

1923 - 2020



Medway
Beekeepers
Association

Medway Beekeepers Association

Celebrating over 95 years of support for beekeeping
and beekeepers in and around the Medway Towns



Newsletter June 2020

This has been a particularly difficult year so far for us all. This newsletter is rather short this month and somewhat repetitive due to the number of cancelled events. Swarming has seemed particularly frequent this year as the very dry weather continues. If you are struggling to tend to your bees for any reason, please do get in touch and we will try to help in any way possible.

Updates on Covid-19 situation:

Latest News:

26th September 2020 The Ploughing Match, Ringshill Farm, Wouldham ME1 3TP

This event has now been cancelled.

Bee Chat is cancelled until further notice.

The City Way Apiary Site is closed to all visitors until further notice. However, the bees are being checked and managed by the Apiary Team on a weekly basis.

The Swarm phone has been suspended for the foreseeable future. Swarm management is being achieved through the BBKA Swarm List. **If you would like to receive a swarm see below.**

June's Events and Meetings:

All events are cancelled. Please visit the websites for further updates.



Swarm Phone 2020: Due to Government restrictions surrounding Covid-19, this service has been suspended for the foreseeable future.

However, if any fully registered member wishes to be placed on the BBKA Swarm List, please contact John Hendrie who will add you to this service. Email: bibba26@talktalk.net

Similarly, if you would like to receive a swarm then:

Please phone John Chapman on: 07399823948.



The Coronavirus (COVID-19) - An update from Margaret Wilson

To view Margaret's latest Positive Thinking Circular: [Click here](#)

NBU INSPECTIONS 2020 – MBKA For the first part of this season 2020

If members have any concerns or issues and want advice – **Please call or email area SBI Julie Parker.**

She will discuss, assess and triage your concerns and organise a visit to your apiary by an available inspector if required - photos of any problems are useful.

This will help the area NBU team utilise their current resources. The NBU is grateful to MBKA for its help at this time.

NBU Contact Details:

SBI: Julie Parker 07769933191 julie.parker@apha.gov.uk

RBI: Kay Wreford 07775119483 kay.wreford@apha.gov.uk



Please continue to inspect your bees regularly – need help then please let us know.

At this very difficult time it is vital that we all continue to inspect our bees on a weekly basis. However, if you are struggling to inspect your bees due to ill health or physical problems, please let us know and we may be able to offer help from a close neighbour beekeeper.

Also, if you know of a member who is struggling let us know or offer them some help.

The overriding caveat to this is, however, that we must maintain social distancing and biosecurity within our apiaries.

If you need help please contact John Chapman or Paul Lawrence see contact details at the end of this newsletter.

Reading Around:



A monthly glance at a topic or two in the media with Archie McLellan.

This month: Exaggeration in beekeeping? Not at all, just creating a lively picture. This month we hear about Dave Goulson's fascinating stories about the Death-Watch beetle; François Huber's revolutionary discoveries about honey bee lives and biology without the aid of eyesight; and the two great beginner's columnists, Clare Densley and Megan Milbrath.

To view this month's edition please: [Click here](#)



Members Gallery:

In these difficult times why not share a little light relief?

If you have anything, a video, photograph or story that is interesting or amusing just let me know and I will post it!

This post is from Archie McLellan:

A swarm walking into a hive: [Click here](#) Oh, that it was always so easy!

This post is from Jen Ferry:

A queen cell on a super frame: [Click here](#)

Also:

BBKA have put up links to some spring convention lectures that have been cancelled. You can view a few here: <https://www.bbka.org.uk/spring-convention-videos>

Enjoy!

Asian Hornet Update:



COVID-19 or not, the Asian hornet threat is not going away so understanding the biology and nesting habits of this invasive species is important. The need to put out traps and bait stations was also reinforced, we need to know where the hornets are if they start to nest here.

The BBKA electronic membership system now has an option to register whether you are able to participate in Asian Hornet Action Team activities. Like the swarm collector information please let John Hendrie know if you want to be on the list and he will add your details, at the same time it would be very useful if you would also let John Chapman know that you have registered an interest and tell him what area you are willing to cover, Chatham, Gillingham, etc. Email John Hendrie at: bibba26@talktalk.net

Visit: www.nationalbeeunit.com for the latest updates.

The BBKA Asian Hornet Exercise:

All members are welcome to take this exercise as a means of increasing awareness of the Asian Hornet. It can be found at the BBKA website: <https://www.bbka.org.uk/asian-hornet-action-team-map>

Please note there will be no official training certificate provided for completing the online assessment.

Julie Horbury
Fundraising Administrator
The British Beekeepers Association (BBKA)

Website Update:

For the next few months it is important that everyone looks regularly at the websites for important updates to this present difficult situation.

Please let me know of any difficulties you may have when using the Member's Area and I will reset your password for you.

Information will be posted on both websites so please check both.

Paul Lawrence (Website Manager)

Facebook also Carries up to date information.

Join our Facebook page for information, updates and events:

<https://www.facebook.com/medwaybka/>

This Year's Meetings:

A full list of cancellations and updates can be viewed by going to:
the Member's Website: [click here](#)

And Finally:

Many thanks to all who have contributed to the newsletter at this difficult time. Please remember if anyone has any questions, queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact any of us. Paul Lawrence and John Chapman at the address shown below. But equally you can contact most members of the committee by going to the 'contact us' tab in the members area.

Contact Details:

Chairman

John Chapman
john.chapman@medwaybeekeepers.co.uk

Newsletter and Website Enquiries

Paul Lawrence
paul.lawrence@medwaybeekeepers.co.uk