



# Newsletter July 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 July newsletter with a special welcome to all our new members. I hope you are all well and that by the time you receive this the sun is shining! Did any of you listen to the BBC Radio 2's Big Bee Challenge interviews recently? I managed to catch a few on my to work and it was very interesting to hear about all the different species of bees in the UK. For those of you with young children/grandchildren there are a range of bee related activities to download from their website [BBC Radio 2 Big Bee Challenge](#)

With best wishes, Anne Collyer, Divisional Secretary SESBKA  
[amcollyer838@gmail.com](mailto:amcollyer838@gmail.com) 07803 243643 Presscombe, Shepton Montague, Wincanton, BA9 8JG

## Lionel's July Bee Notes

How are the beginners getting on? Do you all have bees? We would like to hear of your experience up to now.

How many members can we enter to take the basic beekeepers assessment this year? This really is basic practical beekeeping and we can arrange some tuition to prepare if you wish. There must be several who are eligible and it's not difficult, in fact the assessors actually want you to pass, which is unusual. You just need to have managed at least one colony of bees for at least twelve months. A pass in this assessment is required before you can proceed onto the more demanding exams leading up to being a master beekeeper, if this is the way you want to go, it's all up to you.

*For further information please contact Lionel*

email [lhorer934@talktalk.net](mailto:lhorer934@talktalk.net) or visit the BBKA website  
<https://www.bbka.org.uk/basic-assessment>



Why do people keep bees?

I know I like honey and I enjoy the company of other beekeepers [mostly] but what I really like is being among bees and trying to work out what they are doing and why. As an example, I started a few nucs this year and when I inspected the first of them and found that they had drawn the comb, the queen had started laying and the foragers had begun to store nectar and pollen in the cells, I knew then why I keep bees. The feeling I had when they had done all that just as I thought they would, with no help or instructions from anyone was a real glow and I hope I never stop having that thrill when watching my bees.

## Bee Safari July 10<sup>th</sup>



This was a great success, despite the weather! Unfortunately, the downpour after lunch meant we were unable to complete the day by visiting John's apiary but spent the last part of the afternoon sheltering in Brian's garage with a very welcome cup of tea, eating the most amazing cakes and taking the opportunity to quiz Geoff Blay further. A huge thank you to Theresa, John, Brenda and Brian for their hospitality and to Geoff for his down to earth approach and excellent instruction as well as the visit to one of his apiaries at Teal's. We all learnt a lot and hopefully we will see more of Geoff in the future.

I expect a few of you have been out and about collecting swarms – this picture was sent in by Adam who collected this swarm at the end of June – estimated weight 3kg!



---

*SESBKA Honey Show Saturday 30th October*

*Market House Castle Cary*

---

Schedules will be sent out later but there will be classes for everyone to enter. Come and have a go!

We will also need help on Friday for set up and on the day – anything from stewarding, helping on a stall, selling teas and cakes. All help greatly appreciated.

Can you help advertise the event? Please let me know if you are able to display a poster, have access to your local parish mag etc.

Please contact Tony [tmj67@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tmj67@hotmail.co.uk) or 07973341557

## 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.

You are all warmly invited to the apiary visits detailed below. Please can you let Tony know if you are coming so that we can make sure we have enough cake and tea!

### **7<sup>th</sup> August 2.30pm- An Apiary visit hosted by our President Ken Jeans and his wife Jane**

Southview Farm Vine Street Templecombe BA8 0JY. Coming from Wincanton pass the yew tree and follow the arrow for the one-way system which is ahead of you signed recreation ground. Pass the rec and Southview is the next right turn. It will be signed.

**Castle Cary Town Council will be staging Fun on the Field on 30<sup>th</sup> August (Bank Holiday Monday)** as a marker of Castle Cary bouncing back after lockdown. This will be an event for all the family and will comprise music, food and drink, performances and shows from 2pm to 6pm on that day. It is yet another opportunity to promote beekeeping, sell honey and recruit new members. If you are able to help please contact Tony.

**September- An Apiary visit hosted by our Chairman Dennis and Jean White** at Wincanton (Details to follow)

**18<sup>th</sup> September Somerton Honey Show** Keinton Mandeville Village Hall 1pm – 5pm

**Saturday 30 October**- All Day- The SESBKA Honey Show at the Market House with set-up on Friday evening. Schedule and details to follow

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November** – SESBKA AGM Hadspen Village Hall

## **Honey Lemon Curd**

(a microwave recipe)



Finely grated rind of 4 lemons  
175ml lemon juice  
50g unsalted butter cubed  
135 ml honey  
50g caster sugar  
5 eggs, well beaten



Put all ingredients into a 2.8 litre ovenproof glass bowl. Microwave on HIGH for 1 minute then stir very well. Continue to microwave on HIGH for 5 -6 minutes until lemon curd is thick stirring with a balloon whisk every 30 seconds to prevent curdling. When curd is thick remove from the oven (it will be very hot!) and immediately pour curd into a cold mixing bowl. Whisk until cool then pot into sterilised jars and cover. This can be stored in the 'fridge for 2-3 weeks.

# **BBKA News**

In 2021, Bees' Needs Week will be held 12-18 July.

Whilst we keep honeybees, we often talk to the public about other types of bees, especially those of us who volunteer to take swarm calls. This is a valuable service to the public who ring us often concerned or frightened about the bees they see.

Bees' Needs Week encourages the public to take simple actions to help all pollinators.

If you have photos you'd like to share of your own bees (or other pollinators) then please tag us on twitter @britishbee or share your photos to our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/TheBritishBeekeepersAssociation> Or on Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/britishbeekeepers/>

These are the five simple actions you can take to help pollinators and make sure their populations are sustained:

Grow more flowers, shrubs and trees  
Let your garden grow wild  
Cut your grass less often  
Don't disturb insect nest and hibernation spots  
Think carefully about whether to use pesticides

Let's celebrate honeybees and all the other pollinators during Bees' Needs Week.

Kind Regards

Diane Drinkwater

Vice Chair and Chair of Communications Committee

## **New Leaf Life Design Award**

It's not very often we get good news like this, but here is a real opportunity for somebody who would like to start keeping bees, but is not able to for some reason, or other. Becky Wright, of New Leaf Life Design, which is a company providing workplace and life design coaching has, very generously, donated a large percentage of her fees from sessions with Riverford Foods and Homes in Sedgemoor to Somerset Beekeepers. This money will be used to help somebody, who is contemplating beekeeping, with the start-up costs, but of course, there are conditions. The award will be made to someone who might otherwise find it financially daunting or somebody who has suffered from a situation, not of their making. The lines are purposely blurred so that the award is flexible.

Any member who knows somebody who would benefit from this award, should contact their divisional secretary, who can make a bid to SBKA for this money. That bid should be as detailed as

possible, giving the good reasons that the person proposed deserves a helping hand. Submissions should be received by Somerset BKA secretary by October 16th, 4 weeks before the November SBKA council meeting. The recipient will have to attend a beginners' course and be mentored for the first year. Should they give up beekeeping within three years, all equipment purchased using the award must be returned to SBKA. There will be other conditions but this is an award that could make a considerable difference. The fund currently stands at £325.00.

Get thinking about who might benefit from this, and get in touch with your secretary.

Regards

Stewart Gould

(chairman - Somerset Beekeepers association)