



WOKINGHAM & DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Helping honeybees & beekeepers since 1946



website:
www.wdbka.org.uk
or scan the above code

Bee-news-ed

W&DBKA Newsletter 2020 September Covid Issue

(To make contact please e-mail wokinghambeekeepers@gmail.com)

Committee Meetings

Face to face meetings were cancelled after the last full committee meeting on 03 March because of the coronavirus pandemic. Smaller, regular 'Zoom' meetings have been taking place since early June. The last monthly Zoom meeting was held 27 August and the next is due 21 September.

Lockdown 'Annual General Meeting'

We do not know when Association members will physically be able to get together again to hold meetings because of Covid 19 restrictions. This makes it impossible to hold a normal Annual General Meeting (AGM), which normally takes place on the second Wednesday of October.

In an end of July email to all members the committee proposed that the following replaces this year's AGM.

- Relevant committee members produce 'end of year' reports as normal
- That the reports are circulated as if the AGM was taking place.
- Committee members present stay in post for a further six months

As there were no objections to this proposal this is how we will 'replace' the AGM in the short term. This does not address the issue of electing committee members, which we it seems we will have to postpone until some time after October. We will keep you informed.

Long Standing Association Treasurer Resigns

All members should have received an email on 05 September with the information that our treasurer, Neil Marshall, has had to hand in his resignation from both the committee and the Association.

Neil has kindly offered to continue as Treasurer whilst we seek a replacement. Once a replacement is found Neil will provide training and a handover. The Committee is clear that the role DOES NOT require someone who is an accountant and hope that one of you reading this is interested enough in helping your Association to step forward and take over the role of Treasurer.

To register your interest please contact the Chair, John Waddelove, ideally using the email address quoted in the 05 September email or the email address at the top of this newsletter.

Committee Secretary - A Change is Coming

In the 31 July AGM email the Association's Secretary, Evan Reynolds, announced that he was going to resign from the post. Just one member, Andy Ormiston, has since expressed an interest in becoming secretary. As no one else has put himself or herself forward, Andy is going to slowly take on the Secretary's responsibilities, allowing Evan to take a back seat.

Because this is one of the Association's elected posts, if anyone else doe want to take on the role they should contact the committee ASAP at wokinghambeekeepers@gmail.com



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Zoom Chat Session for Members on 16 September

Back on the 19 August Vice-chair, Kevin Cowley announced in an email sent to all members that he was going to host a trial **Zoom Q&A type members session at 7.30pm, Wednesday 16 September**. For meeting joining details see the 19 August 2020 email or the email sent out with this newsletter.

Bee News From the Apiary

Our Apiary Manager, Tony Lack is a very busy member of our committee! Amongst his recent Apiary improvement tasks Tony has installed an outside tap, giving us ability to jet wash the extractor after extraction and clean other equipment outside if required.

An electricity meter has now been installed at the Apiary so that the Association can be billed for any power it uses in the future.

We have six colonies, all in 14*12. This year's Extraction was completed on 08 August; it was not a great harvest and the day was a bit slow because of Covid-19 safety precautions. Despite that Tony believes we have collected about 130lbs and Mary Gillan has kindly stepped forward to jar the honey.

If you want to buy Association honey (at £6 a jar) please contact Mary using the website contact form: <https://wdbka.org.uk/contact-us/> or phone her direct if you have her number.

...And Finally... Regular Extractor Hire, Despite Lockdown

Despite what has been reported by some as poor year for honey, the Association's small extractor has been on loan to members out at least 16 times between mid June and mid September. This may have increased since being reported at the last committee meeting in mid August.

Because of the steady demand, the Association is again seriously thinking of getting a second small extractor to make the hiring process more straightforward for hirers and those managing the process. Plans were being made to purchase a second small extractor pre-Covid 19 but the pandemic got in the way.