

Blandford and Sturminster Beekeepers' Association

April 2019 Newsletter



Beekeepers walking back from the apiary on the Introduction Day

This is a very full newsletter. so will run over more than one page.

The Introduction Day was a happy and successful day. About 35 visitors attended and with all the members who came to help there were about 65 of us in the Shillingstone Church Centre. Chris Harwood took lots of pictures which he will put on the web site but I have 4 of them at the end of the letter to show you. There were 6 groups of people to visit the apiary and you can see one. The first session for the new beekeepers course starts on Saturday 13th April at 2.00pm and runs until August. We do not have any apiary visits until May but members are welcome to come and join us in the apiary or the SCC any Saturday in the meanwhile to discuss any problems they may have with their bees.

Swarms and Swarm Collecting. The BBKA has a new computing and email system and the list of collectors has been dropped so I have to send in a new list. The list largely runs on Post code and Telephone numbers so if you were on the old list and would like to carry on as a swarm collector please let me know with your post code and telephone number and any particular need/ speciality you have. If you are on the list or would like to join it you need to make sure before you go and collect a swarm that the swarm is a swarm of honeybees, it is accessible and the caller is there to show you where it is.

Asian Hornets You have heard a lot about Asian hornets. Please put out your traps and inspect them daily. Terry found over thirty queen wasps in his traps and I found about 15 so there are not only Asian Hornet about but the local wasp population is waiting to expand. Kerry Redman is our local link for Asian Hornets alarm or to identify one; her telephone number is 07989 871790.

BSBKA Website Chris Harwood is our web master. He is very interested in making our web site useful and informative. Here is an item he sent me to put in the newsletter

We are starting an advice page on the website which will be available to both members and non-members. This will contain FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions), links to instructional videos, a "Jobs for this Month" section and an email request for further help. For members it will give support and guidance for intermediate to more advanced

topics. For non-members it will give a point of contact that will result in help for bees whose beekeepers need assistance in a range of areas, some very basic. Obviously the hope is that once the contact is appreciated the beekeepers concerned will consider becoming members. The BKAs are the centres of expertise in the country and by offering beekeepers help we help bees and encourage beekeepers to join associations.

Help will vary from straightforward tasks such as visiting someone who has inherited a hive mid season and who hasn't got a clue what to do, to reminding someone of the timing of opening the lower and upper Snelgrove doors. If you feel motivated to help, please email Chris Harwood at chrisandsue61@hotmail.com, giving your post code and saying how long you have kept bees.

Somerset Beekeepers are hosting a special lecture on EFB by Graham Royle in Somerton. Below are the details of the lecture

24 April 2019 at Edgar Hall, 8 Cary Court, Somerton Business Park, TA11 6SB 7pm for 7.30pm start

Graham Royle will be speaking on the subject of

Disease Recognition and his experience of dealing with EFB

There is no charge for this lecture which should be of considerable interest to all beekeepers so do please come along.

Graham Royle is a celebrated national speaker from Cheshire and is very involved with the education of beekeepers at all levels. He has been keeping bees for over 25 years and holds both the BBKA Master Beekeeper qualification and the National Diploma in Beekeeping.

Graham was awarded the Wax Chandlers prize by the Worshipful Company of Wax Chandlers for achieving outstanding results in the BBKA examinations.

He is also a Seasonal Bee Inspector for Cheshire and Chairman of Cheshire Beekeepers and is the author of *Apis Through the Looking Glass*

Items for sale There are a number of people giving up beekeeping and have items for sale. Caroline Rhodes has the following for sale

White WBC Hive For Sale

Base with OMF, 4 lifts, felt covered roof.

2 x Comm Brood Boxes with frames/spacers

1 x Comm Queen Excluder

2 x Comm Crown Boards

1 x WBC Brood Box and frames/spacers

1 x WBC Crown Board

1 x WBC Super with 4 frames

1 x Comm eke

1 x Comm Ashforth Feeder

Bee brush, Porter Escapes & Spacers

£150.

Contact : k.crhodes@outlook.com or tel. 01747-812002

Liz and Alan Baylis whom some of you will remember have decided to give up beekeeping after over 40 years. Liz was very good at making wax flowers and they both ran the honey show at the Shaftesbury and Gillingham Show for many years. Liz will be making up a list of items for sale including two hives of bees if you are interested in asking them for any of their equipment their telephone number is 01747 840681 and email address is alanblizb@btinternet.com

Finally here are some pictures from the Introduction to Beekeeping Day



