

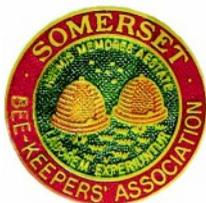
Somerset Bee-keepers' Association NEWSLETTER



Taunton & County Honey Show

For two days, Vivary Park in Taunton came alive with a throng of people and the weather was kind into the bargain. The Taunton and County Honey Show was, once again, a major feature of the Taunton Flower Show. The display at the entrance created by Neil Trood attracted a great deal of interest and showed many aspects of the craft of beekeeping, to people who would normally have shown little interest.

Next year's show will be held in conjunction with Somerton Division's Honey Show. All the winners of this year's county classes are printed overleaf.



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www.somersetbeekeepers.org.uk



Entrance display by Neil Trood

The Jubilee Cup (winner most points classes 2-18)

Winner : D.A.Pearce

The M.D.Bindley Cup (winner class 3 Medium honey)

Winner : D.G.Morris

The Terry Arnold Cup (winner most points classes 21-22-23-24 Cookery)

Winner : M.Adams

The Duffin Challenge Trophy (winner class 14 Cake of Wax)

Winner : Not awarded

The Clifford (Sam) Langford award (winner most points classes 10 and 11 Mead)

Winner : G.Welfare

THE BLUE RIBBON FOR THE BEST EXHIBIT IN SHOW
IN THE JUDGES OPINION

Winner D.A.Pearce

New Seasonal Bee Inspector for Somerset

Eleanor Burgess was appointed as the new Seasonal Bee Inspector for Somerset on the 1st of July. She will be responsible for the western side of the county including Taunton, Wellington, Bridgwater, Watchet and Minehead.



Eleanor has kept bees since moving to Somerset 13 years ago and comes from a beekeeping family, with both her grandfathers and father keen amateur beekeepers. Eleanor keeps around 20 hives of bees in 3 apiaries near her home. She runs a small business selling honey and soap and other bits and beeswax products.

Over the past few years she has been working her way through the BBKA Module exams, hoping to soon attain the advanced beekeeping certificate. She's also studying for the microscopy exam.

Should you need advice or think you have a disease problem then you can contact Eleanor as follows: Telephone 07775119465 or Eleanor.burgess@fera.gsi.gov.uk.

Manuka Honey

It was reported in the Sunday Times on August 25th that the Food Standards Agency declared Manuka Honey was no better than locally produced British honey with regard to healing & health properties claimed for the product, which can sell for up to £40.00 per jar. This was a revelation in itself.

The story was followed, in very short order, by Beecraft Feeds. An email on August 28th stated that the FSA (Food Standards Agency)

declared that a total of 1,700 tonnes of Manuka honey is produced in New Zealand each year but, strangely, 1,800 tonnes is sold in the UK alone and as much as 10,000 tonnes is sold worldwide, meaning quite simply that only 17% of all Manuka honey is the genuine article.

editor

Quantock's new apiary

Sometimes pictures nearly manage to say it all on their own, and such is the case with Quantock's new apiary a Spaxton, on the outskirts of Bridgwater. The land has gone from being a quagmire at the end of 2012 to a full blown apiary complete with a magnificent building.



The Gods certainly smiled on Spaxton on Saturday May 18th for the grand opening. Dr David Aston, chair of the BBKA was there, as was Bridgwater's MP, Ian Liddel-Granger and the Mayor of Bridgwater, Dave Loveridge. The site itself was declared open by Julie Girling, the MEP for the South West of England. What a day, there was a hog roast, ice cream and plenty of sunshine. The members and committee of Quantock division deserve to be proud of their achievements.



Inside the building there is ample room for microscopy workshops, indoor demonstrations, a library and store. The grounds provide a wildlife pond and parking for a good many vehicles, as well as plenty of space for hives, nucleus colonies, queen rearing and teaching. This really is an eye opener of an apiary.

Council Notes from May 2013 meeting

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer was embarrassed that our substantial cheque to the BBKA making our capitation payment had bounced. This was because the CAF (Charities Aid Foundation) Bank had taken an inordinate time to process the mandate form giving the up to date list of signatories. Caroline Butter commented that this was a general failure of the CAF Bank and she had seen it occur before. The Treasurer went on to say that the current method of reconciling the membership details held by our Divisions with those held by the BBKA was extremely cumbersome and in his opinion not fit for purpose, making an immense burden for our Membership Secretary. The amount of money which we had received as "Research Donations" from members was much larger than was needed to fulfill our current obligations. It was only right that as this money had been donated for a specific purpose that it should be used for that purpose i.e research. He asked for suggestions of other research projects that we could support financially.

