



Newsletter March 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 the March Newsletter and a special welcome to all our new members who we look forward to meeting at apiary visits and meetings during the year. Tony Johnstone has been very busy and organised a full diary of events with something for all our members – details later in this newsletter. Don't forget to let him know your menu choices for the Division Annual Dinner on Tuesday 5th April at the Orchard Inn, Galhampton. Apologies for the wrong prices shown in the previous notices, correct costs of the 2 and 3 course meal now shown at end of menu!

Thank you to those who have sent me items for the newsletter this month. All contributions are very welcome and, as ever, if you have anything that you would like to see included then just let me know. With best wishes,

Anne Collyer, Divisional Secretary SESBKA

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The Beginners Course has just been completed and our thanks go to Lionel Horler for organising it again this year. Doing an on-line course does not compare with being in a class room and communicating face to face.

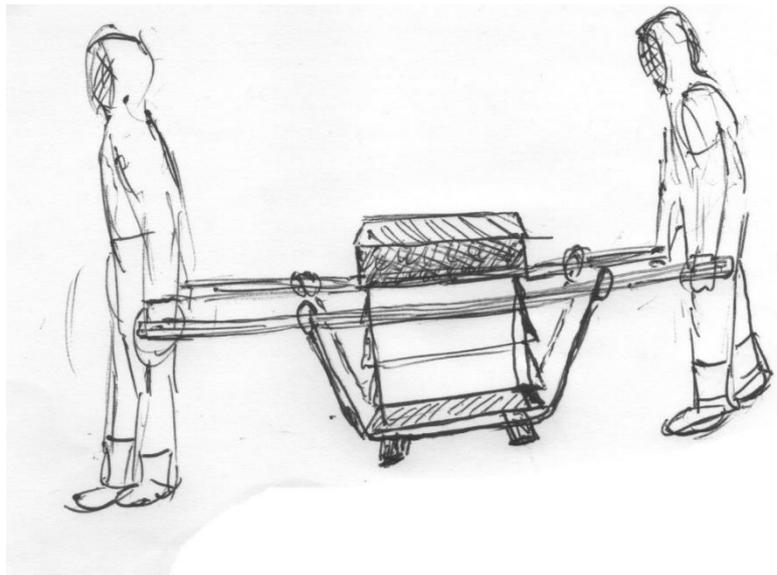
Do try to attend as many Divisional Meetings as you can this year and offer support to your committee when a request for help goes out.

Good luck with your first spring inspection and I hope there are few winter losses.

Tina Harley, President

Top Tip from Joe Bleasdale

I needed to move 3 of my hives to another apiary recently. They are National hives and were heavy with honey for overwintering. The ground from the apiary to the van in which they were to be transported is rough and sloping, so they had to be carried, not wheeled in a cart or barrow. I made a sedan type lift with a pair of poles and ropes looped at each end, and threaded the ropes beneath the hive stands as shown attached. Two people could then carry the hive securely and safely to the vehicle.



It will also work with WBC hives which can be awkward to lift.

Lionel's March Bee Notes

For further information please contact Lionel: email lhorer934@talktalk.net

This is the time of year when all we need to do is check the weight of the hives to re-assure ourselves that there are enough stores inside and that the hive is secure after these unusual storms. The bees are resting and we are using our spare time cleaning and repairing all the empty boxes and other equipment in preparation for the coming year and impatiently waiting to start beekeeping again but beware!! The best thing you can do is sit on your hands and DO NOT open the hive. If you can see some bees bringing in pollen this is a good sign that the queen has started laying and there is brood to be fed, this brood will replace some of the [very] old bees that are now dying at this time of year. Remember to wait until the Flowering Currant is in bloom and then in mid to late March, on a warm sunny day, you can do a quick inspection checking for any disease and noting the situation of their stores. If they need it, you can feed some weak [1:1] sugar solution using a contact feeder.



Some of the plants producing the early pollen so important to get the colony moving in the spring are Hazel, the early Crocus, the hellebore `Christmas Rose` and a weeping willow *Salix caprea* `Kilmarnock`.

It was good to have so many members at our first meeting this year and our thanks go to Tony for finding such a good speaker for the evening. The 75% of our members who did not attend missed a very interesting talk!

I have been asked by one member about the Basic Beekeeping Exam. Are there any other members interested? If so, we could arrange some tuition as a group. This is a simple test open to anyone who has kept bees for at least one year but this is essential if you wish to progress through further syllabus when you could rise to the giddy heights of Master Beekeeper or even National Diploma in Beekeeping.



Mentors Required!



Please let Lionel know if you are willing to help a beginner or two start their beekeeping journey.

BOOK NOW!



Spring 2022 Convention

Friday 8 - Saturday 9 – Sunday 10 April 2022

Harper Adams University, Shropshire, TF10 8NB

Lectures, Workshops and Seminars covering a wide range of practical and scientific topics, directed at all levels of experience, presented by leading experts. Bumper Trade Show Saturday 9th

Speakers and Tutors include; Marin Anastasov, Mark Barnett, Shirley and Richard Bond, Norman Carreck, Lars Chittka, Celia Davis, Joyce Nisbet, Juliet Osborne, Julian Parker, Sara Robb, Nigel Semmence, Jo Widdicombe, Geraldine Wright, and more...

