



Hive Talking...



August 2020

Volume 1, Issue 1

Covid-19 Vs Bees!

OK, you don't need us to tell you that we are very much in "unchartered waters". Since April normal life has been turned on it's head: Queuing for shops, social distancing, wearing face masks, blah, blah, blah.... But like the text books, Honey Bees are oblivious and they continue to do what bees do: Collect nectar, pollen, water, propolis. Swarm for all sorts of reasons and generally keep us poor Beekeepers on our toes.

So the Bees seem happy enough but for us poor humans we've had all sorts of changes to contend with. As an Association most of our activities this year have been cancelled: the Summer School, Preliminary exams,

Queen Rearing, excursions, etc...

The Bees have still to be "managed" and in line with the current guidelines a very limited number of us have

been busy doing regular inspections at our Apiary in Shane's Castle, just to make sure that all the boys & girls are behaving themselves and not up to mischief. There has been the usual

Splits, uniting, nucs, lost colonies and we are starting to take some supers filled with honey off the hives.

So, this years Preliminary

Students haven't had a chance yet to savor the delights of the Shane's Castle Apiary and all the Social delights that we offer: The soup and Orange Drizzle

Cake are legendary but there will be plenty of time for that, just be patience!

So welcome to our little newsletter, just a short update on

what's happening with the bees and hopefully some light bedtime reading to help get you through the Pantomime that continues to play out.....



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Preliminary Practical Days

Following current guidance we are for running a days practical teaching for the Prelim Students at the Apiary. The class of 32 has been split into groups of not more than 8 who will visit the Apiary over 4 separate Sundays in August. SO each Sunday 8 Students will be

accompanied by 4 teachers so 2 students per teacher and we will thoroughly go through everything related to starting Beekeeping: Suits, smokers, hive parts and the best bit opening a box of bees and sticking your head right in! Guidelines for Social distancing, face masks,

hand sanitizer, etc... will thoroughly be followed and all students have been provide with the relevant information and the timetable of when they are to attend.

Should be a few good Sundays and we will endeavor to follow all the relevant guidelines. Stay Safe

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August Jobs around the Apiary

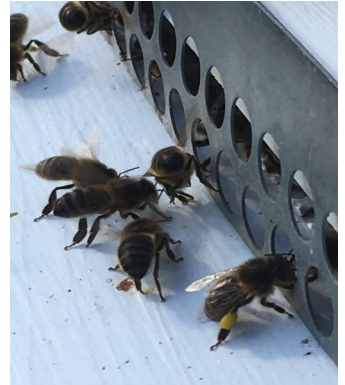
Depending where you live and what forage is available, if your main flow of nectar was in July then you should be looking at taking supers off your hives as long as they have been capped. This can be done in a number of ways: using a clearer board, porter bee escapes or most probably a frame at a time will be removed once capped so you can either shake the bees off the super frame or use a bee brush.

Once all supers are removed at your next inspection you want to determine the quan-

city of stores in the brood box. If they are light you may have to start feeding with sugar syrup. Each colony will require approx 40lb of stores to see them through winter. Entrance blocks should be fitted to help stop robbing and wasp traps put out if required. You may also want to have some bees tested for disease before considering uniting any colonies especially if they are weak.

If you intend re-queening any colonies this should be completed before the end of the month. If something happens

to go wrong and a colony has to pull out emergency queen



cells you may struggle to find adequate drones for successful mating of any virgin queens.

The lovely flowers

embarrass me,

They make me

regret I am not a

bee – Emily

Dickinson

Thornes Online Sale



Thorne's online sale starts on 31st August. Grab yourself a bargain and free delivery for orders over £100.

www.thorne.co.uk



Contributors

Hopefully you have enjoyed this little newsletter and we would welcome any articles, pictures, feedback, questions, requests, items for sale, etc.... That you would like to see in any forthcoming issues. Please send any correspondence to the email address on the back page.



