

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.

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The 'fun bits': news and reports.

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas -

"Best wishes for a Healthy New Year" to you all.... and here's hoping all beekeepers encounter less challenges this year than last. It's always great to find a solution to a beekeeping problem – but I am assured that there is always a new challenge around the corner and as we all know – the bees don't read the same books as we do!

Diary of events

January 2023

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

February

Annual branch dinner at The Duke Bratton, on Wednesday 1st February 2023. More details below on page 4

April 2023

BBKA Spring Convention – 21st – 23rd 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 – 23rd September (Saturday), Jubilee Hall, Bratton (*please note the date change*)

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, 7th November, Jubilee Hall, Bratton

Need to know

Lectures

Coming up on Tuesday 31st January 2023..... The Winter Lecture will be given by Beth Harris on "The Electric Ecology of Bee" following the County AGM at Devizes Corn Exchange.

Good to know

The County AGM is to be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 31st January 2023 at Devizes Corn Exchange. The County AGM will be followed by the Winter Lecture to be given by Beth Harris on "The Electric Ecology of Bee".

Membership

A gentle reminder – have you renewed your membership yet? The membership year runs from 1st October – 30th September each calendar year.

It is hoped members will renew their membership. 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.

CHAIRMAN'S NEW YEAR MESSAGE

First let me wish all you West Wilts BKA members and your families a very happy New Year with an extra wish for a successful beekeeping season at whatever level you are involved with our fascinating and absorbing hobby. At the risk of some levity, I thought you might enjoy the photographs (below) of my grandson who has already progressed from his "babygrow beesuit" to one in delightful pink – with his younger sister behind rapidly following in his footsteps. You are never too young to get involved with bees and both of these two are already keen to sign up as Junior members of their local beekeeping association.



At the risk of stating the obvious, the membership invested £8000 of capital last year in creating a wonderful apiary, Clubhouse and training facility with our illustrious Apiary Manager progressively expanding our stock of bees so that we went into the winter with bright prospects for the upcoming season. An enormous amount of hard work and goodwill on the part of many members helped us get through a year of great change in 2022, so I hope that we can now have a year of stability – and capitalise on all this hard work. I won't duplicate the 2023 activities mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, but I would like to make two pleas.

Chairmans New Year Message contd...

The first is the requirement to find a second West Wilts Trustee to represent our views on the newly created Wiltshire CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) which now runs the County organisation – and amongst other benefits – allows us to enjoy Gift Aid on your subscriptions. If you are keen to assist in advancing the education of the public and beekeepers in the craft of beekeeping and promoting the importance of bees in the environment – then please consider volunteering. If you are minded to do so, please contact me on chair-WWBKA@outlook.com on 07711 018440.

My second and concluding plea is to stress that this is YOUR CLUB for YOUR HOBBY, so please make full use of the many activities and training which YOUR Committee provides for YOUR benefit. Conversely – if you have any gripes or suggestions about making the value of your membership even better, then do let anyone on YOUR Committee know your thoughts.

Enjoy your beekeeping in 2023.

Dinner at The Duke

Here's the promised reminder about the annual branch dinner, booked for the evening of Wednesday 1st February 2023. As you can see, the chef has put in an option using honey as an ingredient for one element of every course. You have a choice of either 2 courses at £29 per person, or 3 courses for £35 per person. These prices include food and service charge, but drinks are not included.

Have you booked your place yet? Please note that you, your partner/significant other/friends and family are all very welcome to join us - the more the merrier! For those of you who haven't booked yet, please do - we'd love to welcome you and your guests to join us for what is bound to be a really enjoyable evening.

The deadline for bookings and payment is the **22nd January 2023** - payment via BACS to: WBKA - West Wiltshire Branch Sort code 30-98-75 Account number 00061511 Reference - your surname and Dinner. Once you've paid and chosen what you'd like from the menu, please e-mail the Treasurer-WWBKA@outlook.com to let her know your menu choices.

