

Sweet success for Taunton beekeeper

Taunton beekeepers Jenny and Sid Gammon scooped the blue riband for the best exhibit at the Taunton and Somerset honey show held at Taunton Flower Show (August 4 and 5) with their exceptional soft set honey.

Jenny and Sid were also awarded three trophies for hive products from prize-winning honey to exquisite wax flowers and candles.

Beekeepers David Pearce from Bathealton and Graham Welfare from Hatch Beauchamp were awarded four trophies each while mother and daughter, Rosemary and Eleanor Burgess from Taunton, won three.

Peter Maben, Chairman of Taunton Beekeepers, said: "The show is a great shop window for bees and honey, providing visitors with plenty to see and do as well as showing the enthusiasm and passion of local beekeepers."

He was particularly impressed by the stunning displays submitted by local schools. Taunton primary schools - Kingston St.Mary and Holway – were joint winners.

Ken Tredgett, President of Somerset Beekeepers, added he was delighted to see so many visitors swarm to the feature and hoped they would leave with a love of bees, a desire to plant for pollinators and an appreciation of the work that goes into producing every pot of honey.

"A honeybee has to fly about 55,000 miles to make just one pound of honey, that's one and a half times around the world! Meanwhile, it requires local beekeepers to care for their colonies all the year round as well as dealing with a very labour-intensive harvest," he said.

Thousands of visitors enjoyed the beautiful marquee packed with information about keeping bees, honey tasting, bee-friendly plants and candle rolling for children.

An observation hive, where bees are displayed behind glass, and an outdoor demonstration area, which is screened by protective netting, gave visitors plenty of opportunity to see honeybees at work.

More than 40 classes attracted entries from beekeepers who went head-to-head in a vibrant demonstration of how the ancient craft still flourishes today.

Taunton Beekeepers are holding a taster afternoon on Saturday, September 9; for more information contact Mike Dillon, mikedillonbees@gmail.com or 01823 669619/07585537030.

2017 Somerset Honey results

The Blue Ribbon for the best exhibit in Show in the judges' opinion: Jenny and Sid Gammon

The Taunton Perpetual Challenge Trophy (winner most points) Taunton full member) in the show Class 1-42 Winner: SJ & JA Gammon;

The Priscott Perpetual skep Plate (Runner up (Taunton full member) in the show Class 32 – 42 Winner: R & E Burgess;

The Stoker Perpetual Silver Trophy (winner most points (Somerset member) in the show Class 1 - 42 Winner: SJ & JA Gammon;

The Pat Barter Silver (plated) Trophy (winner most points classes 1 – 30) Winner: D.Pearce;

The W .Elmsall Perpetual Observation Hive Trophy class 16 Winner: Taunton & District Division;

The Andy Coles Memorial Trophy for Mead Class 8 – 9 Winner: G.Welfare;

The Tom Tucker Trophy for Cookery (all classes) 19 – 22 (Taunton member) Winner: G.Welfare;

The Downes Perpetual Cup (Most points in classes 20 and 21 (Cookery) Winner: R & E Burgess;

The Gammon Perpetual Trophy (winner class 18 Novice) Winner: A.Miles;

The Taunton Honey Show plate (winner most points (Taunton Full member) in Section 2 32-42 Winner: D.Pearce;

The Sally Bennett Trophy (Runner up class 32-41 (Section 2) Winner: R & E Burgess;

The John Spiller Mascot (Best exhibit in Section 2 – in judge's opinion) Winner: D.Pearce.

County Cups:

Jubilee Cup - Most points in classes 1-18 inclusive Winner: D.Pearce;

Miss M.D Bindley Cup - Winner class 2 Medium Honey Winner: S.Perkins;

Terry Arnold Perpetual Challenge Trophy – Winner classes 18 -22 incl. Winner: G.Welfare;

The Duffin Challenge Trophy - (Cake of Beeswax) Winner class 12 Winner: R & E Burgess;

The Clifford Langford Award for Mead Winner most points classes 8 – 9 Winner: G.Welfare.

