

## Bee Positive – November 2017

Dear Members,

The season is coming to a close and we should now hopefully have more time to evaluate the past year of beekeeping and look for places where we could improve in the future, that also applies to the BBKA.

### BBKA HQ

The building work is still ongoing and the last trustee's meetings we had have either been in a rented space or in the Conference room at Stoneleigh Lodge. When we visited last week, the plastering was now complete and the team were on second fix for electrics, the kitchen was going in and the place was a hive of activity. The staff are still working upstairs in the Board room and Kitchen, not ideal but they are managing, eventually they will enjoy the new space, but it is still difficult for them at the moment so please be patient when calling the office.

This is the board room doubling up as the admin office as you can see the staff are cramped but still cheerful.



Here is the upstairs kitchen, currently also used as the Accounts Office.



### **New BBKA Schools Scheme**

One element of our scheme to encourage young beekeepers was to create a pack of material to support beeks visiting schools and other places to talk about their wonderful craft. The School satchel created by Sue Webster has been given to two beekeepers who visit schools so that they can use it and give feedback to her after they have visited some schools. In order to let everyone know what they are like, Sue will be present at the Spring Conventions Speakers Corner at Harper Adams giving a demonstration of the games and contents, so if you think your association may be interested, please go and see what it is all about.

### **BBKA News**

The Sale of the Special Editions Booklets at the Nation Honey Show last month was a great success, the one on General Husbandry almost sold out and we returned to Stoneleigh with just two copies left! The new sheet on performing a Bailey Comb Change was also a great success, as it's simple to read and understand and of course as it is laminated, it is a 'wipe clean' sheet after use. The Next Special Edition Booklets will include Advanced Husbandry, Swarming The Next Laminated sheet will be on Honey Bee Diseases and again will be ready for the Spring Convention in Spring 2018.

## Video

The Rowse Video on Swarming has taken a lot longer than it should have done but is now sorted and will be ready for the Spring Convention.

## The Shows Committee

It's been decided that we need a new stand for the various shows and events we support and so the current one is now FREE to a good home.



If you would like it just let Leigh Sidaway the General Manager know and she will put you in touch with a committee member.

## Stoneleigh Apiary

We have provisionally recruited two people to manage the out-apiary and to develop it so that it meets the needs of the BBKA going forward and helps promote beekeeping to many more people. The apiary is currently used for exams and teaching, but in the future, we want it to be used for school visits and various corporate events so the entire site needs to be completely re-vamped and upgraded especially so that disabled access can be provided. This will not happen overnight, but it will certainly be a work in progress in 2018.

## **Staff**

Julie Slegg who works in the office is relocating because of her husband's job, she has been with the BBKA for a while and will be sorely missed, This leaves a vacancy in the office and we are looking to recruit someone with Accounting experience. Anna Chapman who has looked after our accounts department for several years now is expecting her first baby and will be leaving us in March 2018. The notion is that if we recruit now Anna will be in post to train the new member of staff. That will not be their only function as we also need a permanent Membership Secretary so it will be a multi-tasking role.

## **General and Advances Husbandry**

As you may be aware, we have again managed to gain financial support for these important courses from Defra. Details on these courses were circulated through your associations and to date we have 84 applications for the General Husbandry courses and 14 for the Advanced Husbandry courses.

The locations for these courses will be: Sheffield, Newcastle, Stoneleigh, Cambridge, Monmouth and Surrey