

West Wilts BKA News

News, planned activities and advice and information 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 weather has been "all over the place" hasn't it! Hoping for some warmer consistent temperatures soon!

The picture above is of bees on Grevillea Rosmarinifolia in a garden on the Isle of Wight last week.

Newsletter email address – the problem is now resolved and I have full access to newsletter-wwbka@outlook.com

Word puzzle – a member suggested that a puzzle might be appreciated as an occasional addition to the newsletter. I have included my own attempt at a word puzzle in this publication – it's **not** a crossword (please be patient with the numbering)..... The answers were checked as I developed the puzzle – doubtless some of you will debate the accuracy of my clues – please be gentle with your feedback. **Answers will be published in next month's newsletter.** If anybody would like to submit something similar, please feel free to do so – this is your newsletter and all contributions are gratefully received.

Diary of events

April 2023

BBKA Spring Convention - 21-23 April 2023 (Friday to Sunday), 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

Don't forget - BBKA Spring Convention 2023 Booking opened on 31st January.....

Friday 21st – Saturday 22nd – Sunday 23rd April 2023 at Harper Adams University, Shropshire, TF10 8NB (Bumper Trade Show Saturday 22nd)

Lectures, Workshops and Seminars covering a wide range of practical and scientific topics, directed at all levels of experience, presented by leading experts

For further information, and to book, please visit the Spring Convention pages of

www.bbka.org.uk

An Invitation from Avon Beekeepers Association –

(the following information is lifted from an earlier mailshot.....).

A reminder - we have received an invitation from the Avon Beekeepers Association for our members to attend the Avon BKA Spring Study Day at The Hub in Flax Bourton on Saturday the 15th of April.

AVON BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

incorporating Weston, Keynsham, North Somerset, Bristol and Bath

Spring Study Day

Saturday 15th April 2023

at The Hub, Flax Bourton.

10am – 4pm

.....they will be running a full and interesting programme for beekeepers of all levels of experience. There will be talks on a range of topics, a raffle, and beekeeping supplies for sale. Entry costs £5, cash at the door - no cards!

Flax Bourton is just south of Bristol on the A370. If travelling either from the north or south turn off the A370 onto the B3130 to Nailsea. At the first roundabout turn left into Old Weston Road. The Hub is 300 yards from this turn. **The post code is BS48 1UR**

West Wiltshire BKA Clothing – have you got yours yet for this season?

West Wiltshire BKA has introduced a selection of quality club clothing, all with our club logo sewn on by a local company.

The caps offer shade for your eyes during inspection on sunny days, plus helps to keep your veil away from your face when worn under 'fencing hoods'.

Updated prices for March 2023 for the club merchandise follow below:

H860 - unisex fleece Navy = £32.58

H840 - unisex sweatshirt Navy = £24.60

BB10 - cap Navy = £9.00

H101 - unisex polo top Navy = £15

Clothing is available in XS, S, M, L, XL, XXL, 3XL and 4XL. The caps are one size but adjustable.

The company we use offer many items of clothing. Should you wish for alternative items please do let us know and we will endeavour to accommodate.

To place orders and for further information please email brunello2004@hotmail.co.uk

Please note these are offered at cost price, the club does not profit from the sale of club clothing. However, if you would like to make a donation to the club for each item, of say £1 for each clothing item and £0.50 for a cap, it would be gratefully received but by no means obligatory.

The company we use offer many items of clothing. Should you wish for alternative items please do let us know and we will endeavour to accommodate.



Wax flowers Workshop at Bratton – sincere thanks to both West Wilts members presenting a wax flowers workshop in which they shared their skills and experiences. Nine attended the session that allowed hands on experience with friendly, helpful advice and encouragement. We worked with wax sheets and used templates, cutters and hair dryers (gently)! There was demonstration of the making of wax sheets (something I have found difficult in the past) and some very useful tips. We were guided us through the cutting, shaping and attachment of petals and sepals. By the finish of the workshop we had all produced recognisable flowers. Great fun, enjoyed by all – once more – many thanks!



Somerford Bee Auction

A Bee Equipment / Live Bees Auction is to be held on May 1st 2023 at Great Somerford Showground

If you have any enquiries please contact Stephen Auty or Chris Exton sjauty@aol.com
cpje82@aol.com

Poster with more details follows below.....

Great Somerford Bee Auction

on
Monday 1st May 2023



Save the date !