Starters:

Grilled Goats Cheese Tartine, Baby Leaf Salad Garnish with a Honey and Walnut Dressing

Potato and Leek Soup served with a Warm Ciabatta (V/P)

Antipasti Salad Served with Cured Meats, Cornichons, Capers, Parmesan and Balsamic Glaze (P)

Main Course:

Oven Roasted Chicken Breast in a Honey and Wholegrain Mustard Cream Sauce Served with Roast Potatoes and Buttered Greens (P)

Honey and Garlic Glazed Salmon with Coconut Rice and Stir Fried Asian Vegetables (P)

Mediterranean Stuffed Sweet Potato with Curly Kale, Beetroot Puree and Balsamic Reduction (VG-P)

Desserts:

Sticky Toffee pudding with Honey Glazed Banana and Ice Cream

Apple and Passion Fruit Oat Crumble with Caramel Ice Cream

Homemade Honeycomb and White Chocolate Cheesecake with Toffee Sauce and Ice cream

We look forward to seeing you on the night!

Apiary News: We are fortunate that the current Apiary Manager has agreed to stay on for another year. A trolley and toolboxes have been purchased with the intention that six hives can be checked at any one time. Sometime in the early spring the Apiary Manager will be looking for volunteers to make up frames for the new season, and there will be more stone to be wheelbarrowed up from the road for around the seating area. When a date for the task is published I expect that volunteers to help with that will be appreciated too.

Module 5 Honey Bee Biology Study Group: commenced 21st November continues..... subject content is engrossing but personally I'm having a job finding time to keep up with the reading although enjoying the content very much.

Secretary for Wiltshire Beekeepers Association: The County Secretary's term of office expires on the 31st January 2023. There will be an election for the position at the County AGM. Anyone who would like to stand for election, or would like to find out more about what's involved, please contact the current County Secretary, on secretary@wiltshirebeekeepers.co.uk The closing date for applications is 6th January 2023

Courses: there are still spaces available on our **Beginners Course**, starting on Wednesday 6th February 2023. It runs for 6 weeks, plus two hands-on sessions at the club apiary when the season gets going. If you know someone who is interested in taking up beekeeping, perhaps this would be an ideal gift for them! Full details can be found on our website at <https://westwilts.org/beginners-course>

Commencing on Monday 6th February 2023 the **Basic Assessment Certificate** course begins and runs over 6 weeks.. Members who don't yet have this are seriously encouraged to consider taking it this year. More information about the content can be found on the website at <https://westwiltsbka.org/basic-assessment-course/> If you are interested in joining the course please get in touch with the Secretary at Secretary-WWBKA@outlook.com

Who found time to join the Zoom lecture on 20th December?

“What the books don't tell you and why bees change their minds” - Clare Densley and Martin Hann (Buckfast) did not disappoint! Their presentation was interesting and easy to listen to – I'll be looking out for them again.....

Beekeeping supplies.



For Your Beekeeping Supplies

Your local supplier providing a service for:

- All Thorne's supplies
- BBWear suits – try before you buy
- Second hand kit bought and sold
- Available to attend your association, apiary meetings
- Supporting Trainers, Improvers, Newbies
- Payment by BACS, card, cash, cheque
- Deliveries – subject to distance, order size

Please email your order or phone so we can arrange an appointment for you to visit to discuss what you need.

sales@thebeedepot.com

07879 811967

01373 430458

Diane Sleigh

The Apple Garden, Buckland Dinham, Frome, Somerset, BA11 2QP
what3words poetry.unto.driveway

Contacts and services

Contact details for committee and officers

WWBKA President: President-WWBKA@outlook.com

WWBKA Chair: Chair-WWBKA@outlook.com

WWBKA Treasurer: Treasurer-WWBKA@outlook.com

WWBKA Secretary: Secretary-WWBKA@outlook.com

WWBKA Apiary Manager: Apiary-WWBKA@outlook.com

WWBKA Honey Show Secretary: HoneyShow-WWBKA@outlook.com

WWBKA Membership Secretary: Membership-WWBKA@outlook.com

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

WWBKA Newsletter Editor: Newsletter-WWBKA@outlook.com

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 sj007g0836@blueyonder.co.uk).

Find us on  : West Wiltshire Beekeepers Association