doubt feed them (fondant not syrup). As we start to get some warmer spells and the days are lengthening workers will start getting brood cells ready for the queen to lay in if she hasn't already started. This requires more energy and when she does start laying the brood temperature will rise needing even more energy so stores will be used up at a faster rate than the last couple of months. Don't forget that colonies will need water to dilute stores and/or to make set ivy honey usable. With night-time temperatures below freezing bees are likely to struggle to find water that's usable. On sunny days it's worth checking they have water to access close by if they need it.

As a general rule, a colony will use about 1 kg stores in Jan, 2 kg in Feb and 4 kg in March. Therefore, feeding and checking the amount of food a colony has got is really important.

If you want to check if you have brood, then put the mite board in for a few days and see what colour the capping are. The more 'biscuit' coloured capping's are from emerging brood. Honey/stores capping's are whiter/light beige. If you see bees bringing in pollen, then that's a good sign of brood needing feeding.

Make sure entrances are clear of dead bees so that the flyers can get out. It's also worth cutting back dead vegetation that's close to the hive to give a clear flight path in and out.

If any hives need moving this is about the latest that the 3 feet or three miles rule apply. It's unlikely that bees would return to the old site if only moved a short distance.

If in any doubt feed your colonies.

The season is getting closer now, have you got enough equipment and is it all ready? If supers, extra brood boxes and frames are still flat packed, they're not going to be much use when the rush starts!!!

SDBKA Apiaries

Park Farm

Mick Carter recently checked our Park Farm apiary, and it is with regret we must inform you we have lost both the hive and Nuc at the site. These will be replaced with Nucs in the spring.

TWIGS

Two colonies have survived the winter and appear to be doing well

JANUARY SALES

Need to stock up for the season? Here are some links which will take you direct to the sites where the sales are still on.

[Beekeeping Supplies UK Poly Hives Nucs Beehive Frames and Bee Suits](#)

[Beekeeping Equipment | EH Thorne \(Beehives\) Ltd](#)

[Beekeeping Supplies \(paynesbeefarm.co.uk\)](#)

Forthcoming National Events

The Bee keeping Show – Saturday 24th February 2024 – at The Telford International Centre

Site link

[The Beekeeping Show](#)

The BBKA Spring Convention – 12th-14th April 2024 – at The Harper Adams University, Shropshire

Site link:

[Spring Convention | British Beekeepers Association \(bbka.org.uk\)](#)

Club Meetings

The next club meeting is on Feb 29th 2024 - SPRING "JOBS", ASIAN HORNET- TRAPS.....

Meetings are held in the Skittle Alley at the Haydon Wick Club, Blunsdon Road, Swindon SN25 1JD, **at the new start time of 7.00pm**. 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.

Justin

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