



## July 2020 Newsletter

Firstly, sorry the newsletter is a little late - I held on in the hope that the situation with the pandemic would change enough for us to be able to give you all good news regarding proposed Branch meetings - but I'm afraid this will not be the case.

### Branch Meetings

Due to the continuing restrictions relating to COVID-19, we have had to cancel the proposed August branch meeting with Karl Colyer. However, he is in the process of producing a series of webinars - details to follow.

Please note that the Woolton Apiary is open for very controlled consultations with Dave. Book in to discuss your concerns with Dave and others. \*It is very important you contact prior to turning up\*.

### GENERAL BEEKEEPING ADVICE FOR JULY from 'Dr. Dave Harrison' our resident Apiary Manager

"He's forgotten more than most of us know about beekeeping" so listen up for his latest pearls of wisdom....



"Hello everybody, greetings from the apiary.

We are not enjoying the best of weather lately so our bees are not following the expected behaviour for July. This is nothing new for beekeeping. We have to take each year as it comes. In this country we have spring trees, etc, in flower and this can produce a spring flow. We then have a gap before the brambles and summer flowers arrive to give us our summer honey crop. The gap between the two is known as the June Gap. This gap does not always happen due to a late spring or early summer, nor does it occur everywhere but we have to be aware of it. Some of our members have lost bees in the last few weeks due to starvation because there was a gap in some parts this year. Check your bees NOW for

stores to avoid disaster. You should now be getting ready to harvest your crop and deciding what steps you are going to take to treat your bees for varroa this Autumn. Hope you all have a bumper harvest and stay well.

Now is the time to start preparing hives for going to the heather, if that is your intention.

Pleasant Beekeeping,

Dave"

#### NUCS FOR SALE:

We still have some nucs if anyone out there is looking to increase stocks. Please get in touch sooner rather than later! But remember how to process this transaction (according to folklore):

*"If you sell your bees and receive payment into your hand, you have sold your luck with your bees. To sell bees, you must have the buyer lay the money on a rock and refrain from touching it until the bees have been removed from your property and are out of sight."*

Some other related folklore:

*"Swarm in May worth a load of hay, Swarm in June worth a silver spoon; Swarm in July not worth a fly"*

*"If a bee flies in and then back out of your house or business, then it is considered to be great luck!"*

*"Harvest your honey under a new moon and the bees will produce more the next time around."*

*"Banging on a dishpan in front of the hives, before you get into them, to calm the bees."*

*"If you talk to your bees, they will become more familiar with you and won't sting as much."*

and finally:

*"Bees do not like a quarrelsome family, nor do they like bad language. Bees like to be talked to politely and quietly."*

Now it all makes sense!

**The August Newsletter will be out before you know it!  
Happy Beekeeping.**

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