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# the Petersfield Beekeeper

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## DIARY

EVENT	DATE	VENUE
<p>ALL APIARY MEETINGS ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.            The current situation has led to the cancellation of some of the summer shows which the association usually attends. Let us spare a thought for the organisers and for the stall holders whose livelihoods are at risk and hope that some of the shows that take place later in the season, including our own Honey Show, may yet take place.</p>		
Clean-up Day	5 April	CANCELLED
First Apiary Meeting	19 April	CANCELLED

**Please send items for inclusion in the May Newsletter by 25 April to [depeyrecave@gmail.com](mailto:depeyrecave@gmail.com)**

With Covid-19 closing down the country, PDBKA is 'closed for business'. This does not apply to our bees, they are working 'business as usual'.

Without Apiary meetings our Apiary Custodians - Rowan Roberts, Peter Reader, Chris Clark & Dean Gregory - together with Chairman Graham Rowden, will be looking after the Apiary hives, on top of caring for their own bees. They will be complying strictly with government guidelines, only two per apiary visit. We wish them a short and trouble-free 'isolation'.

With the bees busy, we all need to pay particular attention to their swarming instinct to give Rowan Roberts, also Swarm Co-ordinator, as little business as possible. There are always more swarms than willing homes and in these restricted times collection and relocation may be more complicated than usual.

Bees are classed as 'livestock' and as such, we are able to visit and care for hives in out-apiaries so, with more time at home than usual, all our hives should be well managed this season producing more enjoyment and honey! Let us be optimistic that our honey show will take place in September as planned so think ahead and put honey aside for the show!

Please keep in touch with your fellow beekeepers; share your experiences on our Facebook page and send accounts of your solitary beekeeping adventures to your editor for inclusion in the newsletter. *See p4 for current DEFRA advice for beekeepers.*





*I'm sure many of our Association members are key workers for which we thank you and wish you safe and well. Meanwhile here are some photos of some other key workers. Are you able to identify all the flowers they are on? Thanks to Pippa and Elizabeth for the beautiful photographs*



### Asian Hornet Watch app

Developed by the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, the Asian Hornet Watch app is a simple and important tool for identifying and detecting the Asian Hornet, and for recording sightings. It includes a number of images in an identification gallery and includes information on the hornet and other species that are often confused with it.

The Centre for Ecology and Hydrology is an independent, not for profit research group which has had an important role in providing data to the National Bee Unit and the Non-Native Species Secretariat. It was commissioned by DEFRA to develop a smartphone app for submitting Asian Hornet records into the existing Alert system.

Please think about downloading the app to your smartphone or tablet. The more information available to help us beekeepers, and for collecting and providing data for research, the better.

*Mel Espin*

### Beekeeping in a time of Covid-19

I am not sure how, now we have 'lock-down', the hives at the bottom of my garden are going to be managed. Normally, with four beekeepers keeping hives in my Apiary, our apiary sessions are convivial occasions filling spring & summer afternoons with equipment preparations, hive checks (with two beekeepers per hive to lighten the lifting load and observe the bees) and tea & cake on the lawn. Limited to two people two metres apart this will need a rethink!

Before the latest restrictions we had managed a successful group cleaning session practicing social-distancing. With four work stations strategically placed across-wind to avoid contamination, the stack of equipment was quickly cleaned and made ready for use. It was really nice to 'get together' and reinforced how important it is to meet-up with beekeeping friends. Let us hope we will soon be back in normal times.

*Pippa Barker*

*In my experience, beekeepers are an ingenious bunch. Please share your experiences and tips for solitary or social-distancing beekeeping either on our Facebook page or with the editor.*



## THIS IS THE CURRENT ADVICE FROM DEFRA

### COVID-19 and Beekeeping

As beekeepers, please be aware of the following guidance when looking after your honey bees. Updates to this guidance will be provided where necessary. You should keep up to date with the latest guidance issued by the Government as it is subject to regular change.

Defra, Scottish Government and the Welsh Government ask you as beekeepers to be responsible and to ensure that you continue good beekeeping practices, effective stock management and health checks whilst observing the Government's guidance on COVID-19.

You should follow Public Health guidance on social distancing. Everyone, including beekeepers, should avoid gatherings of more than two people and this includes at your apiary. You should maintain a distance of 2 metres between yourself and others to limit the spread of COVID-19.

General advice for beekeepers is as follows:

