

1906

Centenary Year

2006



SBKA Exmoor Division

September/October 2011 edition

Dates for your diary

N.B All the below dates are subject to change.

Please contact Tricia Nelson meadowstreamhouse@hotmail.co.uk tel. 01984 641388 to confirm your intention to attend and for confirmation of the date time and venue.

Sunday 18th September Acetic acid treatment- Div ap 2pm

Saturday 2pm-5pm, 24th September– Candle making with Jenny Gammon. Restricted numbers. Please book your place asap

Sunday 25th September Closing down for winter – Div Ap 2pm Rent a hive ends

Friday 14th October Disease management and update – Adam Vevers RBI

Friday 7pm 28th October Committee meeting, Rest and Be Thankful, Wheddon Cross



Congratulations

to:

Gail Johnson on becoming a Master Beekeeper

Alan Nelson on passing his Basic exam

Mike Podbury on passing his Basic exam

Will you be next?

Photos of the honey show winners at Minehead Flower Show.

On the left, Joint second our Chairman, Peter Batchelor, and Apiary Manager ,Dave Colley; on the right, the winner, Gail Johnson

Photos provided by Phil Johnson

Top Accolade for Exmoor Beekeeper

Gail Johnson has become Exmoor BKA's first ever Master Keeper! The award is given after completion of all eight BBKA modules, microscopy, general and senior husbandry, with a final examination at BBKA's headquarters in Stoneleigh Warwickshire. Gail is delighted with her achievement with only around 100 Master beekeepers in England and Wales. Not resting on her laurels, Gail is now training to become a senior honey judge, and has completed the preparatory course for the highest award, the National Diploma in Beekeeping.

In training to become a honey judge, 30 awards in 1st, 2nd, 3rd at county level or above are required for part 1. At the Bath & West Show, Gail won closed and open sections for medium honey, and set honey, winning three major trophies (pictured), with five first places, with Somerset, Devon, Cornwall, Avon, and Wiltshire competing.



Congratulations Gail

At the Taunton and Somerset County Honey Show, Gail won another five first prizes, winning both sections for medium honey, set honey, composite, and wax candle. Although Gail won a further five trophies winning top sections, the trophies have yet to be engraved and awarded.

Phil Johnson

Dave and Mary's amazing annual barbeque and apiary visit

The sun shone, the newly arrived piglet went into hiding, and Mary's three donkeys watched from behind their electric fence as Tony Richards demonstrated Dave's hives to the assembled company of beekeepers hidden from view to the rest of Mary's beautifully tended garden.

Laurie McNeill (who hoves from Texas and knows a few things about barbeques)manned the said cooker and the aroma of grilling meat soon began to fill the air attracting beekeepers who flew in both from the demonstration and elsewhere to gorge themselves on the delicious food.

A big thank you to Dave and Mary, and of course Tony for this highlight of the Exmoor Beekeepers year and also to all those people who brought contributions along towards the meal

Tricia Nelson

The Porlock Show

The Porlock Show took place on the 14th of August and we , the Exmoor Division were there too.

John, Ivan, Julian and I were all on our stand, which fortunately was right next to the main entrance to the show-ground. This meant that we had a continuous stream of people, both local and visitors to the area all wanting to look at the observation hive, to ask us questions about bees and buy some honey.

The afternoon weather was glorious and as a bonus, we had a least five people express serious interest in joining the Division. All in all, it was a successful and enjoyable day.

Mike Yuill.

Exford Show (same day as Beefest)

Despite the heavy rain of previous days this was well attended . Peter Batchelor was there and reports great interest in Tony Richards honey stall.

Beefest

The Willford family worked hard to make this a success. The Tythe Barn gardens looked wonderful with stalls around the edge and Blue Grass musicians playing. Despite torrential rain the previous day and even earlier that morning, the weather was kind.

Exmoor Beekeepers were well represented with Gail giving the first of four lectures; Alan ,Dave ,Laurie, as well as Gail and Julian demonstrated hives as Mike Yuill manfully trekked back and forth showing people the way to go to the demos whilst Jane painted children's faces, raising over £30.00 for Bees Abroad personally. A big thank you to Mike who also brought his gazebo which proved enormously useful. John Newcombe, brought the observation hive which was a great success and ably explained by Ivan Selman, Mike Podbury and others. Peter Jones, Lisa Garrett ,Alan and Tricia Nelson also helped on the stand and manned the information point and honey sales, encouraging several interested parties to join and learn more about bees.

The evening feast started with pre-dinner honey vodka. The meal was good and peppered with surprises, ranging from a poetry reading through to an auction of bees.and an entertaining post dinner speech from the chairman of Bees Abroad , who is himself a retired commercial beekeeper who now only keeps 70 hives!

At the time of writing Julian could not confirm exactly how much money had been raised for Bees Abroad but was optimistic.

Tricia Nelson

Not a Happy Ending Or Anaphylaxis – Life threatening allergy

We have the right garden, the time and the help we CAN start keeping BEES

I booked on to the winter course at Minehead, so that I could start in the spring. However, a friend said that their neighbour was giving up after 40 years of beekeeping, as he had become allergic to bee stings.

I bought his equipment and 2 hives (1 weak and the other strong) and with the help of a mentor got underway in the autumn, which helped when I did the course, and gave me even more enthusiasm to work with bees.

For 5 years I had good years and bad years but never stopped being fascinated by them. Yes I got stung a number of times normally my fault, I am not the most gentle person, but no problem just a little pain and some swelling.

Then last year I got stung twice and did not feel so good, (itchy, a little tightness of the throat and I sweated a bit) but I sat down for 15/20 minutes and I was Ok

When I saw the Doctor about something else I asked if she thought there was a problem and if there was a test. After a chat I was advised to keep antihistamine tablets with me when I was bee keeping, she recommended Piriton tablets.

Then this spring it happened, my fault not the bees fault, I got 3 maybe 4 stings on my lower arm, not putting the glove on a 100%.

I knew I had a problem and took a Piriton without water and made for the house, by the time I got into the kitchen, I was not well.

I was itchy, felt faint and sick, tight in the throat – my wife dialled 999 and I was taken to Tiverton Hospital I was given steroids and released about 4 hours later.

I am certain the Piriton helped but I did feel very ill for 2/3 hours

Please don't let me put anyone off Bee Keeping, but take care – If I was starting now I would always have Antihistamine tablets in my beesuit pocket and I would always check twice that I have put everything on 100%.

You can get allsorts of treatment to keep going but I felt at 67 I would give up, I now carry an EpiPen so I should be safe

So have Fun and Enjoy your bee keeping – **I envy you.**

Ivan Gunn

And finally.....

This is your newsletter. Thank you for your contributions. Please keep them coming.

Contact Tricia Nelson email: meadowstreamhouse@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 01984 641388