



Newsletter

Registered Charity No. 1121231

May 2021

Editors Gwyn Marsh and Dorothe Jones

Bee Stings Dr Julia Hoggard

Julia is a retired GP and a long-term beekeeper. She lives in Cumbria and with her husband, and together they run the Brigsteer Wildlife Reserve.

Humans have harvested honey from bees for millennia. The fact that they defend their nests seems to always been known. Protective coverings have been used to protect the face particularly, and these have been formed from natural materials available to the beekeepers. The veil, as we know it, was invented in 1866 and has evolved in Western beekeeping areas to the form we wear now.

A nest is protected by guard bees who release and alarm pheromone to alert the colony to potential dangers. This can be any rapid movements, vibrations, scents and, in particular, mammalian breath.

Stings are irritating at best and potentially fatal at worst. They can happen at any time, but careful movements whilst inspecting hives can help to minimize aggravating the bees. It is essential that all beekeepers know the protocol for dealing with stings, both for themselves and others.



Flowering this Month



Wallflower



Bluebell



Jack by the hedge



Vetch



Wild Cherry



Blackcurrant



Apple (fruit trees)



Buttercup



Wild Strawberry



Ramsons

Nature never ceases to amaze! As the first flush of spring flowers fade, having provided food for our overwintering insects, the trees begin to flower in abundance. This will ensure food for growing broods. Wonderful don't you think?

Training Courses from the BBKA

The BBKA is pleased to confirm that the following training courses at Stoneleigh will be available summer 2021. Please share this information with your members.

Advanced Queen Rearing: 3rd & 4th July (2 day course)

Basic Queen Rearing: 11th July (1 day course)

Advanced Husbandry Training: 30th July to 1st August (3 day course) - Only 3 Places Left!

General Husbandry: 8th August, 14th & 15th August (3-day course)

Please go to the BBKA web shop for more details and to book a place:

<https://www.bbka.org.uk/pages/shop/department/training-courses>

If you have any queries, please contact Sarah Snelson:

sarah.snelson@bbka.org.uk

Kind regards
Anne Rowberry, Chair

Reconsidering Hornet Traps

Lynne Ingram from Somerset Beekeepers has done a lot of work with others to monitor the Asian Hornet threat. One of the recommended ways for beekeepers to help in this is to put out traps. There is a specifically formulated bait produced to place into traps. The instructions are to make the bait in 200ml of sugar solution. Those of us who have used this method must be aware of the large number of other insects attracted, and killed, in these traps. Lynne recommends instead of making a liquid trap, use some material (cloth or paper) as a soak. This ensures that other non-target species are able to escape.

If you capture an Asian hornet do not release her, you will be committing a crime under Section 14(1) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Leicester and Rutland Association suggest placing the trap in a freezer and contact the authorities. Obviously taking great care not to get stung!

Asian hornets are a notifiable invasive species and should be reported immediately with photo using: Asian Hornet Watch app

asianhornet@somersetbeekeepers.org.uk

alernonnative@ceh.ac.uk

Unexpected Visitors to my Hives

I was very surprised to see a blue tit land on the breeze block stand underneath one of my hives. Over the last week there has been a succession of visits. I've tried to sneak up to see what they are doing, but tits are very flighty, nervous birds.

A bit of research has indicated that, though not common, it is known that blue tits will snack from hives!

10% Discount on **BBwear Clothing** from Beekeeping Supplies UK Ltd

Beekeeping Supplies UK Ltd is an authorised supplier of **BBwear** products.

We would like to offer your members a 10% discount on the full range of **BBwear** clothing.

Orders must be placed at:

WWW.BEEKEEPINGSUPPLIESUK.COM

And the following code entered at the checkout to activate the 10% discount:
BucksBBwear

**** Please Note ****

This offer is only valid for the **BBwear Range of Suits, Jackets, Gloves and Trousers** from

www.beekeepingsuppliesuk.com

BBwear's 5 Year Warranty and 28 Day Money Back Guarantee for qualifying products are valid according to their terms and conditions.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Mark Pettitt
Beekeeping Supplies UK Ltd
07743879761

Hive Boxes are Drafty and Inefficient

Man has for many years harvested products of the hive. This has caused many issues for their residents. European honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) suffer from many problems—*Varroa* mites, hive beetles, foulbrood, chalkbrood, stonebrood, deformed wing virus, poor diet, predation, pesticide exposure—many, if not all, essentially caused by husbandry techniques. Now it seems man has dealt another blow in the form of the typical house beekeepers provide for honey bees. It's a wooden box based on a nineteenth century design that leaks and gains heat just like you'd expect it would. And occasionally someone comes along and takes away part of the insulation (honey).

Daniel Cook, Queensland University of Technology, Australia, is lead author on the study, [published in March in the *Journal of Economic Entomology*](#), which examined the thermal dynamics of the traditional managed honey bee hive box. Cook suggests that the commonly used wooden hive boxes "are designed for the human first, with the bee a vague afterthought."

Maybe the move to polystyrene hives has more going for it than we originally thought! The paper is well worth reading – food for thought.



Committee news May 2021

Club Secretary

This important committee role is sadly still vacant. Please consider giving up a few hours a month to help your club. New members may apply. Extensive knowledge of bees is not a requirement! Help and support will be given. All enquiries to Gillian Jones. Chairman and Secretary
chairman@chalfontsbeekeepers.co.uk

Chalfonts Beekeepers on Social Media

The club now has a presence on Facebook, Twitter and on Youtube

www.facebook.com/groups/177933745556905/
<https://twitter.com/chalfontsbees?lang=en>
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxEUeHB4uypl_AGEb211c5w

We would like to keep raising our profile on these platforms in line with modern times!

Please feel free to contribute to FB and Twitter. Apparently, we have loads of followers!!

With this in mind are now looking for a

Social Media Co-ordinator

This would involve monitoring and managing these accounts to keep CBS visible both locally and in the wider beekeeping community.

If anybody thinks they could fulfil this role, giving just as much time as they feel they could manage, then please contact our webmaster Giles Kenwright.

webmaster@chalfontsbeekeepers.co.uk

Diary Dates

Club meetings

May 25th Keith Pierce Apideas Please note this talk will not be recorded.

June TBA

July/Aug No meetings as usual this time of year.

September Hopefully back to meetings in the hall, depending on government guidance and St Joseph's.

Bucks County

May 19th Sean Stephenson continues his live virtual hive inspections here.

**&
June 16th**

www.buckscountybeekeepers.co.uk/event-calendar/

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