



# Newsletter December 2022

Committee members:

Tina Harley (President), Lionel Horler (Chair), Ken Jeanes (Vice Chair),  
Matt Philips (Treasurer), Anne Collyer (Secretary), Jane Jeanes (SBKA Delegate),  
Tony Johnstone (Programme Secretary), Jeremy Lee (Apiary Manager), Guy Clothier,  
Dennis White and John Wood

Welcome to our December Newsletter. Thank you to all those who came to the Annual General Meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> November and a special thank you to those who supplied the wonderful cakes and to Geoff Blay for his interesting talk following the meeting.

After several years of providing excellent service as treasurer, Richard Harris has decided to step down and he was presented with some wine as a token of our gratitude. Matt Phillips was elected to the post and we welcome him to the committee. Adam Morka has also stepped down due to work commitments and again we thank him for his input and support. We also welcome new members who have signed up for the Beginners Course starting on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023 7pm at Ansford Academy, Castle Cary and look forward to meeting you all soon.

As ever, if anyone needs more information or has a question to ask, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will put you in touch with someone who can help.

Anne Collyer, Divisional Secretary SESBKA

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## Lionel's December Bee Notes

*For further information please contact Lionel: email [lhorer934@talktalk.net](mailto:lhorer934@talktalk.net)*

We had our honey show at the Market House, Castle Cary on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Although we had some good quality exhibits, the numbers were down on last year. Notable was the complete absence of any wax flower or decorative item. This is after we had the very good demonstration by Bridget Knutson in the spring showing us how to create wax flowers. I thought there were several members from that evening who were definitely going to enter this class.

Honey sales were up and the tea and cake stand made their usual contribution to the day. Thanks to all our helpers, we could not do it without you.

The AGM was held in November with about twenty members attending. We welcomed our new treasurer Matt Phillips and said goodbye to Richard Harris who has kept our accounts in order for the last three years. I was glad that we could present basic certificates to two members this year, we hope for a few more next year.

After the meeting Geoff Blay gave a talk on 'The problems with Rape honey'. I had some problems with this this year, it's a pity I didn't hear Geoff's talk before I started extracting.

As I write this, the winter weather seems to have arrived at last, although the sun breaks through occasionally. The bees are probably more confused than I am. I do worry that they are using more stores than they are bringing in so I try to keep some fondant above the crown board and they can take it if they need it.



The beginners' class will be starting as usual in January, at the moment we have ten people committed to attend so we have room for a few more but there is still time.

# **Southeast Somerset Beekeepers Association**

## **2023 Events programme**

**For further Information and to Volunteer Please Contact** Tony Johnstone [tmj67@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tmj67@hotmail.co.uk), 07973341557

Hello Everybody,

Please find set out below our proposed events programme for 2023. You will see that the dates for some events have been confirmed while others will be announced during the year.

Additionally, there will be a number of practical sessions at our Apiary for beginners and others which will be publicised in advance.

As ever, I am always looking for new ideas and hosts please. All suggestions are welcome so please contact me.

### **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January @ 7.30pm At The Market House Castle Cary A Talk by Paula Carnell**

Paula is head beekeeper at the Newt and is intent on creating a Buzz About Health. She describes herself as Consultant Bee Expert and Honey Sommelier.

### **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February @ 7.30pm At The Market House Castle Cary**

#### **A demonstration and practical instruction on the making of wax products by Bridget Knutson**

Part two of the really interesting meeting earlier this year. Bridget is an expert on wax products and prize winner. She also a Honey Judge and active within the SBKA

### **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March @ 7.30pm At The Market House Castle Cary**

#### **A talk by Eleanor Burgess on how to prepare for the new season**

Eleanor is a former National Bee Inspector who now lectures on hive management.

### **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March @ 7.00pm At The Orchard Inn Galhampton The SESBKA Annual Dinner** Details to follow

### **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April @ 7.30pm At The Market House Castle Cary A Talk by Catherine Fraser on Bee Pests and Diseases**

Catherine is a member of the Somerton division and an expert on these subjects with a reputation for giving interesting and informative talks.