- ✦ You should continue to work and care for your animals in the normal manner, as far as possible. You should not take measures that compromise the welfare of the animals in your care.
- ✦ You should maintain good biosecurity at your apiary.
- ✦ You should not share beekeeping equipment with other beekeepers, particularly hive tools and other handheld devices and protective clothing.
- ✦ In line with the general advice on COVID-19, you should wash your hands for at least 20 seconds using soap and hot water before and after you come into contact with any animal. Use hand sanitiser if that's all you have access to.
- ✦ There are currently no restrictions on the movements of bee colonies – for example, moving bees to fulfil pollination contracts. However, you should observe the public health guidance to prevent the spread of COVID-19 when carrying out these activities, including the guidance on social distancing.
- ✦ If you are required to visit premises other than your own, you should familiarise yourself with the public health guidance on infection prevention and control and take measures to minimise the risks from contaminated surfaces.
- ✦ If you have tested positive for COVID-19 or are displaying symptoms of COVID-19, however mild, you should be self-isolating at home and should not be visiting other premises. Ideally, another beekeeper should take on this duty wherever possible. We are suggesting that local associations consider how they can support those confined or unable to attend their bees at this difficult time for all of us.
- ✦ If your bees are due an inspection by a government inspector, you should be aware that this may be subject to a delay depending on available resources within the inspectorate.
- ✦ If your bees are due an inspection by a government inspector, and you are in a high-risk group, or are showing symptoms of COVID-19, you must let your inspector know ahead of the inspection. Arrangements will be made that will limit the chance of COVID-19 being spread. This may include the inspection proceeding without the beekeeper being present or delaying the inspection.
- ✦ For all inspections, 2 metre social distancing will be considered the minimum and so the beekeeper will not be able to stand at the hive side with the inspector while the inspection takes place.
- ✦ Imports of bees are still permitted. There is no evidence to support restrictions to international movement or trade in bees, and the UK has no additional rules for bee imports with respect to COVID-19.
- ✦ You should report any suspicion of notifiable diseases or pests to the authorities in the usual way – please see the bee health page on gov.uk for further information.
- ✦ You should use husbandry techniques to minimise swarming. If you have to respond to collect a swarm you need to ensure that you use the guidelines on social distancing when collecting the swarm. If that is not possible, then the swarm then should not be collected. Therefore prevention of swarming is the best approach.



### Book Review: "Bee Journal" by Sean Borodale

This slim volume of poetry was a Christmas present to myself.

Sean Borodale is a young artist and poet who lives in Somerset. He writes so-called scriptive poems which are written in the moment, on location. The poems in Bee Journal are impressions of a colony of bees and the process of beekeeping written at the hive over course of the year. They are quite different to the heavily-wrought nature poetry I'm more used to. I really enjoyed their sense of immediacy and experienced a powerful sense of recognition of many of the things he describes. I gathered he is not a fan of ivy honey:



*To be honest, this is dark stuff; mud, tang  
of bitter battery-tasting honey. The woods are in it.*

*Rot, decayed conglomerates, old garlic leaf, tongue  
wretched  
by dead tastes, stubborn crystal, like rock.*

HdeP

### Recipe: Roast vegetables with harissa and honey

This is a great way to use up ivy-tainted honey if you're not a fan either.

Serves 2 as a main dish or 4 as a side

*750g of root veg or squash cut into large dice  
4 shallots or 2 red onions roughly chopped  
4 cloves of garlic, finely chopped  
2 tbsp oil  
1 tbsp tomato purée  
1tbsp honey  
2 tsp harissa (or to taste)*

Heat the oven to 200C. Jumble all the ingredients together in a large bowl. Tip into a large, shallow roasting tin and put in the preheated oven for around 30 mins or so until the veg are cooked. Add a little boiling water to the roasting tin towards the end of the cooking time. Season if necessary and serve alongside meat or over couscous with a dollop of Greek yoghurt on top.

HdeP



**SUMMARY OF A SORT OF PDBKA COMMITTEE MEETING WHICH TOOK PLACE ON OR AROUND 24 MARCH 2020**

Well, it was an interesting meeting, with social distancing demanding that we sit at computers rather than round a table. It was noted that cake was missing, but may have been replaced with wine and gin!

The CoronaVirus has thrown a spanner in the works. Training courses have been cancelled or postponed. Summer fetes are being cancelled so our observation hive bees will have several months off at least.

That said, the bees will not be resting and are probably preparing for a good swarming season with fewer inspections to catch them at it. Rowan will be manning the swarm phone, though how, and whether we will be allowed, to collect them is still unknown. Sense will prevail.

The Apiary Custodians have a plan for inspecting the bees. Only two beekeepers will visit to do all the inspections, and keep their distance. These are definitely interesting times!

The Honey Show will be in the Triangle Centre in Liss. (It is not until September, everything has got to have returned to normal by then!).

The sunshine has returned and the flowers are out. Do remember to enjoy your bees and gardens.

**BBKA MODULE EXAMS**

**THOSE WHO WERE DUE TO TAKE EXAMS IN MARCH, WHICH HAVE BEEN CANCELLED, HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE LIST OF CANDIDATES FOR 14 NOVEMBER**

**Your Committee for 2020/1**

<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Graham Rowden</b>	<b>01730 895368</b>
<b>Honorary Secretary</b>	<b>Melanie Espin</b>	<b>01730 823405</b>
<b>Hon Treasurer/Membership Secretary</b>	<b>David Hall</b>	<b>01730 893423</b>
<b>Committee Members: Pippa Barker, Anne Chantal Ballard (Education), Elizabeth Eveleigh (Minutes sec), David Parkinson (Honey Show Mngr), Martin Smyth,</b>		
<b>Apiary Custodians: Graham Rowden, Dean Gregory, Rowan Roberts, Peter Reader, Chris Clark</b>		
<b>Librarian: Martin Smyth</b>		
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	<b>Helen de Peyrecave <a href="mailto:depeyrecave@gmail.com">depeyrecave@gmail.com</a></b>	<b>01420 588675</b>

