

Positive Thinking Newsletter July 2020

Well the weather has been very different in June this year, too hot one day, thunderstorms the next day and the day after temperatures in the low teens. Let's see what July has to offer.

As we have started to come out of lockdown, quite a few members have been asking whether the November exams will be up and running. I think they must have been studying while locked down. The honest answer is I do not know, it is up to the Exam Board. I am told they are meeting by Zoom on the 19th July and will make a decision then.

What we do not know is what the local Exam officers think, we also do not know what the Area Associations think, so please tell us. Do you think it is a good idea to go ahead with the November exams or not. Would your Association cope? Let me know at Margaret.wilson@bbka.org.uk and I will pass it on to the exam board. We are hoping to get the office staff that have been furloughed back to support our educational system once more.

The lock down has certainly affected life as we knew it, travel is one area that has been reduced, at least that stops some of the pollution, but I feel that we will once more get back to travel by land sea and air in a very short time.

This lockdown has also been responsible for many changes in organisations, the BBKA included, staff on furlough, no training face to face, although I do know that some areas have used the internet successfully.

The Trustees will have to get the budgets ready for 2021 soon, these will be more frugal than previous years, because of the effects of the Covid Virus, we are hoping to maintain training programmes and get the exam system on board again, but of course it is all subject to the travel restriction and the social distancing we need to be aware of.

Our Shows team are developing a new way of demonstrating to the public, that is when the National shows open again. We also have to consider, how will we manage the Spring Convention; lots of things in the pot that need to be thought about. Will we still be in lockdown, or will we be back to a new normal?

The work on the educational apiary garden at Stoneleigh started at the beginning of June and I am told it is going well. I would love to go and see how the design is developing, but I do not think that we will be having our meetings there just yet, certainly the July EC meeting will be by Zoom again.

Some of our branches and associations have arranged speakers on beekeeping to use the Zoom principal to keep their members up to date on what is going on. This instead of the usual summer practical meetings that most branches arrange in summer, it does not help with the new beekeepers who would like to have practical handling but with mentors for each new beekeeper this can still be achieved.

Our next Executive meetings are later in the month, so I will give you details of any new items in the next Positive Thinking letter.

Keep safe.

Margaret Wilson.