



# Newsletter October 2023

Committee members:

Tina Harley (President), Lionel Horler (Chair), Ken Jeanes (Vice Chair), Mat Phillips (Treasurer), Anne Collyer (Secretary), Jane Jeanes (SBKA Delegate), Tony Johnstone (Events Secretary), Jeremy Lee (Apiary Manager), Guy Clothier, Dennis White and John Wood

Dear All

Welcome to our October Newsletter.

The programme this month concentrates on our Honey Show. The schedule and entry form are posted on our website <https://www.somersetbeekeepers.org.uk/south-east.html> and I have also attached a copy along with this newsletter – you will find it at the bottom of the email. If you would prefer to receive a printed copy just let me know and I can send one to you. We are looking for volunteers to help Brenda Wood with the teas and coffee and also to help set up on Friday 13<sup>th</sup>. All help is very much appreciated! Even if you do not want to enter the show, we would love to see you so please come along and support us.

Sadly, we are saying ‘goodbye’ to Tina who is stepping down as President and moving to Sussex. Tina has been an active and supportive member for many years and has always played a key role in the organisation of the Division. She will be sorely missed but we send our very best wishes to her and Alex and wish them well for their future in their new home.

Our AGM is in November and all members are invited to attend. If you have any questions or would like to raise any particular points for discussion, please let me know. This is your association and the AGM is your chance to have a say in how it is run. As ever, if anyone needs more information or has a question to ask, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will put you in touch with someone who can help.

Anne Collyer, Divisional Secretary SESBKA

[amcollyer838@gmail.com](mailto:amcollyer838@gmail.com) 07803 243643 Presscombe, Shepton Montague, Wincanton, BA9 8JG

## Lionel's October Bee Notes

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

I find some of my small colonies still need feeding and I will continue until they stop taking it, but I was pleased to see most of them have plenty of stores and still have plenty of bees. The temperature is now dropping below 15°C so we should stop feeding sugar solution and change to fondant. This is because the bees may not have time to dehydrate the solution to store it before they go into their cluster, which will mean the solution will ferment and the bees will suffer with diarrhoea.

I have treated one apiary with Varroamed but consider the others will be able to handle the small number of mites in their colonies. I hope I am right. Time will tell.

I still have [at the moment] some Asian hornet traps and some Suterra bait. Please bring a small jar and collect from me if you can use it. Also [at the moment] and thanks to Bridget and Geoff, I still have some sheets of wax which can be made into flowers etc, and shown at our honey show. Again, just collect from me.



A good tip when using the traps, put the bait in a mini jar with a lid inside the trap with a wick [kitchen roll] through a hole in the lid, the hornet will suck the bait from the wick and not drown in the liquid.

An update on the Asian hornet situation. To date 53 nests have been destroyed in the UK this year, most of these were in Kent and along the south coast including Hampshire and Devon. Jersey have found 284. These are worrying figures so I must ask you to be observant around your hives, on fallen fruit and on Ivy which is now in flower. Don't forget use the Asian hornet app on your phone or if you can't do that report it to someone who does have the app.



# 2023 Programme Update

Tony Johnstone, Events Secretary [tmj67@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tmj67@hotmail.co.uk) Tel: 07973341557

Hello Everybody,

Please find below the October programme update.

**With the Honey Show just around the corner would everybody who received a trophy last year please remember to return it on the 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> October please.**

## Wax Products Classes

Additional supplies of coloured wax sheets are available for flower making. Please contact Lionel Horler [lhorer934@talktalk.net](mailto:lhorer934@talktalk.net)

## Schedule & Entry Form

Please find these attached to the newsletter

## Honey Sales.

Please let me know if you wish to sell honey on the day.

## Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October 8.00am to 1.30pm

### At The Market House Castle Cary

### The SESBKA Honey Show

With set-up on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> 5.00pm to 7.30pm

I already have a number of people who have volunteered on both days, as per the attached spreadsheet, however, more are needed plus Brenda Wood is still looking for help on the coffee bar- all day or half day. Her email address is [bwood47@btinternet.com](mailto:bwood47@btinternet.com) And of course, please make and donate your homemade cakes, again, please let Brenda know.

## Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November @ 7.00pm At The Market House Castle Cary

The SESBKA Annual General Meeting & presentation of prizes

Followed by a talk by Stewart Gould

<b><i>HONEY SHOW 13-14TH OCTOBER 2023- SCHEDULE OF RESPONSIBILITIES</i></b>			
<b>SHOW SECRETARY-</b>	<b>TONY JOHNSTONE</b>	<a href="mailto:tmj67@hotmail.co.uk">tmj67@hotmail.co.uk</a>	<b>Tel. 07973341557</b>
<b>FRIDAY 13TH October</b>			
<b><u>Task</u></b>	<b><u>Lead Person</u></b>	<b><u>Helpers</u></b>	<b><u>Notes</u></b>
Initial set-up	<b>Volunteers Please</b>	to arrange tables etc	17.00hrs-18.00 hrs
Registration	Carol Seymour		17.30hrs- 19.30hrs
Entries Stewards	Anne Collyer	Jeremy Collyer	18.00hrs - 19.30hrs
<b>SATURDAY 14TH OCTOBER</b>			
<b><u>Task</u></b>	<b><u>Lead Person</u></b>	<b><u>Helpers</u></b>	<b><u>Notes</u></b>
Judges	Bridget Knutson	Honey & Beecraft Classes	
	Tina Harley	Childrens Classes	
	Mary D'Arcy	Baking & Preserves	
Judges Runner	Pat Coleman		
Results Compilation	Carol Seymour	Simone Ash Barnard	
Coffee Bar/Cake Stall	Brenda Wood	<b>Volunteers for Rota Please</b>	09.00hrs - 14.00hrs
Honey Sales	Jane & Ken Jeanes	John Wood, Dennis White	09.00hrs - 14.00hrs
Skep Making	Guy Clothier		
Beekeeping/Membership	Lionel Horler		
Information Stewards	Anne Collyer	Jeremy Collyer	09.30hrs - 13.30hrs
Clear-up	Everybody		13.30hrs -14.30hrs

