



Newsletter March 2023

Committee members:

Tina Harley (President), Lionel Horler (Chair), Ken Jeanes (Vice Chair),
Mat 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 March Newsletter. This month, in addition to Lionel, Tony and Jeremy's articles, we have a message from Mat Phillips, our new treasurer. The Annual Dinner is once again at The Orchard Inn at Galhampton, details and menu choices will follow in a separate email. Please let Tony know your choices **before 16th March**. All are very welcome and we hope to see lots of you there. Also - don't forget the Spring Convention. Geoff Blay, Master Beekeeper, a SESBKA member and Vice Chair of Somerset Beekeepers, is presenting a talk on lifting techniques. Space is limited so early booking advisable!

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 March Bee Notes

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



The theory side of the beginners course has been completed. I think the division will benefit from some new members engaging in our future meetings. We now look forward to the practical sessions where we will be hoping to get some help from more experienced beekeepers to allow us to get into smaller groups to tackle such things as making up nucleus boxes to start the beginners on their beekeeping journey. The next thing is to find mentors to look after our new beekeepers for their first year. If you feel you could help please contact me on 07894039933 or e-mail lhorler934@talktalk.net

It won't be long before the bees really start flying and rearing lots of brood to get the season going. This will mean we will have to start looking at the bees to check for disease and that they are developing as they should. Of course we will now remember the jobs we were meaning to do during the winter but kept putting off such as repairing a hole in a hive or cleaning some frames. Well it will now have to be fitted in between the important job of caring for the bees, but perhaps we will get it right next year!



From the Treasurer

As a relatively new and inexperienced beekeeper, I have benefited greatly from my membership of SESBKA. The initial training and ongoing mentoring, wonderful events, bee safaris and shows all help us to become better beekeepers, and I am therefore delighted to be able to provide some support in return by becoming the new Treasurer. As I take on this responsibility, I am very grateful to the detailed and excellent handover from my predecessor, Richard Harris, who has undertaken the task with great diligence for the past three years. The Treasurer's role is underpinned by an 'interesting' BBKA technical platform and, in case I upset it, I am pleased that Richard is also a neighbour! We share a small apiary in Marston Magna so advice is close to hand.

Your subscription each year gives you membership to the Somerset and British Beekeepers Associations who in turn provide, among many other things, Bee Disease insurance (BDI). I shall be transferring the relevant allocations to the SBKA in March, so if you have not yet renewed your membership, there is still time to do so. I am happy to help if you need more information -please email me at mat.phillips@neovoca.com.

I look forward to meeting you all at events throughout the year.

Mat Phillips

News from the Apiary

Jeremy Lee, Apiary Manager

I am sure some of your colonies have started to venture out on the slightly warmer days which is always nice to see especially after such a wet and cold winter. Those of you that can access the camera at the apiary may have seen the odd day when entrances of the hives on show have looked like Piccadilly Circus. I wish I could assign this to mine and Brian's brilliance as bee keepers but I am sure 'the girls' would be soon to correct me. No doubt I will get a proper stinging on first inspection for even thinking thus.

Anyway, pleased to say that all 10 colonies that were put to bed in October have made it through to date. Indeed, they were in pretty impervious form when Brian and I installed the new stands (ably fabricated by Mr Collyer) last week, banging stakes into the ground and generally irritating them. Lionel and Adam have brought the last three colonies from Carymoor, donated by Stewart Holden who has sadly lost his battle with cancer. So, from a standing start this time last year, we now have 13 colonies - a grown up apiary. At the last committee meeting, Lionel reported that 13 people had attended the beginners' course so the pressure is now on to supply all of those who want bees with a nucleus this summer. Maybe the planets are aligning.

The facility is for all members and volunteers to assist with the weekly inspections once the season starts are most welcome. If anyone has any suggestions or wants to experiment with queen rearing etc, or indeed can add their experience to this fledgling project, please don't be shy. We are very fortunate to have been given a site, infrastructure and lots of equipment and it should be enjoyed by all.

