



BeeEducated News Issue 3

Welcome to our April issue of our monthly news letter. This is the first news letter of the new year 2017. The bees are waking and already we have a little news from the winter and early spring. First things first though, the weather for the next 27 days from the met office is as follows:-



UK Outlook for Thursday 20 Apr 2017 to Saturday 29 Apr 2017:

There will be a lot of fine and settled weather through the second half of next week, especially in the south-west. The far north and north-east will be at greatest risk of rain. Over next weekend and much of the following week, northern and eastern areas may often see a mixture of sunshine and showers, possibly wintry, especially in the north, these areas could also see some prolonged rain. Further south and west, it should be drier and brighter generally. Settled conditions may spread to most parts by the end of the period. Although it may turn warmer in the second half of next week, it is likely to remain mostly rather cold throughout with the risk of overnight frost. Despite this, in prolonged sunshine, it should feel pleasantly warm.

UK Outlook for Sunday 30 Apr 2017 to Sunday 14 May 2017:

Settled and drier than average conditions are expected through the end of April and into early May. However, some brief unsettled interludes are possible too, mainly affecting northern and eastern parts, with the best of the dry and bright weather most likely in the south and west. Temperatures probably a little colder than average with the risk of overnight frost, at the beginning of the period. However, as we head further into May, we should see noticeably warmer conditions with above average temperatures probable for the rest of the period, although confidence at this point is very low., with an increasing risk of overnight frosts.



The beginning of this season has been a little sad with the loss of a couple of colonies both at the Apiary and one at Brereton. Then earlier this month one of our new queens purchased from a supplier was found dead within 48 hours, and the colony she had been placed with was discovered to be suffering from some form of as yet unidentified infection. Not one of the notifiable nasties thankfully, but enough of a problem that it was felt best to end the suffering of the colony and burn the frames to prevent further spread. This incident followed hard on the heels of the couple of serious Nosema cases in other colonies which also resulted in losses. So unfortunately we are starting this year with a somewhat reduced apiary size

The good news is that we seem to be getting to grips with the problems that beset us and the other three queens that were introduced are doing well. At Brereton, yours truly and Kizz's mini apiary, we have ordered a couple of A.M.M.'s queens from a very experienced and well regarded supplier in Northern Ireland which should be delivered in June, weather permitting. One will be housed at the Brereton apiary and the other at Wilmslow. Both will be used to breed from in the future after settling in.

The group would like also to welcome our newest member Nicola who has very recently joined us.

One of our losses has been Evil Eva, who despite her attitude problem and her wonderful defence during last year's attempted thievery at the apiary, plus all that beautiful honey she gave us means less stings for us all. Another loss was Vicious Vicky so we could hopefully have a slightly less painful year, although our illustrious leader has been managing to attract a few stings lately. Rather him than us eh!



Asian Hornet

Bee keepers fears of the Asian hornet coming to our shores from the continent have unfortunately been realized. We have all been aware for a while of the finding of the huge nest at Tetbury. There have also been further sightings taking place in the country so keep your eyes wide peeps. We don't want any foreign wasps in the UK. There are ways to combat the threat and at the following web address:-<http://www.nationalbeeunit.com/index.cfm?pageId=208> can be found useful information.

They have advice on spotting the nests, where and how to report them. They also give clear instructions on how to make traps and the ingredients that best find favour with the hornet. Please remember that although they are now in the UK, the European continent has had them for a while, so nasty as they are, do not

worry that all the UK bees are going to disappear. In fact the numbers of bee keepers are growing in the UK and therefore the population of these lovely little pollinators will grow with them. Just be vigilant and keep your eyes and ears to the ground, although not literally in case someone clumsily steps on them.

Hopefully this year we can continue to attend schools in the area to introduce the children to some of our bees as no doubt some of them will eventually be replacing and augmenting the existing bee keeping tribes.

Ewan is going up to Scotland, no he is not moving there to escape Brexit, he will be taking a two day in-house course on bee artificial insemination. If we can raise the funds for the insemination equipment which is around the four figure mark, combine that with Ewan's excellent new microscope, which his wonderful mum bought for him at Christmas, then we could be rearing queens and ensuring they are inseminated with the best drones which we can also rear.

The wasp traps we made last year and placed at the apiary, finally bought the debilitating wasp attacks under control, and worked really well so this year that experience will stand us in good stead. So apart from the rather shaky start to 2017, things are finally looking up.