### **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May @ 2.30pm An Apiary visit to Lionel Horler's apiary in North Barrow** Further details to follow

### **A Saturday in June An Apiary Visit to Adam Morka's apiary in Bratton Seymour**

Adam is a progressive beekeeper who has brought many interesting techniques with him from his native Poland. Further details to follow

### **A Saturday in July The SESBKA Annual Safari**

Geoff Blay has kindly agreed to facilitate our event which is planned to start at our own apiary at Hook Valley followed by a visit to James Butt's apiary in Milborne Wick where we can enjoy our picnic lunches and finally to the Lattiford estate home of both John Wood and Brian Magor. Brenda Wood has kindly offered to serve tea and cakes.

Further details to follow

### **A Saturday in August @ 2.30pm An Apiary Visit to Matt Phillips' apiary in Marston Magna**

Matt currently has four colonies Further details to follow

### **A Saturday in September @ 2.20pm An Apiary visit to Pippa Shillington's apiary at Quarr Farm** Further details to follow

### **On A Date To Be Decided A practical Honey Preparation Session**

Geoff Blay has kindly offered to hold a practical session where members can learn the skills of bottling and preparing honey for our Honey Show with the aim of increasing both the number of entries and quality.

Further details to follow

### **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October At The Market House Castle Cary The SESBKA Honey Show With** set-up on Friday 13<sup>th</sup>

### **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November @ 7.00pm At The Market House Castle Cary The SESBKA Annual General Meeting**

# News from the Apiary

Jeremy Lee, Apiary Manager



The camera supplied by Agrisound (and paid for by Wise Energy) is now live at Hook Valley. If you are interested try the below instructions although it's not for the 'tech averse'. It even works at night which is useful??

You can either download the Reolink app to your smart phone or install the same client browser on your laptop/pc/mac. The link below is for MAC/IOS - click the Windows link at the bottom of the webpage below for PC/Windows.

[https://reolink.com/my/software-and-manual/?gclid=Cj0KCCQjw7KqZBhCBARIsAI-ftKIFBPYjIj3v9JstyUwuYSJSruXNa86TcnuXkN4CQlRMORTVdM7jKkaArLWEALw\\_wcB](https://reolink.com/my/software-and-manual/?gclid=Cj0KCCQjw7KqZBhCBARIsAI-ftKIFBPYjIj3v9JstyUwuYSJSruXNa86TcnuXkN4CQlRMORTVdM7jKkaArLWEALw_wcB)

To add the camera to the client/desk top app press the plus sign where it says add camera

Device UID is 952700025317MWCT

username - admin

Password – wiseenergy

On the app scan the attached QR code and same login details.

Reolink Go  
UID: 952700025317MWCT



## Communication

In addition to our Division Newsletters, information about what's happening within the bee world at division, county and national levels can be found via the following BBKA websites (there is a wealth of information at other sites as well):

SESBKA Division Page [somesetbeekeepers.org.uk/south-east.html](http://somesetbeekeepers.org.uk/south-east.html)

Details of Beginners Course, past copies of newsletters and diary of events

Email: [Anne Collyer Secretary SESBKA](mailto:Anne.Collyer@sesbka.org.uk)

Somerset BKA [somesetbeekeepers.org.uk](http://somesetbeekeepers.org.uk)

Details of on-line lectures, courses, county events and full calendar of events within the county. (You can also access recordings of previous lectures [somesetbeekeepers.org.uk/lecture-recordings](http://somesetbeekeepers.org.uk/lecture-recordings))

British BeeKeepers Association [bbka.org.uk](http://bbka.org.uk)

National events, gift shop, exam modules, national conventions and lots more!



The SESBKA also has a WhatsApp Group: An ideal tool for members to get answers to questions quickly, pass on information etc. If you would like to join the group please email/text me ([amcollyer838@gmail.com](mailto:amcollyer838@gmail.com) or 07803 243643) with your permission to use your mobile number.

I make no apologies for repeating this as it is such a perfect recipe for Christmas!

### Christmas Glow



#### Ingredients:

1 bottle of red wine	1 small glass cherry brandy
1 glass brandy	1 sliced lemon
1 cup granulated sugar	2 oz honey
Grated nutmeg to taste	About 1/3 pint boiling water

#### Method:

Heat wine, honey, lemon, nutmeg and sugar to bear boiling point: then add brandy, cherry brandy and lastly the water. Add cinnamon sticks and sliced oranges for that extra festive feeling.

Enjoy!

*This has been a favourite family recipe for many years and taken from 'First Steps in Wine Making' 1960*



## Message from Somerset BKA

Please find below an email from the Wotton-Under-Edge based charity Bees Abroad, which is launching its Big Give Christmas Challenge.