He was concerned that the rate of interest that we received on our CAF current account was derisory being 0.1 %. Virgin Finance had recently entered the market and their new charities account offered an interest rate of 2.6%. He asked the meeting for permission to explore this option. This was agreed. He was also concerned that as SBKA was a registered charity that it was

possible that the current £85,000 safety net provided through the F.S.A applied to all our assets in the County rather than to each account in its own right. He had taken this up with the Caf Bank but was not entirely reassured by their reply. He wanted further definitive information. On a more minor point the Beecraft AGM was coming up and we had a right to attend and to vote at the meeting. However, the motions were all of a very minor nature. The previous Treasurer is currently our Beecraft signatory and this would need to be changed to our new Treasurer.

County Honey Show

Somerton Division had looked at the feasibility of holding the County Show with the Somerton Division Show in 2014. There were some concerns about

the size of Long Sutton Village Hall. There would definitely be extra expenditure, this might be £200 but if a marquee had to be hired to provide extra space a great deal more. If the idea was that in subsequent years the Show would go to other Divisions it was important that the costs of the county Show were borne by County rather than possibly becoming a burden on small Divisions. Ken Tredgett felt that it might well in subsequent years be possible to graft it on to other successful Shows such as the Frome Show or even the Bath & West. It was then proposed by Lionel Horler, and seconded by Stewart Gould that the 2014 County Show should be held at the Somerton Divisional Show. This was passed unanimously.

County Luncheon

There seemed no consensus as to what form the 2013 SBKA lunch should take, and it was agreed that it should be allowed to lapse for 2013.

Education Officer's Report

Both our Spring Lecture Day and the Special Lecture had been a great success. A big thank you to all those who had been involved. There were thanks to Neil Trood and his catering team for the hot meal provided at the Lecture Day. Again our special thanks to Sharon Blake who was the Organiser of the Special lecture. The Somerset Development Group had provided a written report and had made a recommendation to Council that that a committee should be set up to oversee the Lecture Day, the Special lecture, and to initiate the concepts of development days around specific topics. The Meeting felt that to have a Committee made up with a representative from every Division would be too large and were uncertain how to proceed. Further suggestions were needed.

Examination Officer's Report

Bridget Knutson reported that 11 modules had been passed with two referrals, and two failures. The March results were due out shortly. 5 requests for taking the basic assessment had so far been received this year so far. The BBKA was bringing in a new system of the candidates applying directly to them with the option of paying by debit or credit cards. Bridget stressed that it was important that she was also kept informed.

Bath and West Show

Ken Tredgett reported that a great deal had been done to upgrade the county display in the Bees and honey at the Bath and West. Mel Smith, Stewart Gould, Gerald Fisher, and Mary Barnes-Gorrall had created a very modern multi media

display and were to be congratulated. There was some doubt as to where it could be dry stored after the Show. Several people were prepared to help but would need to know exactly what it involved. Joe King suggested that as he lived only three miles from the Show site that he would keep it in dry store in the first instance.

The National Honey Show

The 82nd National Honey Show is getting closer - the 'gold standard' honey show, will be held in Weybridge. Full details are given below. With almost 250 classes, beekeepers come from all over the world to enter. Why not book a ticket now to see the best of the best. Walking around the displays is an education in itself. A full programme of workshops and lectures will run during the show and there will be a wide selection of trade stands with lots of equipment and books to buy.

By now most of you will have extracted your honey and hopefully will have kept back an exhibition standard frame or two. Have a look at the schedule and see what you could enter. Don't forget that entry forms must be in by 1st October. It's also worth remembering that classes 54-62 (photograph, microscopy slides and essay classes) require you to deliver your finished entry by 9th September; so do check.

This year, as well as the very full programme of lectures and workshops there is a new class for microscopy enthusiasts:

57. •One Microscope slide, 3" x 1", subject pollen or honey bee anatomy, labelled in accordance with instructions issued by entries secretary. Exhibits will be photographed by the National Honey Show for display purposes at the show. First: £10; Second: £7; Third: £5. (Sponsor: Bee Craft)

A new session of lectures for those new to beekeeping has been added to the programme on Saturday morning. The trade and educational exhibitors so far include Bee Bay, Bees Abroad, BBKA, Bees for Development, BeeCraft, Brunel Microscopes, JBC online, Freeman Harding, IBRA, London Beekeepers Assoc'n

National Bee Unit, Ninemaidens Mead, Northern Bee Books, Omlet, The Quekett Microscopical Club, BJ Sheriff, EH Thorne, The Zest Hive and there are still more to come!