Class 1 Two lb jars of light honey:

1st D.Pearce
2nd S.Perkins
3rd -

Class 2 Two lb jars of medium honey

1st S.Perkins
2nd SJ & JA Gammon
3rd M.Crook

Class 3 Two lb jars of dark honey

1st M.North
2nd -
3rd D.Pearce

Class 4 Two lb jars of naturally crystallised honey

1st A.Pike
2nd D.Pearce
3rd R & E Burgess

Class 5 Two lb jars of soft set honey

1st R.Fox
2nd -
3rd -

Class 6 Two lb jars of heather honey

1st A.Nelson
2nd -
3rd -

Class 7 Three lb jars of honey labelled for sale

1st SJ & JA Gammon
2nd D.Pearce
3rd S.Perkins

Class 8 One bottle dry mead

1st G.Welfare
2nd -
3rd A.Nelson

Class 9 One bottle sweet mead

1st G.Welfare
2nd -
3rd -

Class 10 Two containers of cut comb

1st D.Pearce
2nd -
3rd -

Class 11 One shallow comb of honey suitable for extracting

1st A.Pike

2nd S.Perkins

3rd -

Class 12 One cake of wax

1st R & E Burgess

2nd A Robbins and A Halpin

3rd SJ & JA Gammon

Class 13 Composite

1st R & E Burgess

2nd S.Perkins

3rd G.Welfare

Class 14 Embroidery/water colour/model/drawing produced by beekeeper

1st SJ & JA Gammon

2nd -

3rd -

Class 15 Artistic/decorative exhibit relating to beekeeping

1st SJ & JA Gammon

2nd D.Pearce

3rd -

Class 16 Observation hive

1st Taunton & District Beekeepers

2nd -

3rd -

Class 17 - judged by public - results to be announced

Class 18 Novice one lb jar of honey

1st A.Miles

2nd M.Crook

3rd -

Class 19 Walnut and honey cookies

1st J.Crosher

2nd G.Welfare

3rd R & E Burgess

Class 20 Honey fruit cake

1st M.North

2nd G. Welfare

3rd R & E Burgess

Class 21 Cornish fairings

1st R & E Burgess

2nd D.Parry
3rd G.Welfare

Class 22 Honey and banana tea bread

1st M.North
2nd J.Crosher
3rd G.Welfare

Class 23 Three photographs in a series on a single mount

1st A Robbins and A Halpin
2nd J.Crosher
3rd -

Class 24 Single photograph

1st S.Perkins
2nd A.Robbins & A.Halpin
3rd M.North

Class 25 One decorative wax exhibit

1st SJ & JA Gammon
2nd S.Perkins
3rd -

Class 26 Display of beeswax flowers

1st SJ & JA Gammon
2nd M.North
3rd R & E Burgess

Class 27 Beeswax furniture polish or cream

1st SJ & JA Gammon
2nd A Robbins & A Halpin
3rd R & E Burgess

Class 28 Two moulded beeswax candles

1st A.Pike
2nd SJ & JA Gammon
3rd -

Class 29 Two dipped candles

1st R & E Burgess
2nd SJ& JA Gammon
3rd -

Class 30 Honeybee forage

1st J.Crosher
2nd R & E Burgess
3rd -

Class 31 A counter display

1st R & E Burgess

2nd -

3rd A Robbins and A Halpin

Section Two Full Members of Taunton Division

Class 32 Two lb jars of light honey

1st M.North

2nd D.Pearce

3rd R & E Burgess

Class 33 Two lb jars of medium honey

1st D.Pearce

2nd SJ & JA Gammon

3rd M.North

Class 34 Two lb jars of dark honey

1st D. Pearce

2nd M.North

3rd -

Class 35 Two lb jars of crystallised honey

1st R & E Burgess

2nd A.Pike

3rd G.Welfare

Class 36 Two lb jars of soft set honey

1st -

2nd G.Welfare

3rd -

Class 37 Five wax blocks

1st A.Pike

2nd SJ & JA Gammon

3rd R & E Burgess

Class 38 One frame of honey suitable for extracting

1st R & E Burgess

2nd -

3rd -

Class 39 One standard container of cut comb

1st D.Pearce

2nd M.North

3rd -

Class 40 One commercial block of wax

1st SJ & JA Gammon

2nd R & E Burgess

3rd G.Welfare

Class 41 Three lb jars of honey labelled for sale

1st SJ & JA Gammon

2nd R & E Burgess

3rd G.Welfare

Class 42 Novice Two rolled candles – no entries

Class 43 Special class for schools

1st Kingston St.Mary and Holway schools both awarded a first