



Newsletter July 2022

Committee members:

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

Welcome to our July Newsletter. Jeremy Lee (Division Apiary Manager) and his team are busy preparing for the Apiary Opening Day and we hope to see you there. We are delighted to have this amazing facility and it will enable those new to beekeeping to get some real hands-on experience as part of the beginners' course as well as provide the opportunity for every SESBKA member to gain further knowledge regarding all aspects of bee keeping.

Anne Collyer, Divisional Secretary SESBKA

amcollyer838@gmail.com 07803 243643 Presscombe, Shepton Montague, Wincanton, BA9 8JG

Lionel is keeping a list of those who are wanting bees – if you have sourced bees elsewhere or are looking for a new colony/nuc could you please let him know so he can update his records. Thank you!



SESBKA Swarm WhatsApp: Although not much activity regarding swarms this can be used as a useful exchange of ideas, ask a question etc. If you would like to join the group please email/text me (amcollyer838@gmail.com or 07803 243643) with your permission to use your mobile number as it can be seen by all group members.



Advance Notice! Honey Show in October will have a class for Jams, Jellies and Preserves, one for Chutney and one for Mead. Details to follow but now is the time to prepare!

NB Adrenalin Pen Users If you use an adrenalin pen you MUST bring it with you to any apiary visits and it MUST be in date. Please inform Jane Jeanes or the designated first aider that you have it when you arrive. Thank you



Report on Visit to James Butt's Apiary 11 June 2022 *Tony Johnstone*



Many thanks to James, this was an extremely interesting and informative visit due to the style of hives built by James and his knowledgeable beekeeping. He has a number of apiaries and the one we went to in Milborne Wick is on land owned by his friend Simon Leicester, a former gamekeeper, who has become very interested in conservation. Adjacent to the apiary Simon has planted a range of wild flowers that provide forage for the bees from spring to autumn, and he kindly gave us a short talk explaining his philosophy.



James adapted the design for his hive from those designed by his friend Bill Summer of Zest (thezesthive.com). He has constructed the brood chamber from thermal blocks which creates a warm high humidity environment, up to 80%, which deters Varroa, in fact he does not need to treat for the mite. Bees enter and leave through holes drilled through the blocks.



Lionel's July Bee Notes

For further information please contact Lionel: email lhorler934@talktalk.net



I think the stand at the Bath and West went very well. Thank you to all helpers who volunteered for a half or whole day, especially to the helper who drove from Bethnal Green for the day and then drove back again. Our stand looked pretty good and we had plenty of interest and lots of conversations about bees, which is why we are there.

The weather as usual has been variable this month and the collection of stores by the foragers has reflected these hot or cooler spells. I certainly notice the heat in my bee suit and am glad when I can work in the shade while inspecting

the bees, I think the bees must appreciate some shade as well.

We have managed to supply some nuclei of bees to some beginners but I find my list of customers for bees is out of date as several people have received bees from elsewhere but failed to tell me so I spend a lot of time contacting people only to find that they have been supplied from elsewhere.

I am still surprised as I go about and talk to people how many there still are who would like to keep bees but don't know how to get started. This just shows that we must keep spreading the word.

Fancy a day out in October?

The Wiltshire Bee & Honey Day takes place on Saturday 8 October at the Corn Exchange, Devizes. The day is FREE - SESBKA members are welcome to attend - just turn up on the day. Details for parking etc are on the website. <https://www.wiltshirebeekeepers.co.uk/>

Talks include:

- 10.00-11.00 TALK
 - **Managing the Workers:** Reading the bees, smooth colony manipulations, managing the bees rather than simply observing. Bob Smith NDB
- 11.30-12.30 TALK
 - **The Future of the Bumblebee in the British Countryside.** Guy Parker, Eden Renewables.
- 13.45-14.45 TALK
 - **Botany for beekeepers:**
 - A colourful exploration of flower families with emphasis on those of value to bees. Bob Smith NDB

News from the Apiary

Jeremy Lee, Apiary Manager



I'm not sure if everyone else is experiencing a tricky year but as usual, the little darlings under my care have not read the script nor Ted Hooper's Bees and Honey. I have had (many more than usual) splits fail to requeen and those that have, have taken 10 days longer for queens to mate and start laying. I have also had three queen right nucs (a split with the old queen) swarm without any warning, weeks after being repatriated to full size hives!! Speaking to Clare & Martin down at Buckfast Abbey, they fear that the cause is the fertility of drones weakening with all the environmental pressure/changes going on.