For further information, and to book from 31st January see the Spring Convention pages at www.bbka.org.uk

Southeast Somerset Beekeepers Association

2022 Events programme

Tony Johnstone tmj67@hotmail.co.uk 07973341557

Hello everybody,

The March update contains some changes and additions from the previous one of a couple of months ago so please take the trouble to read it all.

I hope, in addition, to add events where we can take along our gazebo and promote not only beekeeping but our division and to attract new members. As ever, we will be looking for volunteers to man our stand.

We had great support for our events throughout 2021 and I hope you will all come along in 2022 and welcome our new members.

Saturday 12th March

Ansford Academy, Castle Cary 10.00am – 1.00pm

Diane Sleigh of the Bee Depot will set up shop in the car park. However, please contact her directly and place your orders in advance. She will then give you a time slot for collection. Drop-ins are still welcome. If beginners or other members would like to view complete hives or particular kit, please let me know and I can bring them along. I will also schedule a longer time for you to let you have a good look. I can also bring sizing suits for people to try on before purchasing your own suit.

Contact details- sales@thebeedepot.com or 07879 811967

Thursday 17th March

7.30pm At The Market House Castle Cary by Bridget Knutson

Bridget is a true artist when it comes to making items from hive products and will be giving us an updated talk from two years ago, a practical demonstration, and our participation, in preparing beeswax and how to use it to make a range of items from face cream to flowers

Tuesday 5th April

Our Division's Annual Dinner The Orchard, Galhampton, 6.30 for 7.00pm (Postponed from January)

We had a truly excellent dinner here in 2020 in a pleasant friendly atmosphere The menu is attached so it is important that you let me have your choices by Thursday 31st March please. Pay individually on the evening.

Thursday 14th April

7.30 pm At The Market House Castle Cary by Maggie North of The Taunton Division

A hands-on talk and demonstration by a really interesting and knowledgeable person on what to look for and recognise in your hive in the coming months.

This will be particularly useful to beginners as well as to the more experienced

Saturday 30th April

EatCary Festival

An all-day event, back in Cary for the third time, where we take our gazebo and promote beekeeping Volunteers needed, further details will follow nearer the date

Saturday 14th May @ 2.30pm

An apiary visit to Jeremy Lee's Apiary

Jeremy has taken over the management of our new divisional apiary at Hook Valley and is an experienced beekeeper. Details to follow

Thursday 2nd to Saturday 4th June Royal Bath and West Show 2 - 4 June

Shepton Mallet Showground

As in previous years help will be needed in the SBKA marquee. Details to follow

Saturday 11th June @ 2.30pm

A visit to the Shillington's Apiary at Quarr Farm Nr. Gillingham

Once again, they have kindly agreed to host us on what is always an interesting and informative day
Location details to follow

Saturday 2nd July- All Day

Our annual Bee Safari

Eleanor Burgess, a National Bee Inspector, has kindly agreed to be our facilitator for the day

Starting with a visit to Jane Grimes' apiary at Fifehead Magdalen followed by a visit to Richard Brain's apiary in Charlton Musgrove and concluding with a visit and for tea at Brian Martin's apiary in Bourton
Location addresses and timing details to follow

A Date in August

An Apiary visit to our chairman Lionel Horler's Apiary. Details to follow

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

Division Annual Dinner Menu – choices please to Tony by 31st March

Starters a choice of-

Cauliflower, Cheddar & Leek Soup (v) Served with crusty bread & Butter. (*Gluten Free on request*)

Smoked Haddock Pate Served with salad garnish and toasted flatbread.
(*Gluten Free on request*)

Creamy Garlic & Spinach Mushrooms (v) (*Vegan on request*) Served with ciabatta toast. (*Gluten Free on request*)

Breaded Chicken Goujons Served with blue cheese dip and salad

Desserts a choice of-

Lemon & Ginger Cheesecake Served with cream

Warm Apple & Plum Cake Served with custard

Sticky Toffee Pudding Served with ice cream

Malteser Caramel Crunch With cream

Mains a choice of-

Grilled Sea Bass fillet (GF)

Served on roasted vegetables and sauté potatoes, topped with pesto and balsamic dressing

Chicken Breast (GF)

Served on parmesan & chive mash and vegetables, topped with a bacon and leek sauce and fried serrano ham

Beef Bourguignon With dumplings, new potatoes and vegetables

Mushroom & Pepper Stroganoff (V) (*Vegan on request*) Served on a bed of rice

Tea & Coffee can be ordered separately over the bar

Cost: 2 Courses £18.95 3 Courses £23.95

Pay individually on the evening.

Please let Tony know if you have any dietary requirements

SESBKA Division Apiary – Hook Valley Farm



Sunday the 9th of January will stick in some of our minds for a while. Whilst we arrived with good intentions, it became clear that the ground was a bit soggy. One of our brave tribe decided that his Japanese 4 x 4 was up to the job. He was half right - the going downhill bit!! After I managed to borrow a Landrover with proper tyres, we delivered 4 colonies to the site before towing the man who will remain anonymous and aforementioned 4x4 back onto dry land.

