

Positive Thinking Newsletter no 24 – August 2019

From Margaret Wilson, Chair of BBKA

Dear Members,

It is August already and I do not know where this year has gone, we have had both heat waves and floods last month so I hope that everyone's bees have been kept safe, out of the heat and floodwater.

On Monday the 5th August the Executive Committee met to go through next year's budgets, it is always difficult trying to guess which organisation will be increasing their charges and managing that within the anticipated income. Will the membership increase, decrease or stay as it is, sometimes a crystal ball would be good to help with this however we do this every year and the past few years we feel that we have managed to keep the reins tight on expenditure so here is hoping that we can do the same next year.

One item that I take responsibility for is the 'Third Party' Insurance for our members, in my first year as a Trustee I managed to get a rather large reduction on previous years costs and thankfully the quotation for 2020 will not show an increase in these costs. Can I also mention at this point that the third party insurance does not cover your equipment, that is available through Buckland Harvester Insurance, (www.beekeepersinsurance.co.uk)

We also have a link on our web site for it and you can insure up to £5,000.00 of equipment for just £12.00 per year. Your Branch Apiary would also benefit from that type of insurance as well. For the peace of mind this is very little outlay.

This year we have changed our Auditors, we had asked for quotations ready for the budgets but Baldwin's had doubled their costs so we went to the market place, interviewed other firms and have selected Harrison Beale & Owen who are local to Stoneleigh with a much more competitive rate for the audit, they will also be available for advice as and when it is needed.

I would like to add a small item to this newsletter which is nothing to do with the BBKA, but I think is very interesting, my neighbour is always trying new things in his greenhouse and garden and his latest project was to use Honey to get cuttings of shrubs and bushes to grow well. He had heard that if you take a hardwood cutting from a bush and dip the end in Honey and then push it into a potato and bury this into compost or soil then the cutting will grow quite strongly, he did take out all the 'eyes' in the potato to prevent that from growing but every cutting taken that way has been successful. Yet again another fantastic result for beekeepers and Honey.

Now back to the BBKA.

We have appointed the design team for the Apiary at Stoneleigh, Isola Garden Design Ltd, they are situated in a building to the rear of our offices and their quotation was by far the best. I believe they have taken into account that future clients will be able to see the results of their work when they visit their offices as the apiary is just a couple of minutes away from their own establishment. In some ways they had to make sure to get the contract otherwise their future clients would wonder why not as they are so close to us.

I recently wrote about the fantastic Schools who want to be our 'Beacon Schools' so that they can help other schools to start beekeeping, sharing their experience and knowledge, the two schools are Ashbrow and Heron Hill. Both Stephen Barnes and Anne Rowberry have agreed to develop a beacon school criteria for other schools. Also at the last committee meeting it was agreed to offer a donation of £500 to these two schools in order that they can provide transport for their pupils to come to the Spring Convention. It is so important that we encourage youngsters to learn about beekeeping as they will be part of the future beekeepers of the UK.

Finally I have been asked to circulate the information below, I hope you find it interesting.

For the sixth consecutive year, we are organizing the European Bee Award. For this 2019 edition, we are again looking for individuals, farmers, landowners, research institutes, private or public organizations with an innovative project that aims to protect pollinators and help on reducing the impact of farming operations on bees.

Two categories are rewarded with a €4,000 prize and one with a diploma of recognition. You can find more information on the following link, as well as the application forms <http://www.europeanlandowners.org/awards/bee-award>

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you are interested or have any questions.

Kind regards,

Athéna Lefebvre, Award Coordinator

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