



## June 2020 Newsletter

As we pass the longest day, the nights are drawing in and Winter approaching - or if your glass is half full, we're just at the start of Summer!

Lockdown is easing but who knows what will happen next with this terrible pandemic? It has had such a terrible impact on families across the country and also on our beekeeping year. But it has revealed us - as we all know - to be a resourceful bunch and like our bees, we will find a way to survive.

### Branch Meetings.

We await advice from BBKA about how the latest easing of lockdown restrictions will affect our future planned meetings. More next month.

The June meeting - as expected - was cancelled. Had the meeting gone ahead, Ian Molyneux would have performed a shook swarm in the apiary down at Woolton. For beekeepers who would like further information on shook swarms, there is a useful video from the Norfolk beekeepers which can be found using the following link:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P4HtEIoE\\_rg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P4HtEIoE_rg)

The July meeting - in Tony Gordon's garden - is also cancelled. I'm afraid no video exists to replicate Tony's garden BBQ.

However - good news! We are hopeful that the August meeting with Carl Kolyer will still go ahead. But let's wait and see what happens over the next few weeks.

We are also actively looking at ways to open the Woolton Apiary for very controlled consultations. Book in to discuss your concerns with Dave and others. Watch this space for exact details of how this will work.

Reading/Watching: BBKA have three Videos available to watch. Follow the link below:

<https://www.bbka.org.uk/spring-convention-videos>

### Bee Poo Analysis.

We were recently contacted by a local company who were concerned by a plethora of telltale small yellow spots on the cars in their car park. The company make a vitamin supplement which requires glucose and the contact revealed that there are occasionally leaks - which would undoubtedly attract bees. They had no idea what the yellow dots were - so had it chemically analysed! Please see the attached document for the results. It makes interesting reading.

It reminds me of the time one of our elder members got a crop of red honey! After a little detective work he discovered that his bees were taking advantage of carelessly disposed of jam from nearby Hartley's Jam factory on Long Lane.

### Products of the Hive.

I have always been interested in the many ways to use the products of the hive. Last month we had Brian Seddon collecting bee venom, this month I'll tell you how to make Wax Wraps - which are proving to be very popular in our battle to reduce the use of plastics. I've attached a tutorial - let me know how you get on.

### Swarms

Housing a good swarm is always an adventure.... here. Please share your swarm pictures on FACEBOOK. Always interesting to see good swarms.



'Crosby Swarm'  
Thanks to Simon Fowler



'Wall Swarm'  
Several of these bees were responsible  
for my anaphylactic shock!

**While we are on the topic of swarms...**

I understand several nucs have been prepared and will be ready soon. If you are in need of bees get in touch at:

<http://www.liverpoolbeekeepers.co.uk/contact/>

**GENERAL BEEKEEPING ADVICE FOR JUNE**  
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.

I hope you and yours are all well and coping with the present restrictions. The season moves on apace and we should keep a close eye on stores. We have had quite a severe June gap this year in some areas as all the tree nectar has ceased and the brambles have only just started. Feed if you think there is a problem. Make sure your bees have adequate super space both to evaporate incoming nectar and store honey. Remember the swarming season is not over so keep checking for queen cells and take action if you find any. You still have time to ease the swarming tendency by making up nucs which can be used by our beginners.

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

Pleasant Beekeeping,

Dave

And finally....

Where did Noah keep his bees? In the Ark-hives!

***Keep Smiling - Happy Beekeeping.***

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