So, we have a beautifully mown, fenced area that now contains 4 colonies. The hives bought by the association have been assembled and are on site. We are now ready for the spring when we shall start the split/shook swarm/artificial swarm and bailey combe changing process that hopefully newcomers and experienced beekeepers will enjoy taking part in.

Quotes have been sought for what shall become Lionel's shed or 'Casa Lionel' and we are hoping that the owners of the site will contribute in part or full to its purchase and commissioning.

Jeremy Lee, Divisional Apiary Manager



Honey Vegetable Soup (serves 4)

- 100 grams chopped red onion
- 10 ml olive oil
- 200 grams potatoes
- 100 grams chopped carrots
- 500 grams celery sticks, sliced
- 1 tsp ground coriander
- 750ml chicken stock
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 dessertspoon honey



Put the onion into a saucepan with the oil and cook until onion is soft.
Add the rest of the ingredients and bring to the boil. Simmer for about 20 – 25 minutes.
Pour into a food processor or blender and blitz until smooth
Reheat and serve with warm crusty rolls. A garnish of fresh coriander and a spoonful of crème fraiche can be added for extra indulgence!

BBKA News

Anne Rowberry, BBKA President

PLEASE READ THIS; WE NEED YOUR HELP!

I am writing to ask for your help and to give you some idea about the actions that have been taken as a result of your propositions and direction at the ADM.

We have formed subgroups and discussed the best way to organise the action we need to take.

Adulterated Honey

The issue of adulterated honey will be approached in several ways;

- We decided it would be more effective to link with the petition already started by the HAN group based in Somerset and ask you to support this petition. We need your help to get the signatures over the 10,000 mark so that the government have to respond.
- We do need the government to overhaul and update the labelling of the Honey sold in the UK. This is the first step in reducing the amount of 'so-called' Honey sold in our supermarkets that contain very little honey produced by bees. Please consider signing this petition and ask your friends to sign it. This affects anyone who buys, sells or eats honey.
- Review honey authenticity and current regulation of the honey market

Fully review the honey market and Honey Regulations, to review evidence of honey fraud within the honey market, and reform regulations and arrangements for enforcement, to prevent future fraud.

More details

Sign this petition <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/607735/signatures/new>

- I have written letters to several Ministers and Members of Parliament highlighting the issue and asked for the subject to be included in the Bee Health Advisory Forum meeting, this has been agreed.
- The other action is very positive. We want to promote local Honey and highlight the advantages of knowing where the honey being consumed in the UK originates. the BBKA is going to promote our local Honey and the health and medical benefit that we know it has. We want to celebrate the local Honey produced by our bees.

We are challenging the labelling laws.

We want to know where the honey in our shops has come from; was it from the bees visiting 1000s of flowers to collect and process their Honey or is it a mixture containing complex sugars and chemicals disguising the fact that it contains little or no Honey. We do know that China is responsible for selling tons of 'fake' honey to Europe. We do not at the moment produce sufficient Honey to meet demand and some Honey needs to be imported, but some imported Honey found on shelves in major supermarkets has additives and is not pure Honey. Samples of 1lb jars of imported honey were purchased in 13 of our major supermarkets and sent to Germany where the complex ingredients found in 'Fake' honey can be identified. They all failed the test of being 100% Honey. Our supermarkets are buying honey from the EU which do not have the country or countries of origin clearly stated on the label. The sampling by the English Food Standards Agency of the imports into England cannot detect the sophisticated disguise used to sell this 'Fake' Honey; we do not at the moment have facilities available for this.

If we can persuade the government to change the labelling so that every jar shows the country of origin, the public can make a choice. Cheap blended honey from non-EU countries is available. Why is it so cheap.? Countries listed on the label would help consumers in making an informed choice. Please sign the petition.

Derogation of Neonicotinoids

We asked you to sign the petition on the website requesting government to overturn the derogation issued for the use of a neonicotinoid on sugar beet to control yellow virus. The petition reached its mark and the government will have to justify the decision in Parliament.

I have attached a poster that explains why the use of seeds coated with neonicotinoids and spraying the verges of the fields with herbicides has such a devastating effect on our pollinators and environment.

Asian Hornet

The final action is the request for a plan to cope with possible future incursions of large numbers of Asian hornets that would be beyond the control exercised by our hard-working Bee Inspectors.

I have received a very pleasant letter from Lord Benyon thanking the BBKA and their Asian Hornet teams for all the efforts made to keep the alien invaders at bay. I have attached it for you to read; it is so nice to receive something positive about our actions.

I have written to the Minister of the Food and Environment highlighting the need for a 5 to 10 year plan to be issued by the government that will address all the probable issues such as cost of nest removals, and additional trained personnel, how involved local councils should be and how nests be removed?

It was briefly discussed when I introduced the subject in the Bee Health Advisory Forum but I am also writing to the Non-Native Species Secretariat to ask whether they have a future plan and when that plan will be published.

As you can see, we have been busy but we need your support and we will be introducing more ways in which you can help as the year progresses.

Thank you for your support

Anne Rowberry, BBKA President