

Hi All Members

News

June was a busy old month – a challenge keeping ahead of the bees!

There has been a steady stream of enquiries via our website regarding swarms – some were bumble bees (the first question I ask), some were established colonies and some were swarms which were dealt with by John, Kevin and Richard. I know that most beekeepers get a call or two and deal with local swarms – it's all part of being a responsible beekeeper.

In June I visited Chain Bridge Honey Farm at Tweedbank in the Borders. I had thought that we could have a day out there but it's just too far to travel in a day. However if you are in that area it is certainly worth popping in to see their exhibits, observation hive, honey and wax products and the lovely bee garden.

On Saturday 24th June 6 members attended the monthly meeting, which was kindly hosted by Heidi at Drummore. Heidi's colonies were not in a position to be inspected so we enjoyed seeing Heidi's wax operation and the chat around working with wax. Thanks to Heidi – and for the strawberry gateau!

Bee jobs this month

Swarming season should be about over but I wouldn't be surprised if there is a second round of swarms, so keep up the weekly inspections for now.

FEDSS

F – Food

E – Eggs

D – Disease

S – Space – keep adding supers as required – the spring flow was amazing, but things have slowed up a bit. Clover, bramble and willow herb will be the main July nectar sources, weather permitting. As usual it is a balancing act – too much space and the honey will be spread over many frames and perhaps not capped, too few and space becomes an issue

S – Swarming – keep an eye open for late swarm cells – or are they supercedure cells!?

Extracting – some members are extracting to free up space or to reduce the towers. Remember that WGBA has a 4 frame tangential extractor and some other equipment if you need to borrow it – drop a note to this email address and we'll let you know where to find it

Storing honey – do you have food grade containers and/or jars for your honey once it is extracted? Maybe time to look at the equipment suppliers if not.

Don't forget to jar up some honey in 1lb jars and set aside a nice frame for the Honey Show!

Committee activity

The committee met in June.

We discussed some changes to the bank account, new Glenrazie trophy, Wigtown Show stand and other events, summer workshops + apiary visits and we also started to think about the winter programme (including the Honey Show) and getting speakers/a judge arranged. If you have any suggestions for speakers please let me know.

Meetings over the rest of the summer

22nd July – visit to a non-member in Port William who has a couple of Flow Hives. Note this a week sooner than usual, to avoid Port William Carnival. Details to follow

Queen rearing group is now up and running – John is running this small group and will keep in touch with the queen rearers

2nd August – Wigtown Show stand – look out for the banner

10th August – committee meeting

Pests and Diseases workshop – to be fitted in somewhere!

26th August (provisional) – all being well a visit to Fiona, Younus and Shivani at Dunragit. Details nearer the time

Happy Beekeeping!

Linda,

Chair