Ken Tredgett (Frome), Mel Smith (South East), Stewart Gould (Somerton) & Jackie Mosedale (county chair)

150th Royal Bath & West Show 2013

I thank everyone involved in the setting up of the Marquee over the Spring Bank Holiday and then dismantling the stand on Saturday at the end of the Show. This year the County Stand was completely revamped and really did look magnificent. It received many appreciative compliments from our visitors and Press Officer, Anne Ashford, said "I was blown away by the fantastic feature created this year".

I feel a well-deserved mention is due to all those involved in creating the Stand. The steering group consisted of Mel Smith, Gerald Fisher, Stewart Gould and Mary Barnes-Gorrell. Thanks also go to David Charles for supplying the

photographs. A special mention must be made of the birthday girl, Mel Smith, who was 21 again at the Show and was given the bumps. Sadly, we were not strong enough to complete the number of bumps to match her years!

Without doubt and without Mel the Stand would not have looked as good as it did. She had an abundance of energy, enthusiasm and imagination and worked tirelessly, creating the finest Stand in the Show. In recognition of all the hard work that Mel put into the Show, I am pleased to say that she was presented with a plaque by the Senior Steward.

All those who manned the Stand during the Show did an excellent job of promoting the Association, engaging the public in presenting the aims and objects of the S.B.K.A. My very great thanks go to all members of the team who worked tirelessly to produce a Stand to be proud of. It should also be mentioned that the Chairman, Jackie Mosedale, also enjoyed a birthday during the Show and, as with Mel, was duly given the bumps.

I also thank and acknowledge the help and support given by the following companies:

The Garden Group, Steven Fry
Somerset-Dorset Animal Rescue
Vale Print, Andrew Shettle
Morrisons, Wincanton
Richs Cider
Bee Happy Plants

Looking forward to next year, the Show will be held on 28th - 31st May, half-term week. The Show Committee has requested all names of people stewarding earlier than usual. Please make a note in your diaries so that anyone wishing to participate can respond quickly to the request for volunteers when it appears in the January Newsletter.

Ken Tredgett

Exmoor Fun Honey Show

The other week I discovered that some of our county's most senior beekeepers learned their beekeeping from John Newcombe, who as some of you will know has kept bees for longer than many of us have been alive and is President of Exmoor Division! Now Exmoor used to have a substantial honey show in bygone years, and it struck me that it would be splendid to try to restore it, though maybe not in quite the same format and not just yet!

Showing honey is a bit of a puzzle to the novice beekeeper. There are questions like "why" and "how" to be addressed. Of course a honey show isn't just about showing honey, it's about showing other things like candles, and wax blocks, mead and photos. It can include flower arrangements and so on. Even the honey isn't just "honey". There is comb honey, chunk honey, light, medium, dark and set honey- need I say more?

Once you start thinking about it, the honey show is where a beekeeper can learn how to prepare the products of the hive well so that candles burn smoothly, honey doesn't ferment and wax blocks aren't hollow! It can also be an awful lot of fun. Taunton Division, with Neil Trood in charge, have run the County Honey Show for years. They have put in weeks or even months of work over the years and from what I have seen I can only say how very impressive the results have been.

I understand that the plan is that the County Honey Show is now going to be run by different divisions in turn, so that next year Somerton will be shouldering the responsibility for example.

Exmoor Division has been reflecting on this for some time and we realise that we simply could not do it and have been wondering what we could offer by way of support. One of our members, Julian Willford, has run two "Beefests" at Dunster, both of which were well attended not only by the public but also by a remarkably large number of far flung beekeepers. So here is our plan!

We are offering a day long event for beekeepers (as opposed to the public) for you all to participate in. We have national speakers, food and a "fun" honey show. We tried this last year on a small scale and we all enjoyed it enormously. Basically, this will be a simplified honey show so, for example, each entry will be one rather than two items. The rules we hope are quite clear. David Charles and Suzette Perkins have very generously agreed to be our judges for the honey and after they have judged (and after lunch) they will talk to us about how they judged the exhibits, both the good points and bad points.

