

The Newsletter



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SBKA website www.somersetbeekeepers.org.uk



The Prize Winners at this year's Honey Show

From the left - Alison Dykes, Suzy Perkins, Pauline Clarke, Penny Covington, Ken Tredgett (President of Somerset BKA) who presented the prizes and trophies, Catherine Fraser, Sam Gibbons, David Rose, Karen Rose, Dave Reynolds and Ray Pattemore. Details of who won what are on the following page .

TROPHIES AND 2017 WINNERS

NOVICE SHIELD - most points gained in the Novice classes 1 – 8 -
ALISON DYKES

NOVICE TROPHY Runner up in classes 1 – 8 - **PENNY COVINGTON**

CHALLENGE CUP - most points gained in classes 9 – 25 -
CATHERINE FRASER

MORRIS PLAQUE - runner up in classes 9 – 25 - **RAY PATTEMORE**

ALAN BROMLEY AWARD - Best Somerton Member's exhibit in Show
SUZY PERKINS (also **BLUE RIBBON**)

E C. H. LANGFORD PERPETUAL CUP - best exhibit in Light Honey class 9
SUZY PERKINS

BILL HARRIS CUP - best exhibit in Composite Class 18
RAY PATTEMORE

PEARCE COOKERY PLATE - most points in Cookery classes 26 – 31
PAULINE CLARKE

JOHN LINDARS MEMORIAL TROPHY - most points in photographic classes 36 – 41
DAVE REYNOLDS

PERKINS GOBLET - most points in the drinks classes 32 – 35
RAY PATTEMORE

SOMERTON DIVISIONAL TROPHY - most points overall in classes 1 – 43
RAY PATTEMORE

ALLCOMERS' CLASSES PRIZE GIFT VOUCHER - most points in classes 44 – 52
KAREN ROSE

CHILDRENS AWARD - best exhibit in Children's classes 53 – 56
SAMUEL GIBBONS

ALLCOMERS' HONEY CLASSES - most points in classes 57 – 64
RAY PATTEMORE



Ray Pattemore winner of the Somerto Divisional trophy, Allcomers Honey Classes, The Perkins Goblet and the Morris plaque



Suzy Perkins winner of the ECH Langford perpetual cup, The Alan Bromley award and the Blue Ribbon for best exhibit in show.



Catherine Fraser winner of the Challenge Cup



Penny Covington winner of the Novice Trophy



Alison Dykes winner of the Novice Shield



Dave Reynolds winner of the John Lindars Memorial Trophy



Karen Rose winner of the Allcomers' Class prize



Samuel Gibbons winner of the Children's Class



Pauline Clarke winner of the Pearce Cookery Plate

Copies of all photographs shown are available, should you want a copy. Please contact Stewart Gould by email at somertonbees@btinternet.com



Three of our trusted stewards - Liz Grassby, chief steward Sandy Davies and Brian Parsons

Honey show 2017

I hope you feel, as I do, that this year's Honey Show was, once again, a great success. We had a record number of entries despite the bees and weather doing their best to sabotage the event. We however, succeeded in running the show smoothly and efficiently. This is evidenced by the fact that our invited guest, Mr Ken Tredgett, President of the Somerset Beekeepers' Association, described it as being friendly, informative and one of the best shows he had seen in the region.

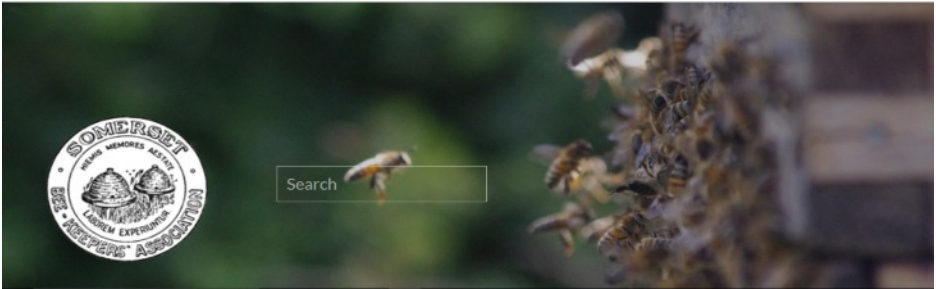
One of the reasons for this is because members participate in its organisation at all levels. Without these members the show would, I believe, not achieve the high standard it does. Therefore the purpose of this item is to thank all our volunteers: stewards, kitchen staff, car park attendants, those who set up and dismantled the hall interior, set up and helped dismantle the tents, manned the tents, transported items to and from the show and, of course, those who took the time to make entries in the show.

I repeat, without you our show would not exist. To name every individual helper would take up too much space. The Honey Show Committee know who you are and you know who you are, so be proud of what you helped achieve and please accept this public vote of thanks from me, the committee and Somerton BKA for all your efforts.

