

BUZZ NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2022.



Diary Dates

Wednesday 12th October Autumn Improvers

7.30 at the Apiary

‘Reading the Bees’ with Lynne Ingram

Wednesday 19th October Autumn Improvers

7.30 at the Apiary

‘Preparing your Bees for the Winter’ - Eleanor Burgess and Simon Jones

Wednesday 9th November Autumn Improvers

7.30 at the Apiary

Informal Q & A evening

Wednesday 16th November Autumn Improvers

7.30 at the Apiary

‘Hive Choices’ with Tricia and Alan Nelson

Saturday 19th November AGM

2.30 at the Apiary.

Speaker: Derek Mitchell ‘The invisible dams of honey’

Followed by tea.

December/ January Late Varroa Treatment

At the Apiary. Dates to be confirmed nearer the time.

BBKA Webinar: ‘The Truth about Honey?’ on Wednesday 19th October at 7.30pm.

The BBKA has asked our very own Lynne Ingram to speak to members at a live webinar talk taking place Wednesday 19th October at 7.30pm, The event is free but you do need to pre-book a place via this link on the website:

<https://www.bbka.org.uk/event/the-truth-about-honey>

Honey is a pure and natural product with health giving properties, however there is a growing issue worldwide with honey adulteration. This means that honey fraud is now the 3rd biggest food fraud in the world. This talk lifts the lid on the how, why and wherefore of honey fraud and the way that it impacts on the livelihoods of beekeepers around the world

Lynne Ingram NDB has kept bees for over 30 years, and runs 15 – 20 colonies in Somerset. She is a Master Beekeeper, has recently gained the National Diploma in Beekeeping, and is an examiner for the BBKA modules and practical assessments. Lynne is heavily involved in educating beekeepers in Somerset, running study groups, and curating the popular Somerset Lockdown Lecture series. She is the chair of the Honey Authentic Network (HAN) UK, and a member of the BBKA Honey Adulteration Working Party.

Announcing National Honey Day on Friday October 21st 2022

Message from Anne Rowberry, BBKA President

The British Beekeeping Association are celebrating the first National Honey Day on 21st October, we would like to invite you to share in this day when we will be encouraging everyone to buy a jar of local honey, produced by bees here in the UK.

Not only do we want to ensure people are aware of all the benefits honey provides but we are seeking to celebrate the pleasure of eating honey. Honey has been enjoyed all over the world for centuries, it was found in the Egyptian tombs and is often depicted being collected by bees in ancient cave drawings.

- During this day of celebration, you could encourage friends and family to share photos on social media: You and your jars of Local honey!
- The things you do with your honey. Perhaps you eat it on toast or in Porridge? Perhaps you bake with honey or make mead? Do you make honey containing cosmetics?
- Use the hashtags #NationalHoneyDay, #LocalHoney, #Beekeeping

But we are concerned that consumers can buy honey and not a jar labelled honey that contains additives such as corn syrup, and other additives and chemicals. We want people to be aware and informed about the world-wide fraud affecting imported honey.

The BBKA will be continuing the work started as a response to propositions in the Annual Delegates Meeting in January and will be launching a new petition calling on the Government to revisit the intended change in labelling of Honey sold in the UK. Some changes were to have come into law later this year but have been delayed until 2024. We want people to be able to recognise honey produced here in the UK and be able to have a choice in what they are buying. Some imported

honey has never been collected by a bee. The BBKA is asking for informed information on the labels of honey, we are asking that consumers and our beekeepers are protected from the fraud, which is occurring worldwide now.

We will send the link to the petition when it is officially launched, please help this initiative by signing the petition and share it as widely as possible.

Our goal is to reach 100,000 signatures as this will mean the Government will consider it for debate in Parliament. It will need the support of the general public and not just the beekeeping community to achieve this result, therefore. we will be seeking the engagement of all our BBKA Associations to actively encourage the general public to support the petition.