Gail Johnson and Tony Richards will be judging the products of the hive and other entries.

There is also going to be a quiz to test your beekeeping knowledge if you want to have a go and 11 local schools have submitted art work for us to judge as well! All in all it should be a really enjoyable and stimulating day.

October 12th 2013 Tithe Barn, Dunster, near Minehead

Hope to see you there,
Tricia Nelson
Hon. Secretary Exmoor Beekeepers

The Show Schedule

Honey Classes:

1. 1lb. jar of Light Run Honey.
2. 1lb. jar of Medium Honey.
3. 1lb. jar of Dark Run Honey
4. 1lb. jar of So Set or Set Honey.
5. A frame suitable for extraction.

Other Classes:

6. Beeswax Products from the hive.
7. An item of beekeeping equipment made by the exhibitor.
8. Six Honey Biscuits – recipe of your own choice.
9. A Honey Sultana Cake to the recipe shown below.
10. Mead, includes melomel – 1 bottle.
11. Photograph (max. size A4) with a bee theme - mounted on card.
12. Something unusual you have found in your apiary this year.

For more details and the required recipes, you should contact Tricia Nelson on 01984 641388 or meadowstreamhouse@hotmail.co.uk

From the Examinations Secretary

Although the year isn't quite over yet, I thought I'd run through what's happened, and what is coming up. We have had 12 people take the Basic exam this year, down a lot on numbers in previous years. So far, I know that 7 have passed it. Congratulations to Lin Uglow, Matthew Petley, Therese Ellard, Maggie North, Sue Adams-McMillan, Mark Gullick and Christine Gullick.

Modular exams have had a good take up. 13 people applied to take 14 exams, and 8 exams were passed. Congratulations to Kevin Shillington, Patricia Pegrum, Alan Nelson, Patricia Nelson, Robert Fox, Lynne Ingram, Bridget Knutson, and Donald Mudie for passing the modules.

Microscopy exams take place in October, so for those of you that are sitting it, good luck.

The date for the November exam is 9th November, and modules 1, 2, 3, 5, and 7 are available. Applications to me by 15th September please. Next year, 2014, all modules are available at both sittings, 22nd March, applications to me by 31st January, and 8th November, applications to me by 15th September. Please remember to get the form countersigned before sending it to me. BBKA would also like you to pay by card, not cheque, as they are being charged for each cheque they receive. The new forms have a space for putting card details on.

Past papers are available from me, email me telling me what exam you want to sit, and I will send you past papers.

Bridget Knutson

Dates for your Diary



September

8th	Burnham	Apiary visit hosted by Richard & Ian Tiley
12th	Somerton	Working with alternative hives - Gerald Fisher, Chris Strong & John Webb
14th	Frome	Frome Cheese Show
17th	Yeovil	Hives through a CAT scan - Dr Mark Greco
21st	Mendip	Preparing Hives for winter - David Maslen
21st	Somerton	Somerton Honey Show - Long Sutton Village Hall

October

2nd	Taunton	Beekeepers Question Time
10th	Burnham	AGM & Honey Competition - Watchfield Village Hall - 7.30 pm
10th	Somerton	Trees for Bees - David Charles - 7.30 pm
11th	Frome	AGM Frme Rugby Club
11th	Mendip	Mendip BKA Meal
12th	Exmoor	Fun Honey Show - Tithe Barn - Dunster
24 th - 26 th		National Honey Show - St George's College, Weybridge
25th	Mendip	AGM - 7.30 pm

November

2nd	South East	AGM & Honey Show
9th	Taunton	AGM
14th	Somerton	Value Added Products, Chris Rawlings, Somerton Parish Rooms
19th	Quantock	AGM
19th	Yeovil	AGM
27th	Central	AGM - Earth Sciences centre - Stoke St Michael
28th	Somerton	AGM - Somerton Parish Room - 7.30 pm

Members are welcome to attend the meetings of any SBKA division, but I would suggest checking with the host or secretary when attending the meetings of another division as the time or venue may have changed. Further details are often available on the website or divisional newsletters. This list is taken from the Yearbook and may have changed or been added to since it was originally published.

Patricia Dening

We are sad to report that Patricia Dening passed away on 21st July in the Wyndham Nursing Home just a few months after leaving her home in Sampford Brett. Patricia Dening first joined the Taunton Division in 1946. Her mother was already a member at this time when they were living at North Curry. This is a period of 67 years continuous membership and I cannot recall any present member in Somerset who can match such a length of service.

