



# Newsletter May 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 May newsletter. Thank you to all those who came along to the Castle Cary Eat Festival on 1<sup>st</sup> May. The rain stayed away and it was a great chance to get out and about talking to new people. The stand generated a lot of interest and honey sales were strong! Guy demonstrated skep making and others on the stand chatted to visitors and answered questions, hopefully inspiring people to learn more about bees and maybe even become beekeepers themselves.

With best wishes, Anne Collyer, Divisional Secretary SESBKA

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## Exciting News!

Hook Valley Solar Farm, Wincanton have kindly offered us the use of land for a Divisional Apiary. This is an excellent opportunity to develop an apiary that all members can benefit from whether you are just starting your beekeeping journey or have years of experience. To do this we need help and are looking for someone who is prepared to volunteer as Apiary Manager, working alongside a team of helpers.

For more details, please contact Lionel Horler [lhorler934@talktalk.net](mailto:lhorler934@talktalk.net) 01963 351037

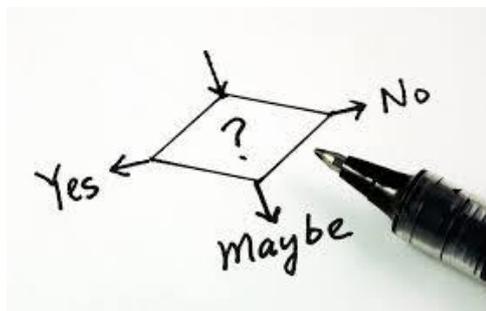
## Lionel's May Bee Notes

This is a worrying time for beekeepers. April says the queen should be increasing her laying and the colony would build up, but cold weather stops the bees from foraging so they stay in the hive and eat any stores they have left. So, do we need to feed to help with the increasing numbers?

Also are the bees contemplating swarming? To find out we need to do a full inspection but that could chill the brood.

Decisions, decisions, all part of the fun of keeping bees.

I was getting desperate to check one hive, it was about 14°C but when I removed the roof, I could feel lots of heat escaping from the hive so I quickly replaced the roof and returned home hoping for warmer weather soon.



I have had more trouble with badgers at my apiary at the school, they have destroyed the last colony I had there so I have decided to close down that site and admit defeat.

Thank goodness I have more bees to play with when the weather warms up and I can enjoy their company once more. As usual the beekeepers motto should be HAVE PATIENCE!

# **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!

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

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

Adam is relatively new member but with beekeeping experience and with lots to see. Please meet at New Park Farm, Bratton Seymour, Wincanton BA9 8BX. Parking is at the bottom of the drive.

## **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. Parking is available in the yard or along the lane. Presscombe, Shepton Montague, Wincanton BA9 8JG

## **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**

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

Date and details to follow for both these visits

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

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

## **FOR SALE:**

### **Second hand beekeeping equipment**

1 x hive – complete with stand, open mesh floor, entrance block, brood box with frames, Q/E, two supers with frames, cover board and roof £100

1 x hive – complete as above with good stand, floor, frames, roof etc but brood and super boxes are a bit older and shabbier. £40

1 x high double stand £10

1 x high single stand £5

Spare roof - flat type £5

2 x wooden nuc boxes with 2<sup>nd</sup> tier for feeding and roof. Good nick with brood frames and foundation £30 each

1 x Poly nuc box with brood frames - good nick hardly used £40

1 x lidded plastic box with 2 x supers worth of wet drawn super frames. (could be good to go straight on your colony for bumper crop of honey!) Free

2 x mesh flat homemade screens. I found them useful. They go under and over supers with comb for winter storage to prevent wax moth from entering. £5

5 x varroa boards, 3 x ekes, several have entrances so can be used for swarm control £10

2 x large rapid feeders, two contact feeders and 1 x frame feeder. £10

2 x white bee suits – fencing hood type, both in good condition, one is size extra large £20 each or £35 for both

Please telephone Bridget on 01985 844884. I live just north of Mere off the A303

Anticipating summer arriving at some point, this month's recipe is

### **Honey Ice Cream**

#### **Serves 4**

250ml milk

125g honey

2 egg yolks

150ml double cream



**1** Pour the milk into a saucepan and bring to the boil. Add the honey and whisk well until the milk almost returns to the boil.

**2** Put the two egg yolks into a bowl and whisk these well. Pour in the cream and mix together thoroughly. Pour in the boiling milk and honey and mix very well. Strain the custard through a fine sieve into a clean bowl and then let it cool.

**3** Decant the honey custard into an ice-cream machine and follow the maker's instructions until churned. If you do not have an ice-cream maker, then you can whisk by hand – it will still give you a delicious ice-cream if not quite the same texture. Put the honey custard into a bowl in a freezer and whisk every 10 minutes or so until frozen.



## **BBKA News**

The BBKA is pleased to confirm that the following training courses at Stoneleigh will be available summer 2021.

Advanced Queen Rearing: 3rd & 4th July (2 day course)

Basic Queen Rearing: 11th July (1 day course)

Advanced Husbandry Training 30th July to 1st August (3 day course) - Only 3 Places Left!

General Husbandry: 8th August, 14th & 15th August (3 day course)

Please go to the BBKA webshop for more details and to book a place:

<https://www.bbka.org.uk/pages/shop/department/training-courses>

If you have any queries please contact Sarah Snelson: [sarah.snelson@bbka.org.uk](mailto:sarah.snelson@bbka.org.uk)