2023 Programme Update

There is a lot of information in the update this month and so I have sent it as a separate email – please look for it and read!!

All the programme information can also be found on the SESBKA website at www.somersetbeekeepers.org.uk/south-east.html

A brief summary of confirmed dates is below:

Saturday 11th March 10am SESBKA Apiary Hook Valley - Housekeeping!

Closest postcode is BA9 8BS (Holbrook Manor) The gateway is ¼ mile northeast along the A371.

(what3words ///smirking,reviewed,dream

Saturday 18th March 10am SESBKA Apiary Hook Valley - Frame Making

Tuesday 21st March 6.30pm SESBKA Annual Dinner, Orchard Inn, Galhampton

Tuesday 4th April 7.30pm Talk at The Market House Castle Cary - Bee Pests and Diseases

Saturday 15th April The Bee Depot Click & Collect Ansford Academy Carpark

Saturday 29th April 10am SESBKA Apiary Hook Valley – Building Nucs

Saturday 13th May 2.30pm Apiary Visit to Lionel Horler, South Barrow – Queen Rearing

Thursday 1st – Saturday 3rd June – Royal Bath & West Show

Saturday 17th June 2.30pm Apiary Visit to Adam Morka, Bratton Seymour

Saturday 15th July 10am SESBKA Bee Safari

Saturday 14th October The SESBKA Annual Honey Show

Thursday 16th November 7pm SESBKA AGM



Honeyed Lamb

Taken from *The Farmhouse Kitchen Yearbook* – one of my favourite recipe books

Serves 6 – 8

1.3 – 1.8kg joint of lamb, leg or shoulder

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

1 teaspoon ground ginger, 1 dessertspoon dried rosemary or

2 sprigs fresh rosemary, 2 tablespoons runny honey and about 300ml cider



Rub salt, pepper and ginger all over the joint and place in a tin that will be a fairly snug fit.

Sprinkle rosemary over it and drizzle with the honey.

Pour the cider over the joint

Allowing 30 minutes per 450gm, roast near the top of a moderately hot oven (Gas 6, 400°F, 200°C) for the first half hour. Then baste the meat and reduce oven to Gas 4, 350°F, 190°C for remaining cooking time. Baste every 20 minutes and add more cider if necessary.

Lift meat onto a warmed dish to rest and make gravy using residue in roasting tin.

Serve with roasted vegetables.



Electron Microscopy at the BBKA Spring Convention on 21st April 2023

Two special workshops will be available to book from 09.30 on Saturday 25th February. For these and details of the additional workshops already open to help meet demand, please see <https://www.bbka.org.uk/planning-your-bbka-spring-convention>

If you purchased your tickets in the first three days (30th Jan - 1st Feb) and have not yet received a wristband & programme, please contact bbka@bbka.org.uk

We look forward to seeing many of you in April.

Joyce Nisbet BBKA Trustee & Spring Convention Committee Chair

BOOK NOW!



Friday 21 - Saturday 22 – Sunday 23 April 2023

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 22nd

Speakers and Tutors include: Randy Oliver (virtually), Samuel Ramsey (virtually), Marin Anastasov, Martin Bencsik, Shirley & Richard Bond, Giles Budge, Stephen Case-Green, Julie Coleman, Michael Collier, Lynfa Davies, Stephen Fleming, Mike Garratt, Fani Hatjina, John Hendrie, Luke & Suzie Hutchinson, Lynne Ingram, Angela Kirk, Stephen Martin, Jane Medwell, Jenny Morgan, Chris Park, Tom Pope, Sara Robb, Anne Rowberry, Debbie Smith, Victoria Soroker, Sean Stephenson, Oliver St. John, Jane Stout, Jim & Val Vivian-Griffiths, Alison Wakeman and more.....

For further information, **and to book** from 30th January

see the Spring Convention pages of www.bbka.org.uk