

Blandford and Sturminster Beekeepers' Association

February 2019 Newsletter



Figure 1 Bee Farmer's hives

This is quite a short newsletter: 2 talks, Asian Hornet link, swarm collection and swarm list and. feeding bees

Margaret Ginman who is the General Secretary of the Bee Farmers Association is coming to talk about commercial beekeeping on Tuesday 12th February in the SCC at 7.30pm. The bee farmers are as worried about Asian Hornets as we are because their livelihoods are at risk. I am sure she will have something to say about what they are doing about it.

Margaret Murdin is coming to talk to the Dorset BKA before the AGM at Sunninghill Community Hall in Dorchester at 2.00pm on Sunday 10th March. She will be talking about the Queen. Margaret is the President of the BBKA so if you have questions about the BBKA this is an opportunity to ask them. She is our link Trustee with the BBKA.

Our Asian Hornet link. Kerry Redman is our Asian Hornet link person. If you find one in your trap take a photograph of it and send it to her. She has been on a training course with Mark White and should be able to identify Asian Hornets. If you want to ask someone what to do about finding one she is the person to contact. If one is found she will notify everyone about where it was found and when. Kerry's phone number is 07989 871790 and her email address is kerryredman@icloud.com.

Swarms I know it is early to think about swarms. There are two aspects to them.

1) Would you like to be a swarm collector? This does not mean that you want to keep all the swarms you collect but it means that if there is a swarm in your area then a member of the public might phone you and ask you to come and collect it. You are not obliged to collect every swarm. Before you rush off with your box or skep you need to find out where the swarm is and whether they are honeybees not bumble bees. If you want to be a collector I need to know your telephone number and post code to pass on to the BBKA as well as to direct anyone who phones me to the right person.

2) Do you want a swarm? If I or anyone else collects a swarm do you want it? I keep a list of people who want swarms so that if and when one comes along I can direct it to you. Swarms tend to come along at the end of April and during May. You need to be ready for one if you ask for one; that means you must have a brood box ready full of frames to receive it.

Feeding bees After the cold weather your bees may be short of stores; use fondant or candipollen while the weather is still below 10C. If you feed them during February they should be ready for the rape in March and April. Do not open them while the cold weather is here.

Lesley Gasson