

West Wilts BKA News

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



News from the garden

Having taken over from the previous editor, this is my first attempt at the West Wilts BKA Newsletter. I'm sure members will join me in thanking him for all previous useful and informative publications.

This has been a precipitous first newsletter for me, culminating in the need to unexpectedly purchase a new laptop - as at the "eleventh hour" (29th November actually) my keyboard started to convey "gibberish" - without all of it being my fault! (I won't be able to use that excuse next month will !!) I am greatly aware of the expertise of my predecessor and will definitely need the input of other experienced bee keeping members to enable provision of interesting newsletters. In the meantime, I hope you will bear with me while I get to grips with the process.

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This is your 'go to' section that will describe the things that you need to know about.

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The 'fun bits': news and reports.

Diary of events

December 2022

WWBKA Lecture – 20th December (Tuesday), 7.30 pm by Zoom; Martin Hann and Clare Densley (Bee Department Buckfast Abbey), What the books don't tell you and why bees change their minds

January 2023

Wiltshire BKA AGM - 31 January 2023 (Tuesday), 7pm, The Wessex Room at the Devizes Corn Exchange, Market Place, Devizes

April 2023

BBKA Spring Convention - 21-23 April 2023 (Thursday to Saturday), Harper Adams University, Shropshire

June 2023

Royal Bath and West Show – 1st-3rd June 2023 (Thursday to Saturday), Royal Bath and West Showground, near Shepton Mallet

September 2023

Frome Cheese Show – 9th September (Saturday), West Woodlands Showground, Nr Frome

West Wiltshire BKA Show – 16th September (Saturday), Bratton Jubilee Hall

October 2023

Wiltshire Bee and Honey Day – 7th October (Saturday), Devizes Corn Exchange, 10 am – 4 pm

National Honey Show – 26th-28th October (Thursday to Saturday), Sandown Park Racecourse, Esher, Surrey

November 2023

WWBKA AGM, week beginning 6th November, TBC

Need to know

Lectures

What the books don't tell you and why bees change their minds, Clare Densley and Martin Hann (Buckfast) – 20th December by Zoom

A return of Clare and Martin from the Bee Department at Buckfast Abbey where they provide education and support, particularly on teaching beekeepers and running courses for those who wish to start beekeeping or simply want to learn about bees. A Community Apiary scheme has been developed with the intention of opening beekeeping to all at the Abbey.

or everything which is written down about bees there are exceptions where the bees seem to ignore what they are supposed to do and do something weird to confuse you. Bees are not devious though and there is often a reason for the seemingly aberrant behaviour. An insight into the complexities of the superorganism logic even when it is difficult to fathom!

Good to know

AGM to be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 31 January 2023 at Devizes Corn Exchange

The AGM will be followed by the Winter Lecture to be given by Beth Harris on "The Electric Ecology of Bee".

Module 5 Honey Bee Biology Study Group commenced 21st November.

24 members from across the county joined the first Module 5 session on Zoom. The aim is to use the syllabus to help those attending to increase their beekeeping knowledge and help those planning to sit the exam with their preparations. Experience suggests that some will decide it's not for them but it's hoped those who have started will stay the course. There are not many reasons in our normal beekeeping experience to worry about the biology of the honey bee but having some knowledge does help explain certain aspects of honey bee behaviour. The aim is to provide fortnightly zoom meeting with a "recap" the following week. Emails give participants pointers about the content of each session so they can prepare before the sessions.

KEEP THE DATE!

Please note the change in date for the WWBKA Annual Dinner..... Venue - The Duke at Bratton – February 1st 2023 – at 1900 – the menu and pricing is currently being negotiated – information to follow in the January 2023 newsletter.

West Wiltshire BKA AGM 2022 – report of proceedings...

The West Wiltshire Beekeepers' Annual General Meeting 2022 was held on November 7th 2022. However due to a mix up with the booking, the meeting had to be shifted at the last minute to Bratton Church Institute. This made for a compact meeting with 26 attendees, but nevertheless it was productive. Before branch business was addressed the meeting started with a few moments silence for members that have passed away over the year.

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The committee elections were conducted with two of the 2021 committee standing down, but an additional three members offering to stand.

The meeting completed and presentations of the trophies for various recent show successes was undertaken. A social cup of team and biscuits followed for members to have a friendly chat.

West Wiltshire BKA AGM 2022 – report of proceedings continued...

Whilst the last-minute move from the Jubilee Hall was unfortunate, it did mean that we shared the venue with Bratton Silver band who were practicing in the main room. This provided a beautiful accompaniment to the business.....although readers may decide the significance of the timing of their rendition of "Oh God our help in ages past (Our hope for years to come)" during the committee election.

Membership

We are reminded by the Membership Secretary reminds that the membership year runs from 1st October – 30th September each calendar year.

It is hoped that members will renew their membership and we look forward to seeing members in the coming year at branch meetings, and at Branch apiary sessions next spring and summer. If you have any questions, please send an e-mail to

Membership-WWBKA@outlook.com and the Membership Secretary will respond. Otherwise, it is hoped memberships will be renewed promptly, so that your various insurances are up to date.

Here's a link to an interesting blog.... by The Apiarist, aka Professor David Evans.


<https://theapiarist.org/broodless/>. It's well worth a read.....published every Friday and considered to be a reliable source of valuable information. He talks of the need for the effective oxalic acid treatment in winter and discusses this further in his blog – an interesting read....

I would really appreciate any ideas, reports or articles sent to me at

WWBKA Newsletter Editor: Newsletter-WWBKA@outlook.com

Finally – Sending all members best wishes for a "Happy and Healthy Christmas".

Beekeeping supplies.



For Your Beekeeping Supplies

Your local supplier providing a service for:

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what3words poetry.unto.driveway

Contacts and services

Contact details for committee and officers

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WWBKA Asian Hornet Action Team Coordinator: AHAT-WWBKA@outlook.com

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Services available to members

The following services are provided by West Wilts BKA to members:

Bee Bank (for sale or purchase of queens, nucs and colonies). Contact the Branch Secretary at

Secretary-WWBKA@outlook.com

Bookers Wholesale Customer Card. Contact the Chair at Chair-WWBKA@outlook.com or 07711 018440 for details.

Equipment loan (microscopes, extractors, etc.): Contact the Branch Secretary at Secretary-WWBKA@outlook.com

Library: Contact our Librarian (either direct or through the Secretary)

Swarm Collection Register: Contact Branch Swarm Coordinator (David Newell 01373-825560 or sj007q0836@blueyonder.co.uk).

Find us on  :West Wiltshire Beekeepers Association