

The Weardale Beekeeper

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Hello everybody and welcome to the August Weardale Beekeeper Newsletter. New author for this newsletter is Dot Coe.

The beekeeping season is drawing to an end, keepers' priorities being extraction of summer honey (if you are lucky!) and preparations for winter. These may be on the back-burner if you have hives at the heather, but in the not too distant future these hives will return and preparations will also begin. Attached to this newsletter is the article from the BBKA magazine with the jobs for August in the Apiary. My thoughts are on uniting weak colonies and treating for varroa.

The beekeeping season got off to a good start with a warm early spring. Colonies built up well and swarm control measures, for me, were 4 weeks earlier than last year. The cooler and windier weather of June and July have put a hole in the summer honey crop. As I type this it is windy, wet and 12 degrees. Not heather foraging weather.

Due to Covid-19 this has been a very different year. We have been unable to have meetings since February, and at the present time, there is no real timescale as to when meetings will be able to begin again. Member have made good use of the WhatsApp group with messages about swarms being passed on and acted upon. If you would like to added to the WhatsApp group, please message Dot Coe on 07775179597 or email sheepsocks51@gmail.com.

Big thanks to Lynn who previously looked after the website and to Dave who has taken on that role recently. Please go to the website www.weardalebeekeepers.co.uk and have a look at the updated version. Future plans include a member's section and a frequently asked questions page.

Hoping it will not be too long till we can all meet again face to face. Until than good luck with the honey crop and winter preparations. Keep safe.

Committee

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