



NEWSLETTER – July 2024

STEERING GROUP MEMBERS 2023/2024

Tim Bullock	- Chair
Stephen Greenaway	- Vice chair, Spray and Swarm Liaison.
Clive Harris	- Treasurer
Kathy Hobson	- Secretary, Membership Secretary
Justin Downes	- Newsletter Editor
Nicola Perrett	- TWIGS Open Day Co-Ordinator
Mick Carter	- AHAT Leader
Website Manager	-Christopher Wilkinson

APIARY NOTES - Tim Bullock

July has been wet and dull with periods of warm sunny weather mixed in so there has been water around for most of the month. 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!!

As we come into August, 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. 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. It's now time to get the Asian hornet traps back out (assuming you took them in after the spring catch), but if you're using the Gard Apis traps this time, they will want the orange caps on the funnels so they can catch the workers. 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....

SDBKA Apiary – Park Farm

The apiary at Park Farm is running well. One hive has a nearly full super and another super is being extracted from the second hive. A split was also made from this second hive with a newly purchased queen was added. The weather is certainly helping the nectar flow.

SDBKA Apiary – TWIGS

2 colonies and a nuc doing well with honey ready to extract.

Thank you to Mary Nettleton and Nicola Perrett for their help with the Taster Day.

TWIGS Open Days

8.9.24	Rainbow Fate	2pm – 5pm
5.10.24	Apple Fayre	11am – 4pm
7.12.24	Twinkly TWIGS	4.30pm – 7.30pm

Club Meetings

The next club meeting is on 25th July at Park Farm, Hook Street, Lydiard Tregoze, SN5 3NY

Please note that the lower end of Hook St will be closed for repairs on Thursday 25th & Fri 26th but should be re-opened by 5pm.

29.8.24	Autumn “Jobs”
26.9.24	Honey Show

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 7pm. Please come along, all are welcome.

Bristol Bee & Pollination Festival 2024

We have received an invitation from Bristol Beekeepers for our members to participate in above event. It will be held on 24th & 25th August at the Bristol University Botanic Garden, in Stoke Park Rd, Stoke Bishop. There will be several activities taking place over the two days, please see the document below which gives further information on what’s happening and how to get involved.



Bristol Bee &
Pollination festival Det

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.

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