Annual General Meeting - 19 November 2:30 pm

Taunton Beekeepers would like to invite you to Heatherton Park Apiary for our 2022 AGM. This is an opportunity for members to hear about the work that's taken place over the year (reports will be sent out beforehand) and for members to have their say.

Over the year the committee works really hard, spending countless hours organising events for our members. But we would love more people to get involved in the committee; its a great, well functioning group. Please have a think about it and if interested contact Julie Husband:

phone 07867782435

email julie.husband@btinternet.com.

After the AGM business we will have a talk by Derek Mitchell, a very respected and renowned beekeeper and speaker. Then, and in some ways most importantly, there'll be a light tea and a chance to catch up and have a good old chat about bees and beekeeper. All in all, a lovely afternoon.

President's Special Waggle Dance

Well, what a wonderful evening it was! I had been planning it since last year, and in the end, it was a great success. As this is my last year as President, I thought it would be a good idea to try to do something to get people together after the nearly 3 years of Covid restrictions. We are still experiencing many cases of Covid even now, but we have to learn to live with it I suppose.



The event was held on 16th July 2022 at Bishops Lydeard Village Hall, the same venue as the 2 previous dances I had organised when I was Chairman of Taunton and District Beekeepers. Those had been to raise money for our new apiary clubhouse, and I had managed to raise around £2000 towards the new building then.

The music was provided by a band called “A Tight Squeeze”, and they kept us dancing for a good part of the evening. A good spread of food was enjoyed by the 70 or so people who attended, and the band was also fed and watered before the 2nd half of the evening's dancing.

David Pearce managed the raffle in his usual jovial way, and the hired help certainly took the pressure off the ladies who usually end up in the kitchen. They also looked after the bar, and helped with the clearing up at the end.

Thanks must go to all those who helped in any way; setting up the tables and chairs etc. and clearing away at the end of the evening; putting up the bunting and the beautiful flowers provided by Julie; the lovely quiches from Mike and his wife Pat; the scrumptious salmon cooked and provided by Eleanor; and all the wonderful puddings made by members of the committee. Thanks also to Chris Harries for bringing the cider. It was a feast to behold!

I think a Waggle Dance is a great way of getting people together, especially after so long not being able to mix with many. Let's not leave it another 8 years before the next one!

Mary Adams (President, Taunton and District Beekeepers)
15th August 2022.

TDBKA Honey Show Secretary's Report

After a 3 years absence and with the sun shining brightly on both days (!), this year saw the welcome return of the Taunton Division's and Somerset County's Bee and Honey Shows to the Taunton Flower Show at Vivary Park, Taunton. Due to reorganisation within the TFS, the Shows were staged within the main Floral Marquee, which not only meant a new layout but also a new opportunity.



The new space afforded more room for displays, visitors and organisers alike and was positively received. It must be said that other exhibitors, within the Floral Marquee, also commented on the positive contribution of the Bee and Honey Show to the overall ambiance within the Marquee.

It was decided that although the location of the Shows had changed, this year we would maintain the same Schedule as had been proposed for the 2020 Shows, which had to be cancelled as a result of the covid restrictions. Bee displays (both flying and observation hive) and the shop areas were augmented with new displays on the threat of Asian Hornets and, importantly, Honey Adulteration. All sat alongside the two Honey Shows, which took center stage.

The Honey Show's Jubilee Cup and Stoker Challenge Trophy, awarded for most points in the County and Taunton Honey Show respectively, were awarded to Mr. Chris Rawlings (Wiltshire Beekeepers) and Taunton's very own Mr. David Pearce. The Blue Ribbon (Best Exhibit in Show) was awarded to Mrs. Sue Rawlings (Wiltshire Beekeepers), who had won the same award at the recent Bath and West too! The John Spiller Mascot (Best Exhibit in Taunton Section) was awarded to a very delighted Mrs. Maggie North. Maybe the most overlooked award, that should perhaps get the most attention, is the Gammon Novice Trophy which this year was awarded to Mr. Daniel Hollyman (Taunton Division, SBKA). Congratulations to not only the winners of all classes and cups and trophies, but especially to all who took part. A full list of winners is given at the end of this short report.