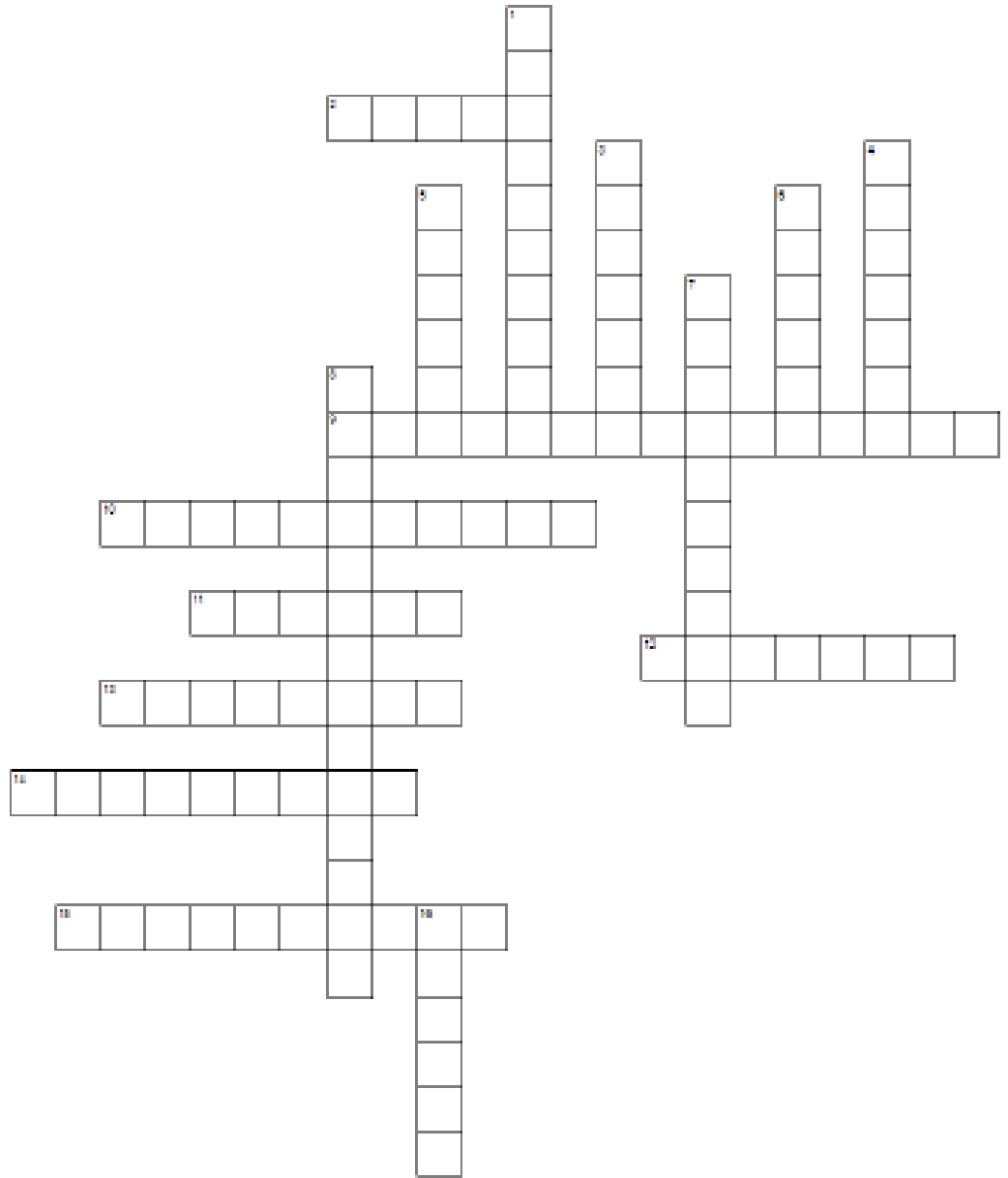


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Bees



Across

2. male bee
9. reproduction without fertilisation
10. when a colony decides it's time for a new queen.
11. the male part of a flowering plant
12. definitely not the foxtrot
13. resinous gum found on trees and other plants
14. name for a bees tongue
15. an American holy house

Down

1. Bee blood
3. what pollen gives bees
4. a small hive
5. female bee
6. number of nails to make a frame
7. one type of honey extractor
8. another name for honey bees
15. mid section of a bee

Crossword Competition. . Send solution to email address above. All correct entries will be put in a hat and one winner drawn will receive a bottle of award winning mead! Open to members of Randalstown and District Beekeepers Association only. Solution will be in the next editions of the Newsletter.