# News from the Apiary

Jeremy Lee, Apiary Manager

If you can offer any help at the apiary at any time then please contact Jeremy at [jgwlee@me.com](mailto:jgwlee@me.com) or via the WhatsApp group

Not a huge amount to report from Hooke Valley over the last month. We had a very informative morning carrying out Varroa testing on a couple of hives. One that had been treated with Apivar strips two weeks prior and one that had not. The results were very conclusive!! On a sample of 300 bees, the treated colony had a mite count of 2, the untreated colony 40 plus. There was no doubt that the colonies that were brought over from Carymoor carried very high levels of mites on arrival (we had to treat and re queen in order for them to survive). I also think we underestimate just how many bees drift/rob to other hives and possibly this was the causal factor as we saw no sign of varroasis on any other colonies during the season. I read with interest the article in the last BBKA magazine where a colony had absconded from an apiary and taken residence in a roof space nearby. When the colony was removed by the association two years later, they concluded that it would not have survived another winter due to the varroa mite load on the colony.

Aside from the above, I have been feeding the colonies inverted syrup. Initially the ones that were very light and now as the colonies are slowing down, the others that feel a little on the light side. The weather hasn't been great for the ivy flow and my colonies at home that are on weighing scales show the bees consuming the syrup but without notable colony weight gain. That might be good news for us humans when we get on the scales but I fear for the bees. This does not put them on a good footing for the winter and the window for feeding syrup is closing fast.

For all you 'insta' people – Jeremy is also looking after our Instagram page so please send photos for us to add, like, follow etc



There are lots of different honey fudge recipes to choose from. This one was used by the Bournemouth & Dorset South BKA taken from their 2019 honey show schedule



## Honey Fudge

1kg golden castor sugar	1 heaped tbsp dark soft brown sugar
1 tin (397gm) condensed milk	100ml full cream milk
Pinch of salt	300gm honey
75gm unsalted butter	

Line a baking tray with greaseproof paper. Put brown sugar, condensed milk and full fat milk into a heavy bottomed pan. Heat gently until sugar has dissolved.

Add castor sugar and again heat gently until sugar has dissolved.

Add salt and honey and boil to soft ball stage (114°C – 116°C).

Take off the heat and allow to cool for a few minutes. Stir in butter and beat for 5 minutes until starting to granulate. Pour into prepared tray and allow to set. Score into 25mm squares when nearly set and cut when cold. Enjoy!



**Diane Sleight, The Bee Depot**, will be at the Honey Show - a useful pickup point for any members' pre-orders.

Just call or email Diane by 4pm on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October.

[diane.sleight@thebeedepot.com](mailto:diane.sleight@thebeedepot.com)

or call 07879 811967 or 01373 430458

[www.thebeedepot.com](http://www.thebeedepot.com)



### Asian Hornet Advert

Although the advert is not being rolled out in our area, I have attached this message from Diane Drinkwater for your interest.



The trustees have agreed a budget of £15,000 for a poster campaign on the back of buses in areas affected by Asian hornets. A design has been created (see above) and this advertising will roll out across Kent, Devon, Southampton and the New Forest from 25th September. These areas had advertising space available at short notice.

This is the first time BBKA has carried out such a campaign and it will last for four weeks. It is costing a lot of money so we need to know how successful this is. Can Area Association Members in these areas please inform your members and let us know when they have seen the advert.

I have asked the trustees to agree to an additional budget for a wider campaign but I felt I must start this initial stage now and work on adding extra areas when we can. I also put a request into DEFRA for them to consider funding or contributing to this campaign but they have declined.

If your association would like to fund additional campaigns, please contact the office for details of the advertising company. I hope to be able to share more positive news about wider advertising in the near future but if you have suggestions on how we could raise awareness further, please let me know.

Kind regards

Diane Drinkwater, BBKA Chair

### Trustees needed

Do you feel you could help the BBKA to advance the education of the public and beekeepers in the craft of beekeeping and promote the importance of bees in the environment'?

The EC Board needs members who have time, are enthusiastic about the BBKA and the issues currently in hand: Asian hornet, Honey Adulteration, Pesticides.

There are 6 EC meetings a year and each has with it a round of committee meetings which feed back to the EC meeting.

Finance, Standing Orders and Governance, Education and Husbandry, Communications, Spring Convention, Research Technical and Environmental, Shows, and BBKA News, with subgroups for Honey adulteration and Sustainability.

The board has recently formed a new committee: Asian hornet.

Trustees are encouraged to take part in several committees.

If you feel you could make a difference, have time and skills that would enhance the trustee board then please consider applying.

Only one face to face trustee board meeting is held, but trustees have opportunities through the year to meet up at Spring convention and other events like the National Honey show where BBKA has a stand to promote the work of the BBKA and meet members.

Further guidance on the roles and responsibilities of being a trustee can be found in the documents on the BBKA website and on the Charity Commission's website. Nominations need to be in by October 20th.

Stephen and I would very happy to have an informal chat with anyone wishing to find out more details. Please call 02476 696679 ext. 2005 or email [gen.manager@bbka.org.uk](mailto:gen.manager@bbka.org.uk)

Kind regards

Diane Drinkwater, Chair & Stephen Barnes, Vice-Chair