

# Stowmarket and District Beekeepers' Association

## Spring/Summer 2020 Newsletter

Well, the season started with a bang with lots of swarms across the area and our beekeepers have been most inventive in the way they've caught them. We've seen bees vacuumed, caught in water containers, smoked from post boxes and some of our members have collected multiple swarms in a day. There have been fewer swarms notified in the last 10 days, but there may be more? Who knows? Please remember the COVID 19 pandemic isn't over yet so please be careful. We want to see our beekeepers together again when it's safe to do so.



### Dates for the diary

Due to Covid-19, all shows have been cancelled and the BBQ on 19<sup>th</sup> July will not take place

**STOP PRESS** Our Chairman, Richard Martin has kindly offered to host the 2021 BBQ at Little College Farm, Creting St Mary on Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> July 2021 **SAVE THE DATE**

We are still hoping President's Day on 20<sup>th</sup> September can take place and will keep you informed.

Red Gables has been booked for member events in the autumn on the following dates:

1<sup>st</sup> October, 12<sup>th</sup> November, 10<sup>th</sup> December (Christmas), 14<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021, 18<sup>th</sup> Mar and 15<sup>th</sup> April.

We will keep you up-dated. In the meantime, if anyone would like to know more about a particular aspect of beekeeping or a story to tell, suggestions are welcome. Please email the association.

## 2020 Beginners' Course

This started well in February but came to a sudden halt when lockdown started. Despite Caroline Crosthwaite and Roger Chapman's best efforts, the Zoom final session on swarming was not deemed a great success. We still have to deliver this final theory session on diseases and the practical sessions. Should social distancing be reduced to 1 metre we may be able to finish the course completely. Watch this space

## AHAT

In the event of a sighting in the Stowmarket area, our Asian Hornet Action Team Coordinator, Alan Seager, would call up those that have volunteered so that they can be assembled into small teams to scout the area from the ground, searching for the Asian Hornet nest. Once sighted, the NBU inspectors would take over and arrange for destruction of the nest.

Everyone is being encouraged to download the **Asian Hornet Watch** app on **your** phone so that if you spot an insect you believe to be an Asian Hornet, you can send a picture and a location via GPS directly to the National Bee Unit

We are hoping that we will be fortunate, once again, this year and manage to avoid any Asian hornets arriving in Suffolk in 2020, but we do need to be prepared. If you would like to join the AHAT team for Stowmarket please get in touch with Alan Seager at [alan.seager@virgin.net](mailto:alan.seager@virgin.net) who will talk you through the detail