It must be said however that although the Bee and Honey Show was well attended and received by visitors to the TFS, the number of entrants and exhibits to both Honey Shows and the number of willing volunteers was low. With membership levels at TDBKA and the wider SBKA as they are, there are perhaps questions around the Shows' Schedules and their viability with such low entry

levels? Also, the make-up of the overall Bee and Honey Show brought some comments that we may wish to consider, as a wider audience. The TDBKA Committee has tried to consolidate these 'questions' into the following ones and all we ask is that you, as members of the bee club, consider them (and maybe your own questions?) and let us have your answers and responses.

1) Does it make sense to hold two Honey Shows at the TFS? (Should TDBKA hold a Show elsewhere. Do we continue to host the County Show?)

2) Why do so few members enter and how do we encourage more Honey Show entrants? (The 2022 Honey Show had around 140 exhibits from 16 entrants, with 2 from out-of-Taunton. For context, the Honey Shows for the 5 years prior to the pandemic had, on average, 165 exhibits and 18 entrants, again dominated by TDBKA members)

3) Is the make-up of the overall Bee and Honey Show right for the current times/visitors' expectations? (Do we need more educational stands? At the expense of shop contents?)

4) How do we encourage more volunteers to help? (This year many volunteers had little time off, even for a lunch break!) (We currently offer free entry and lunch, what more could we do?)

Please send any and all responses to Andy Glendinning (01984 667368 or andyglendinning@aol.com) or any TDBKA Committee Member. And please do remember that we can only continue to devise and host such events with your support.

TDBKA Committee
Andy Glendinning
TDBKA Honey Show Secretary
[Pictures courtesy of James Lowe and Julie Husband]

Honey Show Results.

The Stoker Perpetual Silver Trophy
The Taunton Perpetual Challenge Trophy
The Pat Barter Silver (plated) Trophy
The Andy Coles Mead Trophy
The W. Elmsall Perpetual Observation Hive Trophy

David Pearce
David Pearce
David Pearce
Mary Adams

Not awarded this year

Gammon Perpetual Trophy
The Tom Tucker Trophy for Cookery
The Downes Perpetual Silver Trophy
The Taunton Honey Show Plate
The Priscott Perpetual Skep Plate
The Taunton Honey Show Perpetual Trophy
The Sally Bennet Trophy
The John Spiller Mascot
The Jubilee Cup
Miss M.D. Bindley Cup
The Clifford Langford Award for Mead
The Duffin Challenge Trophy
Terry Arnold Perpetual Challenge Trophy
Blue Ribbon

Daniel Hollyman
Maggie North
Sue Rawlings
David Pearce
Maggie North and Janet Piper
Chris Rawlings
Maggie North
Maggie North
Chris Rawlings
David Pearce
Chris Rawlings
Chris Rawlings
Sue Rawlings
Sue Rawlings



Trip to Buckfast Abbey Apiary



Last July I had the opportunity to visit Buckfast Abbey Apiary with some of the other module 6 students. What a beautiful location for an apiary. The grass was full of wildflowers, the sun shone and the bees were calm and gentle. I was in Martin Hann's group. Martin used to be a bee inspector and watching the gentle way he worked the bees was a pleasure.

Having worked through one hive with Martin answering numerous questions we moved on to the problem hive, it had CBPV with the typical carpet of dead bees at the entrance. A board had been placed there so the dead bees could be regularly removed and with them their virus load although quite a few crawled off into the grass to die. I have seen this disease more than once this year in fellow beekeepers hives, is it becoming more common? One hive up at the apiary had it



this year. Simon Jones suggested removing the floor so shiny, hairless, dark and shaking bees falling off the comb fell right out of the hive to die rather than onto the floor where other bees had to remove them. It certainly removed the dead bees, but the survivors happily built comb down from the brood box and out the hive through the open floor. It made a tricky job of tidying up when the floor was replaced.



