

## Positive Thinking.

October 2020

Dear Members,

The weather is certainly turning and colder days and nights are here, although in the day with a little sun, the bees are still happy to go out to work. Hardy little creatures aren't they?

Last weekend we had the Finance and the Executive Committee meetings, all by Zoom. It all does work but the personal interaction is missing which very often resulted in some good ideas for the benefit of the BBKA and the membership, but it looks like we will be using Zoom for some time to come.

You may recall that we advertised for someone to take over the position of Examinations Secretary from Val Francis when she retires. We had four interviews, all excellent calibre and one has been chosen. Hopefully, they will commence on the 1<sup>st</sup> November learning the ropes from Val so that there is continuity, I hope you join me in wishing them well?

We are hoping that we will end this year with a small surplus, but like all things it is subject to outside factors, but we do live in hope.

That would make it the 5<sup>th</sup> year in succession that we have managed the income and costs to the advantage of the BBKA, so fingers crossed there are no unexpected problems.

The 'Two Diane's', Drinkwater and Roberts have worked wonders on our web site with the most popular page in June, July and August being the swarm collectors site with 36,000 visits which is fantastic. So a very big thank-you to the swarm collectors for agreeing to be on the map and for all the time they give to rescuing those bees.

Whilst on the subject of the internet, the BBKA YouTube is receiving really good feedback on the items there. If you have not visited the site, please do, you will be amazed at the help that is available. <https://www.bbka.org.uk/bbka-youtube-practical-beekeeping-videos>

We have another Special Edition now printed and ready for sale. Steve Martin has finished his Varroa Edition and it is proving very popular, I have not had the time to read it yet but I am assured that it is certainly worth the £4.00 cost (incs p&p).

The training courses for General Husbandry, Advanced Husbandry and Queen Rearing will be arranged as scheduled for next year and we have to hope that Covid allows them to go forward. If necessary, we will cancel but at least they are ready, just in case.

September the 30<sup>th</sup> is the financial year end for the BBKA. The staff in the accounts section will have their work cut out to get the books ready for the auditors on the 15<sup>th</sup> October, quite a challenge in anyone's book, but it needs to be speedy otherwise we would not be able to get the results out to our members with the ADM packs.

We are still looking at the ADM being a virtual meeting. There will be lots of practice runs before the date and any association is welcome to partake. I know a lot of work has gone into organising this and it has been successful for the BDI AGM and also the Scottish AGM, both of which hosted quite a large number of attendees. Let's hope that the practice runs prove successful.

Pam Hunter, one of our valued Trustees has volunteered to give three talks for the benefit of our members, Diane Drinkwater, another trustee, is going to arrange the necessary IT technology and we will advertise it to the membership as soon as it has been arranged. I know Pam quite well and have heard her speak on many occasions so I know that you will really enjoy her talks. Two other trustees have also offered to give a talk, namely Joyce Nesbit and John Hendry, so as I said, 'watch this space'.

I would like to pass on some interesting information. Cumbria County Council has launched a major project to sow wild flowers on all the grass verges, that will be lovely to see, it's a shame we cannot get all councils to do the same.

I hope you find the item below interesting? It is surprising how well it is working, we all need to remember to shop on Amazon Smile when we want to buy something.

*This is your quarterly AmazonSmile donation notification. Your chosen charity, **British Bee Keepers' Association**, recently received a quarterly donation of **£69.11** from AmazonSmile, thanks to customers shopping at [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk) or with AmazonSmile turned ON in the app.*

*To date, Amazon has donated a total of:*

- **£267.42** to British Bee Keepers' Association  
**£4,621,862.95** to UK charities

*Thank you for supporting British Bee Keepers' Association at no extra cost to you, by shopping at [AmazonSmile](https://smile.amazon.co.uk). You can track your impact throughout the year at the [Your AmazonSmile Impact](#) page.*

*When you shop at AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as [amazon.co.uk](https://amazon.co.uk), with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your selected charity.*

*AmazonSmile is also available in the Amazon Shopping App on iOS and Android phones. See how to activate [here](#).*

Have you organised any online talks for your association recently? We're looking to expand the list of speakers available in the BBKA Speakers list.

If you've got a local speaker who has a good digital talk suitable for other beekeeping groups, then please ask them if they would like to be included in the speaker list. If they say yes, then their name, contact details, list of talks, and fees are needed for them to be added to the list. Please see

<https://www.bbka.org.uk/lecturers-speakers> for more details of the current BBKA Speakers list.

This will help local associations and branches provide online talks to keep beekeepers going through Covid and beyond!

Take care and keep safe.

Margaret Wilson  
President, BBKA