



# Newsletter May 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 May Newsletter. As ever, plenty of news and some changes to the previously advertised programme of events so please read carefully! Thank you to all who came and supported the Division at the recent Eat Cary Festival. Although sadly the stand was not in the most prominent position, the team did a great job engaging with the public and selling honey. There will be another chance to promote beekeeping at the Royal Bath & West Show, Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June. Volunteers are need to help with the Somerset Beekeepers Marquee for a few hours at a time (in return for a free entry ticket!). If you are able to help, please contact Stewart Gould, Chair SBKA, directly at [chairman@somersetbeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:chairman@somersetbeekeepers.org.uk)

Anne Collyer, Divisional Secretary SESBKA

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SESBKA are offering a FREE basic first aid training course to those who are willing to commit to attend at least one apiary visit/lecture during the year as the nominated first aider. Jane Jeanes, a very experienced first aid trainer and Red Cross member, has kindly volunteered to run the course which is expected to last about two hours. This will cover basic resuscitation skills and use of EpiPen. Venue and date to be confirmed but please let me know if you are interested.

Anne Collyer Secretary SESBKA [amcollyer838@gmail.com](mailto:amcollyer838@gmail.com) or 07803 243643

## Lionel's May Bee Notes

For further information please contact Lionel: email [lhorler934@talktalk.net](mailto:lhorler934@talktalk.net)

Up to now the season seems to be progressing as we would hope. The bees are flying most of the time and bringing in nectar and pollen, the queens are laying, some faster than others, any virgin queens that have been flying seem to have mated successfully and are now starting their own colonies. It is noticeable that colonies from the same apiary and starting the year from the same position are developing at different rates. Of course, the one thing that is different and we cannot control is the queens' genetic makeup. Although we do try to determine which colonies the queens come from, we have no control over their choice of partners!

I hope all beginners who intend to keep bees have been allocated a mentor (please contact me if you haven't). Meanwhile all of you are welcome to join the apiary meetings advertised for the summer.

I am always trying to think if I can make things easier for myself or the bees, so I was thinking of water for the bees at the division's new apiary. There is a water trough nearby but this can be dangerous as they need somewhere to stand while drinking to keep their body dry. I was thinking of placing a shallow tray with a suitable landing stage at the edge of the apiary, which would need topping up regularly. When I next visited the site Jeremy Lee pointed out a spring close by with bees among the grass drinking!! You can't better nature.



## Rhubarb and Honey Jam



This month, with plenty of rhubarb in the garden, I have adapted one of my favourite jam recipes to include honey. I made just over 3lbs of jam with this easy recipe

### Ingredients:

- 1 kg trimmed, washed rhubarb cut into approximately 2cm pieces
- 1 kg of granulated sugar
- 80gm honey
- Zest and juice of 2 lemons



### Method:

1. Put all the ingredients into a large glass bowl, stir and cover with a plate. Leave for approximately 2 hours to allow the sugar to dissolve into the rhubarb juices.
2. Pour everything into a preserving pan and heat gently, stirring all the time, until the sugar has completely dissolved.
3. Bring to the boil and cook for about 15 – 20 minutes until the jam has reached setting point
4. To test for a set, drop a small amount onto a cold saucer and leave for 30 seconds. If the jam wrinkles when you gently push with your finger, it has reached the setting point. If not continue to cook for a further couple of minutes before testing again.
5. Remove the pan from the heat and leave to stand for a couple of minutes before pouring into sterilised jars. Seal immediately.

Enjoy!

## Are you searching for a home for your hives?

For several years Jessica has had a beekeeper site his hives at her farm near Holwell, Sherborne but sadly he has had to leave as he is not well. It was a very happy arrangement, and she misses the honey! If you are looking for a new site then please contact Jessica directly at [chattojessica@icloud.com](mailto:chattojessica@icloud.com)

## Or Maybe a New Challenge?

### BBKA News Editor Vacancy

The BBKA is seeking a new editor for *BBKA News*. After doing a superb job for thirty years as our editor, Sharon Blake has decided to pass the magazine on to someone else. Interested applicants should be confident that they can fulfil the editor's role and responsibilities and then submit a curriculum vitae and a minimum of two references.

Applicants who are invited to interview will be asked to pitch their ideas on how they see the development of the *BBKA News* going forward.

### Role & Responsibilities:

The editor is responsible for the content and production of *BBKA News* and reports to the BBKA Editorial Board. *BBKA News* is expected to provide a wide range of content suitable to meet the needs of beekeepers who will have a range of experience. To achieve these objectives the editor will:

- Be an active beekeeper with a sound knowledge of beekeeping practice and beekeeping policies.
- Have relevant editorial experience and a good eye for detail
- Generate ideas for articles in line with BBKA policy.
- Commission and obtain articles in a timely manner by contacting potential authors.
- Be comfortable working as a team member liaising with the deputy editor, news editorial assistant and advertising sales.
- Set and agree publication dates with the editorial team, printers and distributors.

The position is on a self-employed contract basis, terms of which will be negotiated.

If you think you can take on the role and are interested in receiving further details on the job description and remuneration package or wish to apply, please contact Leigh Sidaway the General Manager at [gen.manager@bbka.org.uk](mailto:gen.manager@bbka.org.uk) or by phone 02476 696679 ext 2005.

