



# Newsletter April 2021

Committee members: Ken Jeanes (President), Dennis White (Chair), Lionel Horler (Vice Chair), Richard Harris (Treasurer), Anne Collyer (Secretary), Jane Jeanes (SBKA Delegate), Tony Johnstone (Programme Secretary), Guy Clothier, Adam Morka, John Wood.

Welcome to the April newsletter. I hope this finds you all well as we gradually come out of lockdown and into the summer.

In addition to Lionel's Notes and programme update from Tony we have an update from BBKA this month regarding Starvation and Foul Brood Warning and details of a social science study to support the Healthy Bees Plan 2030

With best wishes, Anne Collyer, Divisional Secretary SESBKA

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## **MENTORS**

We have fourteen new members/beginners this year and as usual we like to assign a mentor to help them through their first year. This year we have had a good response from our more experienced members but we would still like some help in the Castle Cary area. If you think you can help, please contact Lionel Horler. [lhorer934@talktalk.net](mailto:lhorer934@talktalk.net)



## **ASIAN HORNET**

We are looking for more volunteers to join our Asian Hornet Action Team. The role of the team includes; -

- Educating fellow beekeepers and members of the public.
- Distributing publicity material, posters in shop windows and village notice boards.
- Having a presence at local shows and events.
- Aiding members of the public with identification of Asian Hornet.
- Monitoring for Asian Hornet.
- Mapping the position of monitoring traps and identifying gaps in coverage.
- Information leaflets and bait for monitoring traps will be supplied. The monitoring traps are easily made using a honey/jam jar with a hole in the lid and a wick made from kitchen poll/jay cloth sitting in the bait and protruding through the lid so that the hornet can suck the bait from outside the jar and NOT get trapped inside. The idea is to place the trap where it can be seen regularly during the day e.g., outside the kitchen window, so that you can observe and then report any A H sightings, DO NOT CAPTURE any insects.
- Team members are encouraged to engage with any networks that they are part of and give them information about A H.
- There is a power point presentation available which can be used if this would help.
- If you think you could help, please contact the secretary.

## **Lionel's April Bee Notes**



It's still too cold [11/04/21] to do a full inspection of the hives, we need to wait until it gets to ``shirt sleeve weather`` that will be about 15°C. So, beginners please have a little more patience, your mentor will be in touch when the weather is suitable.

I did a quick look through my hives in late March when we had a warm spell and I'm pleased to say that they were looking well apart from two small late casts which had succumbed. This was to be expected, I could have combined them but decided to give them a chance to survive as individual colonies. The other hives had plenty of stores, some brood and still room for the queen to lay.

I was surprised to see so much drone brood in one hive in particular so this tells me that things are more forward than I thought. Drone brood is just natural progression for a colony and is their preparation for swarming if they feel they need to in the future.

### **IMPORTED QUEENS**

I expect most of you have read about 15 million bees which could be killed in Northern Ireland due to a tightening of the rules about importing bees from Europe following Brexit. Of course, this is an exaggeration of the facts by someone trying to gain public sympathy so that he can import bees from Italy. We should be grateful for Brexit if only because this rule change will help to protect us from importing the Small Hive Beetle [a notifiable pest] which is proving difficult for the Italian authorities to control for the last six years.

Although the rules ban the import of package bees from Europe, queen bees with a few attendants are allowed with a veterinary inspection, but why do people want to take the risk of importing another problem? As I always say, get your queens from a local source and she will be acclimatized to your local conditions



### **Honey mustard-glazed pork chops with mash**

#### Ingredients

2 tbsp clear honey	2 pork chops
2 tbsp wholegrain mustard	200ml fresh chicken stock
1 crushed garlic clove	½ tsp white wine vinegar
2 tbsp olive oil	

#### Method

Heat the oven to 200°C/180°C fan/gas 6.

Mix the honey, wholegrain mustard, crushed garlic and olive oil in a bowl.

Put the pork chops in a roasting tin and coat in half the honey mixture.

Roast for 20 minutes, basting halfway through with the juices.