Fred Clarke,
Chairman



SOMERSET BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION



Somerset BKA website

The county website has had a complete overhaul and is now much easier to navigate. It is also a much more comprehensive notice board, and the newsletters of all those divisions who have one can be found here. There is also a diary of events across the county with all Beginners' courses included.

It really is something to be proud of now. Take a look at :-

Somersetbeekeepers.org.uk

Open Saturdays
2.00pm to 5.00pm
or visit by appointment
T: 01278 445158
E: mikes-bees@windytor.myzen.co.uk
www.mikes-beesupplies.co.uk

Suits

Hives

And more!

11lb Honey Jars £0.38 each
12oz Jars £.37each
We take
Cash or card

Find us at
72 Wembdon Hill
Wembdon
Bridgwater

SOMERTON & DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Thursday 16th November 2017, 7.00p.m.
at Somerton Parish Rooms, TA11 7NB**

ADVANCE NOTICE AND REMINDER

As chairman I hear good comments about how our Association is run and I also hear the opposite. Of course the real platform for constructive comment is at the AGM. Please make an effort to attend so that any proposals which the meeting adopts are a true reflection of our members' feelings.

Besides ensuring democracy rules there is also the lure of free biscuits, coffee or tea and a good natter. See you there. Your Association needs to hear your views.

Documentation and the agenda will be circulated to all members in good time. If you have any items you wish raised at the meeting please forward them to our Secretary, Mrs Jackie Mosedale – jackiemosedale@gmail.com as soon as possible.

Fred Clarke
Chairman

Election of Officers

All committee posts including those of chairman, vice chairman, secretary and treasurer are subject to election or re-election each year and the chairman may not hold the position for more than three consecutive years. If you have a nomination for any of the committee posts, these should be sent to the secretary, giving reasonable notice, but items for inclusion, or discussion at the AGM should be sent to the secretary, in writing, more than 14 days before the AGM.

The secretary can be contacted by email at:- jackiemosedale@gmail.com

The mysteries of the queen - Thursday 12th October

Our second evening talk this autumn will be given by Pam Hunter, who is excellent at getting her point across. The last time she visited us, she sank a few myths around herbal treatments and natural beekeeping.



This time she is tackling an entirely different subject. 'The Mysteries of the Queen' is her topic. Something that we have given too much attention in recent years.

The venue is, as always, Somerton Parish Rooms, TA11 7NB on Thursday October 12th at 7.30 pm. Attendances have dropped off very slightly, perhaps because of the holiday season, but no excuses any more.

Study Group for BBKA Module exams

Pam Hunter, mentioned on the previous page is also, by coincidence, our tutor for the modular exams that some of us have subjected ourselves to. We are just about to launch into the exciting world of module 2, so if you would like to join us, come along and meet the tutor.

The process involves researching answers to previous exam papers, and those set by the course tutor. We then meet up, compare notes and send agreed answers for moderation by the tutor. Then next March, we will sit the exam.

As a teaser, here is a sample question from a previous paper.

Name one UK plant which is known to yield nectar from extra floral nectaries?

If you want to join in the fun,

Contact Joe King

01749 890357

Jk.pilton@btinternet.com

TESCO ILMINSTER

Sugar bags are continually getting broken in supermarkets, and the resultant sticky crystals are a nuisance to the staff. Tesco Ilminster store theirs in dustbins, but until recently didn't know what to do with it all. Dr Richard Bache, who is one of our members, heard about this, and as a result, we ended up with a whole month's supply of spilled sugar. The dustbin was full. Our apiary manager, Catherine Fraser, took on the task of boiling it all up, with the result that we have had to buy very little food for our bees this year.

Thank you very much Tesco.

Every little helps

For Sale

Perhapos a little late in the season, but this item is being sold for a very reasonable price. Stainless steel Pratley electrically warmed uncapping tray. This comes complete with spare element and a lot of history. The photograph is only to demonstrate what is being sold and is not of the actual item.



Please contact David Charles on 01458 831011



Asian hornet in North Devon

The National Bee Unit has confirmed a sighting of the Asian hornet at an apiary near Woolacombe in Devon.

The Asian hornet is smaller than our native hornet and poses no greater risk to human health than a bee. However, they do pose a risk to honey bees.

This is the first confirmed sighting since last year, when a nest was discovered in the Tetbury area in Gloucestershire. That Asian hornet incursion was successfully contained by bee inspectors who promptly tracked down and destroyed the nest.

There has been talk of an Asian hornet in Plymouth, but despite much scanning of the internet and the NBU website in particular, I can only find rumour and gossip. I have found nothing to substantiate this claim at all.

