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## Call for Volunteers

BBKA are very fortunate in being part of a brand new, exciting project, involving many European countries and funded by the EU. The project, named PoshBee, is designed to determine the exposure of bees to a range of chemicals and assess the levels of pests and diseases and nutritional status, and the impacts these may have on the health of honey bees, bumble bees and solitary bees in a field realistic way rather than in laboratory studies. Prof. Simon Potts (Reading University) and Prof. Mark Brown (Royal Holloway College) have been the guiding lights in getting this application drawn up and finally approved.

This is going to be a wonderful opportunity for some of our members to take part in real scientific experiments and initially we are looking for volunteers in Kent and in Berkshire or Oxfordshire who would be interested in taking part next year. Details are not yet finalised but the beekeepers would be paid for the use of their hives which will be placed in orchards in Kent and in OSR fields in the Reading area. The sites will be chosen by Prof. Potts in collaboration with various farmers to represent differing levels of pesticide usage among other factors.

The aim is to take various samples from colonies throughout the season and these will be assayed by various experts in laboratories. More details will be available later on but those willing to take part will be expected have colonies ready for moving in the spring of 2019. We require 24 colonies for each of the two areas, so ideally 30 colonies to allow for losses over the winter. Please contact Pam Hunter if you are interested in taking part. For those interested and willing to take part, Prof. Potts will give a presentation at Stoneleigh of what is required later this year.

Please check the BBKA website regularly as the plans are still under development and contact Pam Hunter with any queries you may have.

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