Put the remaining marinade into a small saucepan over a medium-high heat with fresh chicken stock and white wine vinegar. Bubble for 5-10 minutes until reduced by a third. Taste and season with salt and pepper. Serve the chops with mash potatoes, vegetables and gravy.



# 2021 Event Programme

Programme Secretary Tony Johnstone [tmj67@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tmj67@hotmail.co.uk) or 07973341557

Please see outlined below our updated programme for the rest of the year to date.



**Saturday 1 May**- All Day- Castle Cary Eat festival.

I am pleased to say that this is definitely going ahead. A big thank you to everybody who has volunteered to staff our gazebo. As soon as I receive the Schedule from the organisers, I will publish the rota. If any of you have honey to sell on the day, please let me know.

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May- from 10.00am**

Dianne Sleight will be providing her 'Click & Collect Service' again at the Hadspen Village Hall carpark to deliver your orders. Please contact her on 07879811967 or at [sales@thebeedepot.com](mailto:sales@thebeedepot.com) to place your order

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May @2.30 pm**

**An Apiary Visit Hosted By Adam Morka's At His Apiary In Bratton Seymour**

Adam is relatively new member but with beekeeping experience with lots to see. Full details and location address to follow.

**Saturday 5th June @ 2.30pm**

**An Apiary Visit Hosted By Jeremy and Anne Collyer At Their Apiary In Shepton Montague**

Anne is also a relatively new member and our Secretary with 2 hives. Further details and location address to follow.

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July- The SESBKA Annual Bee Safari Starting at 10.00am**

This year's Safari will be led by Geoff Blay starting with Theresa Hallett's apiary in North Cadbury followed by a visit to one of Geoff's apiaries, ending at John Wood's apiary in Lattiford so this will be a really interesting day. Don't forget your picnic lunch.

Everybody is invited to come along for all or just part of the day, however. It would be helpful if you can let me know that you will be joining in so Brenda can make enough cakes to go round.

**August- An Apiary visit hosted by our President Ken Jeans and his wife Jane**

Date and details to follow.

**September- An Apiary visit hosted by our Chairman Dennis and Jean White**

Date and details to follow.

**Saturday 30 October**- All Day- The SESBKA Honey Show at the Market House with set-up on Friday evening

# BBKA News

## Starvation and Foulbrood Warning Spring 2021

Please check that your bees have plenty of food during this cold snap.

### EMERGENCY FEEDING MAY BE NEEDED

Your colonies may be starting to run out of food! It would be advisable to check the food levels by opening the hive and making a very quick observation on their store levels.

It is important to check hives have **small entrances**, **Foulbrood** is about in some areas and small colonies or those suffering from disease need to be able to defend themselves. Strong colonies may try to rob weaker ones and thus contract the infections. It probably is not possible to inspect the colonies as it is still cold but the best defence is to ensure they all have food and inspect their brood very carefully when it is warm enough.

Key points to remember are on Beebase:

The colony may still have stores available which are at the other end of the brood chamber to the cluster of bees.

• **At this time of the year we would usually start feeding sugar syrup but with these temperatures it is easier to use fondant. Place the fondant directly above the bees, turning the crown board if necessary, so that one of the porter bee escape holes is above the cluster or place it directly on the frames.**

Please be aware that this should be done as quickly and carefully as possible and although it may seem too cold to open the hive now, it is far better to do so knowing the bees are ok than not to and find later that they have died.

- Best Practice Guideline No. 6 - [Spring Checks](#) (updated June 2018)

A statement about registering varroa in your apiaries is on Beebase. Please note that you do not have to take any action and the impact on you will be negligible. It is designed to ensure the UK trade rules are in line with the EU. A revised statement will be posted on beebase in the near future.

Please see the separate attachments concerning survey being funded by Defra and request feedback from our members to inform the Healthy Bee Plan 2030. The company wish to ask for information that only the Area Associations have access to and may have already approached some of you. The information will be fed into a research project that will inform the way the Healthy Bee Plan is implemented. The BBKA support the project but are not involved in the details so please address questions to Helene. If you can help it would be much appreciated.