Please note this is not a particular endorsement for the charity from SBKA but a sharing of information about a reputable organisation.

### ***Bee Part of the Story Today!***

*Thank you, friends of Bees Abroad, for your help in spreading the word about this exciting event! The [Big Give Christmas Challenge](#) begins now! Every day this week, every donation you make to our Bee Part of the Story campaign via The Big Give website will be doubled!*

*The first £20,000 will be matched pound for pound thanks to our generous pledgers and Big Give champion.*

*Your doubled donation will help beekeepers like those we have met this month on our [Top-Bar Tuesday blogs](#). Women like Lucia in Tanzania, Fatamata in Sierra Leone and the KITE women in Uganda and Hope women in Ghana. With your support this Christmas, we are excited to help them and many others empower themselves through beekeeping and the development of beeswax handicrafts businesses.*

### **Top Bar Tuesday Blogs**

*After living in Tanzania for many years and working with communities on beekeeping projects, I have seen first-hand the challenges that many people in rural areas are faced with. The very real and challenging effects of the climate crisis on their food security, the economic knock-on effects of the pandemic and other struggles which make basic things like staying healthy or sending children to school for an education very difficult. But I have also seen the incredible difference it makes to be part of a beekeeping group, and the benefits of beekeeping for a family! And we are inviting you all now to **“bee part of their story”** as together we really can make this difference. Be part of the story to support and empower these groups through sustainable beekeeping and beeswax handicrafts businesses.*

*If you have been following us on social media, you will have seen the many different beautiful products that women are making out of beeswax. Balms, beewraps, nyuki stix and candles ... Can you help us to develop these handicraft skills with more women while providing more marketing and business support? Help us to support beekeeping groups as they develop and grow to improve how they process and sell their honey and value-added products.*

*To take part in the Big Give Christmas Challenge and make twice the difference, please donate to Bee Part of the Story on the [Bees Abroad campaign page](#) on The Big Give website before midday 6 December.*

*If you choose to give outside this time frame or not through the online campaign page, please note that while your donation will be greatly appreciated, it unfortunately won't be doubled.*

**Donate Here**

# **BBKA Microscopy Courses**

Microscopy - Beginners Course - Stoneleigh, Warwickshire

This is a one-day Microscopy Course for Beginners.

The areas that will be covered are Dissection and Compound Microscopes, Disease Investigation, Dissection of Alimentary System and Preparing Pollen Slides from flower/samples/pollen loads.

Equipment for this course will be provided.

**Venue:** Stoneleigh HQ, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 2LG

**Course Date:** Two dates available - Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2023

**Start Time:** 0900 hours **Finish Time:** 1700 hours

**Course Fee:** £75.00 per person - including lunch Maximum number of participants is 16

Microscopy - Intermediate Course - Stoneleigh, Warwickshire - Two Days

This is a two-day Microscopy Course for Intermediates who are preparing for the BBKA Microscopy Assessment.

The areas that will be covered are Disease Diagnosis Acarine and Nosema, Pollen Slide Preparation, Abdominal Dissection, Alimentary System and Central Nervous System, Sting, Heart and Anatomical Slides

You will need to provide your own equipment for this course.

**Venue:** Stoneleigh HQ, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 2LG

**Course Date:** Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February and Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2023

**Start Time:** 0900 hours **Finish Time:** 1700 hours

**Course Fee:** £175.00 per person - including lunch

**Maximum number of participants is 16**

## **Accommodation**

You will need to source your own accommodation. There is a hotel on site - the Stoneleigh Lodge Hotel - Telephone Number +44 24 7669 0123 - if you inform them you are with the British Beekeepers Association you will receive a discount - £68.00 Bed & Breakfast. There are also a couple of Premier Inns nearby in Warwick and Coventry and another suggestion is The Peacock Hotel in Kenilworth.

## **CANCELLATION POLICY**

Cancellations in writing will be accepted up to 14 days prior to commencement of the course. After this date, no refund will be given, unless the place can be filled.

BBKA reserves the right to cancel or reschedule this course. If this is necessary a full refund of course fees will be given.

## **BOOKINGS**

Bookings for any of the courses should be made on the BBKA webshop:

<https://www.bbka.org.uk/pages/shop/department/training-courses>

## **QUESTIONS?**

If you have any queries, please contact Sarah Snelson: sarah.snelson@bbka.org.uk

And Finally...

I wish you and your bees a very happy, healthy Christmas and a successful New Year!

Anne