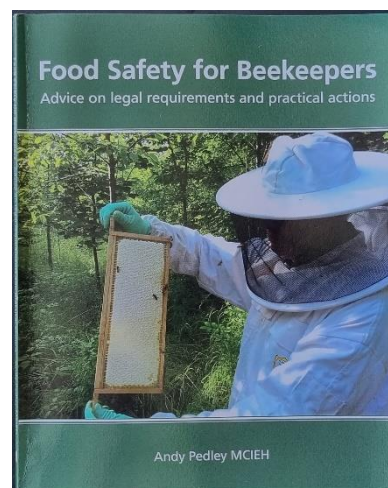
Clare Densley was feeding the CBPV hive to reduce the stress on the bees and conducting an experiment to see if garlic added to the syrup helped as garlic is supposed to help in humans. To ensure the syrup did not get into any honey she put red food dye in it. The bees happily took down the syrup and stored it in a distinct red patch. What was interesting was that when we looked at the hive a week later there was no red patch of stores, just pink nectar/honey throughout the whole hive. Clare was not sure if the garlic helped and it was not yet clear if the hive would survive. After having had such a disease she will not breed from that queen just in case there is a genetic element to whether or not a hive catches this virus.

We broke off for lunch in the abbey cafeteria before reassembling for tea, biscuits and a nice long question and answer chat about bees. Thank you, Clare and Martin, it was a great day. If you get the chance to visit Buckfast Apiary I would recommend it.

‘Food Safety for Beekeepers’ by Andy Pedley

Published by Northern Bee Books 2022. £17.00

This is a worth getting if you are selling your spare honey. Andy Pedley points out the differences in how the regulations apply to large commercial organisations and small producers and where they stay the same. Some of the standard beekeeping practices (e.g. placing supers on top of the upturned roof when inspecting the bees so food products are not contaminated with earth and grass) are in place to comply with the regulations. But he points out other things I had not thought of. For example, wax wraps used for food must also comply with regulations if you sell them. So does the material conform to food standards? If it has a pretty pattern printed on it, are the dyes food safe?



The book is comprehensive starting with the law, running through honey production, extraction, jar-ring, labelling and storage. Moving on to other hive products, kitchen and equipment rules, cleaning methods, records, labelling rules, enforcement and weighing systems. It ends with examples of a ‘Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point for Liquid Honey’, the legal requirements of water content, HMF etc and a sample ‘Honey Batch Record’.



Quincy Honey Farm Wildflower Field

Thornes have a shop at Quince Honey Farm, South Molton, Devon, EX36 3RD. I recently visited it thinking a sale was on but as usual I got my dates mixed up!

Quincy Honey Farm has bee related products, gardens and experiences but what really caught my eye while I was hunting for the Thornes shop (it's on the way out) was the magic field of wildflowers you drive past on the way in. Early September and it was humming with both bumble and honeybees.



I was so impressed I popped into the shop to ask what the plants were. The helpful staff member called a gardener over to identify the photos I had taken. They were: Vipers Bugloss, Borage, Bistort, California Poppies and Phacelia. As a bee was feeding on the Phacelia and they had seeds for sale in the shop I bought a packet. I am not a gardener, so fingers crossed they grow. If you are down that way, it is worth a visit just to see that field.



Clean up and stow away day

by Robin Rees

The annual clean-up day took place at the apiary on Saturday 24th September.



The sunny, warm afternoon brought a good sized group together who cheerfully, cut, scrapped, dismantled, scorched, boiled, burned and dried every conceivable hive part that had been used at the apiary during the year.



Despite the effort required and the attention of hordes of bees and wasps attracted by the wax and residual honey, it was a great opportunity to share each other's beekeeping reflections at the end of the season.

The obligatory tea and home-made cakes added to highly sociable occasion.



For Sale

2 Baskets wax sheet oddments -damaged and colour stained £15 per basket o.n.o
Please ring Jenny 01823 270465.