Aside from that, the colonies at the apiary are all doing well. We currently have (with Tony's loan bees) 8 queenright colonies, a young split and (yes) one of my splits that has just done a flit!! We have managed to requeen a couple of the bad-tempered ladies and enjoyed the wonderful experience of the almost instantaneous change in volume of a queen-less colony when a mature queen cell was introduced - really quite remarkable. Supers are going on and, in Brian's words, they are all pumping!! We have managed to provide a couple of colonies for beginners but hope by building up the breeding stock, will be in a position to help many more people next season.

Plans for the grand opening are going well and look forward to seeing everyone on Sunday the 10th of July.

P.S. Dougal has recovered but has decided not to pursue beekeeping in the future!



South East Somerset Beekeepers Association Divisional Apiary, Hook Valley Solar Park Grand Opening Sunday 10th July, 2pm

To Be opened by Tina Harley, President SESBKA

Tour of site plus refreshments (if wet - opening ceremony will be in the shed!)

(Please bring own cup)

Please follow signs for parking just inside the gate

Closest postcode is BA9 8BS (Holbrook Manor) The gateway is ¼ mile northeast along the A371. (what3words ///smirking,reviewed,dream)



Southeast Somerset Beekeepers Association

2022 Events programme

Hello everybody,

As usual the July update contains some changes and additions so please take the trouble to read it all as there is still a lot happening this year.

Sunday 10th July at 2.30pm The Grand Opening Of Our Divisional Apiary by our President Tina Harley Hook Valley, Wincanton

Located on the A371, 1/3 miles on the left from the Holbrook roundabout or ½ mile on the right from the Bratton Seymour turning - signs will be put out.

There is a large car park but it will be necessary to walk to our apiary. Bee suits will be available. Jeremy Lee and a team of helpers have worked very hard to get our apiary up and working which we can use not only for educational purposes but, hopefully, to provide Nucs, especially for beginners, young Queens etc for our members. Refreshments will be available but please bring your own drinking vessel

Wednesday 10th August @7.30pm At The Market House Castle Cary

A talk by Lynne Ingram on all you need to know about Varroa control.

The different methods available, the different medications and how to apply them and when.

Lynne is a very knowledgeable person and a nominated officer of the SBKA

Monday 29th August Fun In The Field, Fairfield, Castle Cary- 12pm set-up to 6.00pm

A repeat of last year's successful event for us to promote beekeeping and sell honey

Volunteers needed, please contact me

Sunday 11th September- Yarlinton Fair, Yarlinton House, BA9 8DY

Once again, we will be taking our gazebo along to promote beekeeping and to sell honey 9.30am set-up until 4.00pm. **Volunteers needed**, half or all day, please contact me

Tuesday 13th September 7.30 pm At The Market House Castle Cary

A Talk and Demonstration by Suzy Perkins- National Honey Judge

All you need to know on how to handle, store and sell your honey and how to prepare and present honey for Honey Shows and what the judge looks for. So, lots of entries please in our Honey Show!!

Saturday 22nd October Our Annual Honey Show At The Market House Castle Cary

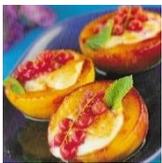
Set-up on Friday 21st Details to follow

Our Division's AGM A Date in November

Details and location to follow

For further Information or to Volunteer please contact Tony Johnstone tmj67@hotmail.co.uk, 07973341557

Cinnamon Grilled Peaches with Honey and Greek Yogurt (A quick, easy recipe and one we have used many times!)



Serves 4

Ingredients:

4 ripe peaches, halved and stoned

15gm butter

1-2 tablespoons of brandy

2 tablespoons honey

1 x 200gm pot Greek style yogurt

2 tablespoons castor sugar mixed with 1 teaspoon

of cinnamon

To decorate – a few redcurrants and fresh mint leaves (optional)

Method:

Arrange the peaches cut side up in a large ovenproof dish, dot with butter and drizzle with brandy and honey. Grill under a medium heat for about 5 minutes until the peaches start to soften. Don't panic if the brandy flames a little under the heat of the grill!

Top each peach with a spoonful of Greek yogurt and a few redcurrants. Sprinkle with the sugar and cinnamon mix.

Return to the grill for 1-2 minutes more until the yogurt just sets. Cool slightly, decorate with the mint and serve while still warm.

