

West Wilts BKA News

News, the planned activities and some advice for members of West Wiltshire Beekeepers Association



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This is your 'go to' section that will describe the things that you need to know about (because it is the stuff that spends your money)!

Good to know **page 3**

The 'fun bits': social events, training and reviews.

The Apiary is here!

...or will be by the time you get this Newsletter!

You can see some of the Apiary team completing the doors and flooring in the clubhouse at the new site in preparation for the Grand Opening on 2nd April. You can see the hives in the paddock in front of the clubhouse, so you can see this has the potential to be an excellent facility for the branch.

The team have put a lot of effort in and it is really paying off...in fact after a few months of a range of serious stuff (apiary move and charitable status) we are now seeing light at the end of the tunnel on a range of fronts and we can start to hold sessions to share knowledge and get on with beekeeping.

This edition of the Newsletter is slightly shorter than the recent versions and slightly early so everyone is aware of the apiary opening. There is also the usual calendar (page 2), an update on the charitable status (page 2) and some guidance and events (see page 3 onwards).

Diary of events

April 2022

WWBKA Apiary Opening – 2nd April

BBKA Spring Convention – 8th-10th April; Harper Adams University, Shropshire TF10 8NB. See page 4

WWBKA Lecture – 12th April, Getting to grips with swarm control, by Zoom

June 2022

Royal Bath and West Show – 2nd-4th June; nr Shepton Mallet

September 2022

Wilts BKA Honey Bee Health Day – 3rd September (Location To Be Confirmed)

West Wilts BKA Honey Show - 10th September 2022

October 2022

Wiltshire Bee and Honey Day – 8th October (Saturday); Corn Exchange, Devizes

National Honey Show – 27th-29th October; Sandown Park Racecourse, Esher

November 2022

West Wilts BKA Annual General Meeting – 7th November

Need to know

Wiltshire Beekeepers Association vote to become a charity

The membership of our County's Beekeepers Association voted overwhelmingly to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) at a Special General Meeting (SGM) held on 8 March in Devizes Corn Exchange. While the objectives of the CIO are to advance the education of the public and beekeepers in the craft of beekeeping and to promote the importance of bees in the environment, one of the important implications for we hobby beekeepers is that we will be able to claim Gift Aid on our subscriptions which in turn will increase the income revenue in our Branch.

The next step is for the Wiltshire Beekeepers Association to apply formally for conversion to a CIO. While all the detailed hard work in creating a mandatory new Constitution and County Rules has been completed and approved by Council, the application must go to the Charity Commissioners who may take some time to grant formal approval. That said, it is hoped to achieve this by the Autumn and have the eleven trustees of the Management Board of the new organisation firmly in post.

Our Branch has been represented on the Charity Sub Committee by our President and our Chair, both of whom are more than prepared to answer any questions you might have as the application process progresses.

Good to know

Lectures

12th April – Really getting to grips with Swarm control, Bob Smith NDB

We have the privilege of having the return of Bob Smith to give a talk on understanding swarming, and working with the bees to avoid it and/or manage it.

Royal Bath and West Show 2022

Not only is the Royal Bath and West show on this year, but entries are OPEN! Please visit <https://www.bathandwest.com/bees-honey-competition> for more details...and remember if your entry fees come to £12 or more (inc VAT) you get a free ticket, but hurry...entries close on 2nd May!

It doesn't matter whether you are a new beekeeper or an 'old hand' you are likely to find the Bee and Honey tent a fascinating place. There is usually a range of exhibition hives, some really great entries (remember it is one of the regional shows that is only one step down from the National Honey Show) as well as some of the most experienced beekeepers in the country to ask advice.

But the Royal Bath and West isn't all about bees. It is one of the premier agricultural shows in the Country and a great celebration of Great British entertainment, food, drink and the countryside, so have a look at <https://www.bathandwest.com/royal-bath-and-west-show> to plan your visit.

Secretary's Goldmine: Crop Spraying Alerts

Last autumn I found myself wondering, in an idle moment, how I could make sure that I get notified if farmers will be spraying insecticides near my apiary. After a bit of digging around, I found that the answer was that I needed to register on Bee Connected.

The UK code of practice for pesticide use requires farmers to provide notification when they intend to use certain products to protect their crops. They can comply with the notification requirement by logging on to Bee Connected and entering information about the product they intend to use, the date when they will be using it, and the location where it will be used. This information is then correlated with the location of apiaries that are entered onto the database by individual beekeepers. Beekeepers who are registered on the site and whose hives are in the vicinity of the crop spraying will then receive an e-mail to give some advance warning.

In order to receive these notifications, you will need to register on Bee Connected on <https://beeconnected.org.uk> and provide them with information about the location of your apiary(ies). You can set the area within which you want to receive notifications from a 1km to 5km radius of your hives. After you've done that, you're all set.

Spring Convention

BOOK NOW!

*Spring* 2022
Convention

Friday 8 - Saturday 9 – Sunday 10 April 2022
Harper Adams University, Shropshire, TF10 8NB

Lectures, Workshops and Seminars covering a wide range of practical and scientific topics, directed at all levels of experience, presented by leading experts. Bumper Trade Show Saturday 9th

Speakers and Tutors include; Marin Anastasov, Mark Barnett, Shirley and Richard Bond, Norman Carreck, Lars Chittka, Celia Davis, Joyce Nisbet, Juliet Osborne, Julian Parker, Sara Robb, Nigel Semmence, Jo Widdicombe, Geraldine Wright, and more...

For further information, and to book from 31st January
see the Spring Convention pages at www.bbka.org.uk

Contact us

Newsletter content

We will try to send this out as close to the 1st of the month as possible. We will have a copy date of a week before to give us time to get everything together, and we would really like to hear from you. If you want to include anything please send an email to Newsletter-WWBKA@outlook.com.

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