I first came across Patricia in the late 1950's as she regularly attended the County Rallies. These were often to neighbouring County Farm Institutes and were an annual event at the time. She attended other county events and until a few years ago, could be seen in attendance at the Lecture Days.

She often came to the Taunton Division Meetings never missing an A.G.M. Each year she would exhibit in the Taunton Honey Show that is held in conjunction with the Taunton Flower Show. Her name can be seen inscribed on a number of trophies.

Patricia was in her mid eighties and had worked in the medical profession. Quietly spoken, she always mentioned her bees and asked how others were faring.

We have lost a loyal member and we shall miss seeing her at our events, always wearing her head scarf.

David Morris (President Taunton Beekeepers)

Somerset Beekeepers Association Lecture Day 2014

Once again, we return to the Kings of Wessex Academy in Cheddar on Saturday 15 February 2014. Caroline Butter has reserved the venue and Sharon Blake has booked Simon Jones (Regional Bee Inspector) and his team. She has also managed, once again, to secure speakers with excellent credentials in their chosen fields.

Gerry Collins, MSc NDB

Gerry Collins started beekeeping at the age of eleven years as junior member of Hagley and Stourbridge branch of Worcestershire BKA, passing the BBKA

preliminary (the old name for the Basic) exam one year later in 1959. Today he is a BBKA Master beekeeper, Senior honey judge and Holder of the National Diploma in Beekeeping. He has served in various capacities at local, county and national level. Currently, he is on his third chairmanship of the BBKA Exam Board and second chairmanship of Doncaster BKA. He also ran the BBKA Correspondence Courses for eighteen years, writing much of the course material.

He is an examiner for every BBKA examination and a General Husbandry trainer. He played a major role in the introduction of BBKA modular exams (writing six of the original module syllabi) and has set and marked several module papers. Having spent most of his working life in Yorkshire lecturing in biology at Doncaster College, retiring in 2007 to spend more time with his 25 colonies enabling him to take even more photos to add to an existing large collection of images on all aspects of bees and beekeeping. Many of his photos have been used to illustrate the new BBKA 'Course in a Case' and a few BBKA leaflets.

Professor Dave Goulson

Dave Goulson is Professor of Biology at the University of Sussex. He received his bachelor's degree in biology from Oxford University, followed by a doctorate on butterfly ecology at Oxford Brookes University. Subsequently, he lectured in biology for eleven years at the University of Southampton, before moving to Stirling in 2006, and then to Sussex in 2013. Dave works mainly on the ecology and conservation of bumblebees. He has published more than two hundred scientific articles on the ecology and conservation of insects, with a particular focus on bumblebees. He is the author of *Bumblebees; Their Behaviour, Ecology and Conservation*, published in 2010 by Oxford University Press, and of *A Sting in the Tale*, a popular science book about bumblebees, published in 2013 by Jonathan Cape. He also founded the Bumblebee Conservation Trust in 2006, a charity which has grown to 8,000 members.

Dr Dino McMahon

After finishing his PhD at Oxford in 2010, where he studied the evolution of an unusual parasite (Strepsiptera), Dino McMahon took up a research fellowship at Queen's University Belfast investigating causes of disease decline in UK

pollinators. He is interested in the close interplay between hosts and their parasites. How do these relationships evolve and what are their ecological impacts? For most living communities, single host-species interactions are an unrealistic representation of the natural world. These are better viewed as multiple communities of hosts and parasite species. Honey bees are host to at least eighteen viruses, two microsporidia, parasitic flies (braula), trypanosomes (crithidia), ectoparasitic mites (varroa); and bacterial and fungal pathogens like American Foulbrood and Chalkbrood.

Dino is interested in how disease interactions are shaped by this wider community. Do parasites enter into conflicting or co-operative relationships when they co-infect the same host? Does this result in raised or reduced virulence, and does this depend on host variables such as species, age, caste, or even order of parasite arrival or dose? Several non-native pests and pathogens of high impact (e.g. varroa destructor, Nosema ceranae) have also recently emerged as problems in honey bees and coincide with recent honey bee losses. How have these novel parasites altered the disease landscape? Is their rise to prominence a risk to other pollinator species such as bumble bees? He is addressing some of these questions through a UK government Insect Pollinator Initiative (IPI): *“Impact and mitigation of emergent diseases on major UK insect pollinators”*.

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