



## **NEWSLETTER – September 2024**

### **STEERING GROUP MEMBERS 2023/2024**

<b>Tim Bullock</b>	- Chairman
<b>Stephen Greenaway</b>	- Vice Chairman, Spray and Swarm Liaison.
<b>Clive Harris</b>	- Treasurer
<b>Kathy Hobson</b>	- Secretary, Membership Secretary
<b>Justin Downes</b>	- Newsletter Editor
<b>Nicola Perrett</b>	- TWIGS Open Days co-ordinator
<b>Mick Carter</b>	-AHAT Leader
<b>Website Manager</b>	-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 thorough 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.

### **SDBKA Apiary – Park Farm**

Another super was extracted at the end of last month. Marcel and Fi Marsh along with some others helped Mick with the extraction so thanks to all for the assistance. Both full size hives have now had a super with honey placed under the brood box for the winter. The Nuc has stores and lots of brood ready for the winter.

### **SDBKA Apiary – TWIGS**

We have 3 colonies all doing very well. A bumper honey crop this year!! Thanks to Pat and Colin Gordon and Matt O'Dell for helping with the extraction.

### **TWIGS Apple Day**

This takes place on 5<sup>th</sup> October. If you can help for even an hour or so that will be great. Members helping are welcome to bring honey to sell. An email will be sent out asking for volunteers as usual.

### **Asian Hornet News**

On the 19th of September, a yellow leg Asian Hornet was confirmed found in Southampton. It is believed it had a ride on a boat into the port. Hopefully, it will only be the one incursion, but everyone needs to remain vigilant.

### **SDBKA AGM**

This is taking place on Thursday 31st October 2024 at Haydon Wick Club 7.00pm

We are looking members to join the Steering Group. We meet 4 times a year for a couple of hours to discuss the running of the Club. Please let Kathy know if you can help the Club by Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Club Meetings**

**26.9.24** Honey Show. You should have received an email with the details. It would be great if lots of you can enter.

**31.10.24** AGM followed by our Annual Skittles

**28.11.24** Stanton Beekeepers – Ron Hoskins Legacy

### **No meetings December and January**

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.

### **WBKA – Honey Day**

Members are invited to attend the WBKA which takes place on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

The details for this have been sent out in a previous email.

### **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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