It is a very good time to renew vigilance, as it is at this time that new queens go in search of somewhere to hibernate, so that they can set up a new colony in the spring, and it could be up to 38 miles from the sighting.

A couple of years ago we ran a 'pollen of the month' series, which coincided roughly with the time of year. Just to ring the changes, there are some 250 species of bees in the UK, and it would be made much simpler if there were a family for each month, but there are only 6, and within those families there are 29 genera, or sub groups, so we will simply choose those which seem to spring off the page.

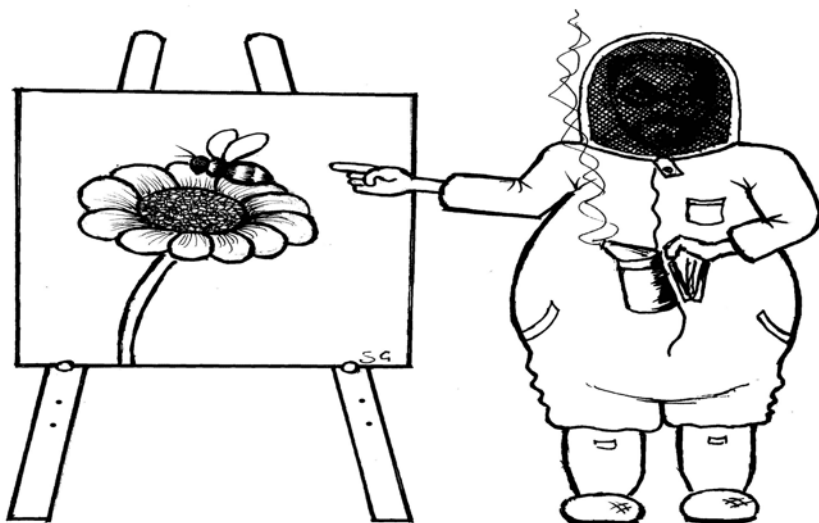


This month's bee is the smallest in the UK at only 4 - 4.5mm in length. That's half the length of a honeybee. The small scissor bee, or harebell bee (*chelostoma campanularum*). Chelostoma means clawed mouth, and campanularum points to the fact that it favours flowers of the campanula or bell-flower family. It has only one other member of its genera

(chelostoma), and guess what, it's the large scissor bee. These are solitary bees. Like many other bees, females of the species collect pollen by means of a pollen brush on the underside of their bodies. Most bees in this group are oligolectic, which means they collect pollen from only one or two species of plants. As mentioned above, this bee favours harebells.

They nest in pre-existing holes in walls and hollow plant stems, especially beetle holes in, Nest cells are arranged linearly with partitions and plugs made from mud mixed with salivary secretions and small particles such as sand grains.

Information gleaned from Steven Falk's Field Guide to the bees of Great Britain and Ireland. Photograph from Steven Falk's Flickr collection.



Introductory Beekeeping Course

The dates for the Beginners' Course 2018 have now been established. They are Wednesdays January 17th, 24th and 31st and February 7th, 21st and 28th. We have been very fortunate in being allowed to use Tor Rugby Club again, so if you know anybody who is interested in getting involved, they should contact Stewart Gould at:- somertonbees@btinternet.com. The course fee has risen to £35.00, but for one reason only. We are including the Haynes Bee Manual in that cost. The rrp (recommended retail price is) £21.99, although it can be obtained for less. We are still absorbing some of the cost of the book in the fee.

Somerton BKA August committee meeting

There was a somewhat low attendance due to illness, but the main subjects discussed were that hanging rails for the apiary building and some second-hand gardening tools have been purchased. The acquisition, and dispersal of honey jars has gone well and proved popular.

The association has been offered the chance to purchase the large marquee which we have previously borrowed for the Honey Show. This will be looked at during the show.

Dates for your diary

The mysteries of the queen

Pam Hunter

Somerton Parish Rooms, TA11 7NB

Thursday 12th October

7.30 pm

Somerton Beekeepers' Association

AGM

The Parish Rooms, Somerton

TA11 7NB

Thursday 16th November - 7.00 pm

Module 2 Study Group

First meeting

Tuesday 10th October - 7.30 pm

Contact Joe King for details

01749 890357

Beginners' Beekeeping Course

Tor Rugby Club, Lowerside Lane

Glastonbury TA6 9GY

First session

Wednesday January 17th - 7.30 pm

President

Jackie Mosedale

01458 241146

Chairman

Fred Clarke

01278 722830

Vice Chairman

Andy Bonney

asbon58@gmail.com

01458 851433

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Jackie Mosedsale

01458 241146

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Treasurer

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01278 662335

Librarian

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Catherine Fraser

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John Speirs

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