Closing date 20th May 2022. Interviews 8th June 2022.

## WhatsApp Swarm Collection Group

There has been a great response to the email regarding setting up a WhatsApp Group for swarm collectors to speed up time taken to collect a swarm once notified. If you have not yet replied but would be happy to be included in this group and willing to collect swarms (depending on location!) just send me an email to confirm that you are happy for me to include you in the group together with your mobile number. I



will then send you an invite via WhatsApp. You will need a smart phone and download 'WhatsApp'. Please note that your number will be visible to other members in the group and so to comply with data protection regulations I need to have your consent for this.



For those new to swarm collection there is an excellent chart you can download <https://www.bbka.org.uk/Handlers/Download>

If you would like to collect swarms or learn how to but do not have a smart phone, let me know and I will keep a list of contacts. Guy Clothier, an experienced bee keeper and committee member, based at Wincanton is always on hand to help. He does not have a smart phone but you can contact him on 07875833368.

### Insurance and safety

**Please always remember that YOUR safety is paramount!** Do not attempt to remove a swarm unless you are confident that it is safe to do so. If you have not collected a swarm before, make sure you go with an experienced person. Use the WhatsApp group to find someone to help you or contact me and I will put you in touch with one of the team.

*If you are a registered or partner member of SESBKA you will have public liability insurance if you are collecting the swarm as part of your normal duties. You will not be covered if you make a business of swarm collection. • The BBKA insurance has a working limit of 3 metres. Broadly speaking, you should not attempt any work for which you do not have adequate equipment, training or experience. • Ask permission to trim or remove branches. • Avoid any kind of damage or alteration to property – even with the owner's permission. • For insurance details, see [www.bbka.org.uk/public-liability-insurance](http://www.bbka.org.uk/public-liability-insurance) • Remember that while swarms tend to be gentle, some may not be and some may be absconding colonies- wear protection*

## SESBKA Division Apiary – Hook Valley Farm



Just returned from the site after rather a hectic morning. My miniature wire haired daschund decided to accompany me this morning and I thought he would have a wonderful time rooting through the hedgerows as we attended to the bees. Halfway through the first hive he suddenly dashed across the field being chased by bees. Once I had caught up with him and pulled off the ten or so attackers and calmed him down, leaving him in the car, I returned to the hive. Upon lifting the next frame, the bees quite literally exploded and went into full attack mode. The hive was hastily reassembled and whilst

Adam, Brian and myself escaped to a safe distance it become obvious that I had taken the scent of attacking bees and sting pheromone back to the colony - school boy error. Once things had calmed down, we successfully split two of the other hives making up two 'queen right' nucs. The colonies are pretty strong so we may make up more nucs when we return in a week's time. As with my bees at home, swarming season has obviously come early and despite there being lots of space for expansion in all the colonies, the little darlings are making plans to wrong foot us in spades. As for the grumpy colony - I will return wearing my ice hockey goalies' suit (without Daschund) next week to see what mood she is in!!



On the plus side, the shed has been installed and we should have a fully operational facility in the next month or so. We hope to have an official opening with ribbon cutting and bubbles before too long.

My apiary visit, The Dairy House, Whitcombe Farm Lane, Corton Denham DT9 4LX. Parking will be advised on arrival depending on which

field the shepherd has his sheep in!

*Jeremy Lee, Divisional Apiary Manager*



## **Southeast Somerset Beekeepers Association** **2022 Events programme**

Programme Secretary: Tony Johnstone email: [tjm67@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tjm67@hotmail.co.uk) Tel: 07973341557

Hello everybody,

As usual the May update contains some changes and additions so, please take the trouble to read it all. Our host members take a lot of trouble to ensure we have a worthwhile visit so please come along and support them.

### **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May @ 2.30pm An apiary visit to Jeremy Lee's Apiary**

The Dairy House, Whitcombe Farm Lane, Corton Denham DT9 4LX

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

### **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June Bath & West Show Shepton Mallet Showground**

As in previous years help will be needed in the SBKA marquee. Please contact Stewart Gould directly (details at start of newsletter)

### **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June @ 2.30pm A visit to James Butt's apiary in Milborne Wick**

James is a relatively new member who has been keeping bees for some time and who, by not being afraid to experiment, has had great success. This promises to be a really interesting visit.

Details to follow

### **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 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 Richard Brain's apiary in Charlton Musgrave followed by Jane Grimes' apiary at Fifehead Magdalen and concluding with a visit and for tea at Brian Martin's apiary in Bourton

Location addresses and timing details to follow

### **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July at 2.30pm**

#### **The Grand Opening Of Our Divisional Apiary**

We are planning to hold an open day at our new Apiary which is now up and running thanks to the work Jeremy Lee has put in together with Lionel and many others

Details to follow

### **A Date in August to be confirmed at 7.30pm At The Market House Castle Cary**

A talk on Varroa Control. Details to follow

### **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> October Our Annual Honey Show At The Market House Castle Cary**

Set-up on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> Details to follow

**Our Division's AGM A Date in November** Details and location to follow