

Positive Thinking - June 2020

What a heat wave we have all had in the past couple of weeks. After all the cold and windy days, it was lovely to have sunshine wall to wall, although it was getting rather too hot for me in the end. However, my bees seemed to enjoy every minute and certainly the supers are very heavy, so a good crop of honey I hope.

Our Chair, Anne Rowberry, suggested a 'question page' on our web site; this is to raise awareness of various issues and we hope that you will be able to benefit from it.

The first of these is about whether the wax moth was a problem last year. So please log on to:

<https://www.bbbk.org.uk/questions-for-beekeepers>

We will add questions each month and would welcome your comments and/or experiences.

Thankfully, here in the North West, we do not have much wax moth, but you never know what each new year will bring, so it is good to be prepared.

Fundraising has of course affected the BBKA. If you shop online and use Amazon, the BBKA will benefit from you using the 'Amazon Smile' site. This is an identical site but allows you to choose a charity to which Amazon donates a small percentage of the total spent. You will find the BBKA on there and all donations from 'Amazon Smile' will be gratefully received, thank you.

We would also like to give a big thank you to all beekeepers collecting swarms. We have had several generous donations from satisfied householders, below are just some of the comments left on our donations page.

" A huge thank you to Phil for arriving within half an hour to remove a large swarm from our tree."

"Thank you for the advice from Richard somewhere near Bromley, Kent, who reassured me about the bees' nest in my garden and offered to help if the nest did not go away. It did."

Can I remind everyone again about the BBKA Forum as a useful place for discussing beekeeping <https://bbkaforum.co.uk/> . The use of this medium for information is proving to be very popular among beekeepers.

The recent session of committee meetings were held using IT technology and we managed to get all the meetings done in this way. It's certainly not the same as face-to-face and having the time to talk informally to other trustees and staff at Stoneleigh, but at least it has meant that we have been able to carry on. One benefit is that there were no expenses for travel or accommodation so that has helped with the finances.

There is now a skeleton staff working from the office with others still working at home. Some others are on furlough, but with no exams or training sessions, the workload in that area is more or less non-existent at the moment.

It will be so good to get back to normal with our education programmes but of course we have to be sure that everything can be done safely.

Stay safe, look after yourselves, with the easing of the lock down it would be so easy to forget some of the safety precautions that we still need to do to keep this disease at bay.

Take care,

Margaret Wilson.