Have you got a shed full of old kit ?
downsizing your operation ? or
looking for some bargains to help you
expand or buy your first hive ?

On Monday 1st May 2023, our 1st
Annual auction will take place at The
Showground, Great Somerford, nr
Chippenham, WILTSHIRE SN15 5JA

Viewing from 11.30am with the
Auction commencing at 1pm

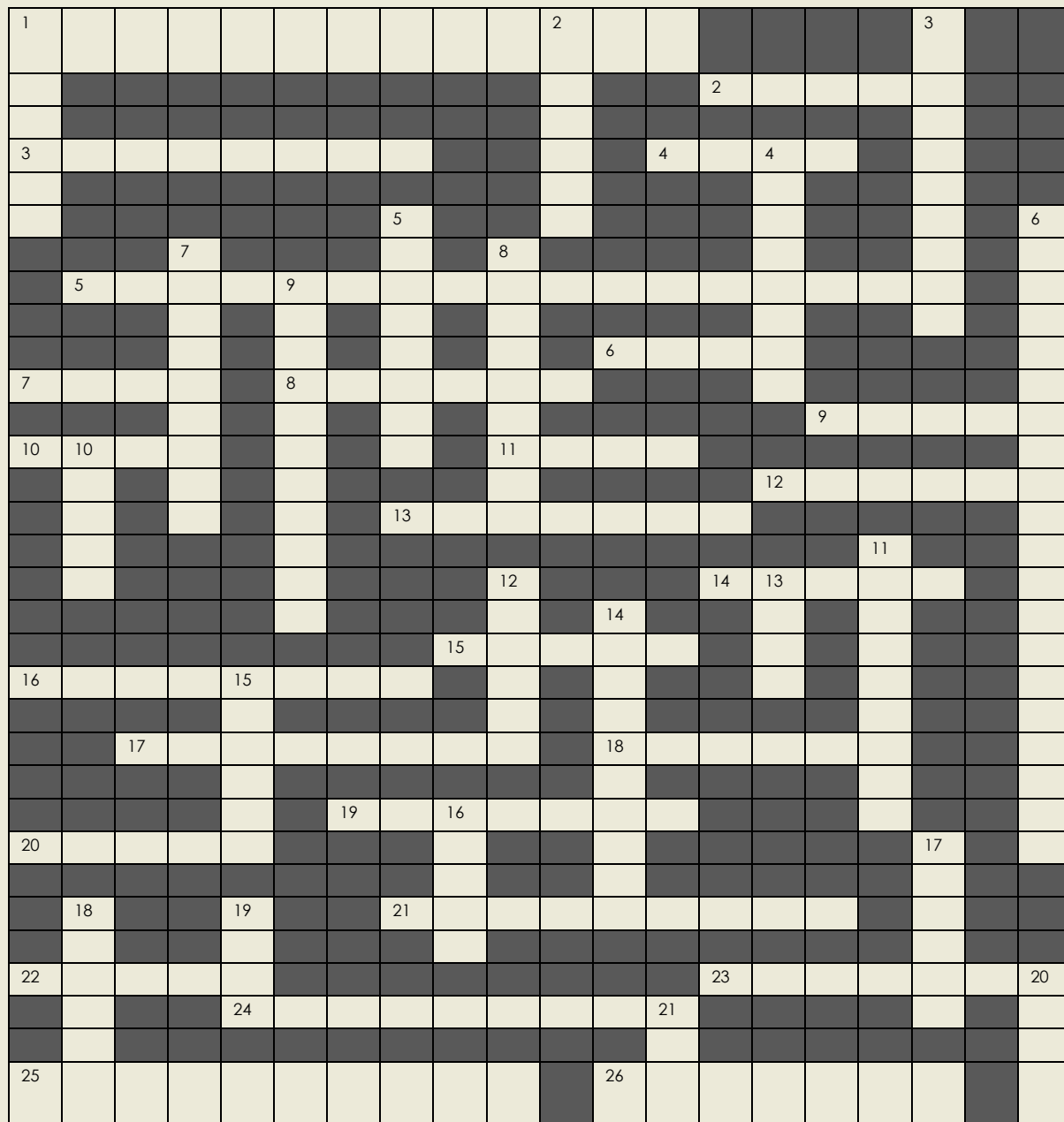
Entries are invited for the auction :
please email :
somerfordbeeauction@gmail.com
or contact via our Facebook page
'Somerford Bee Auction' or call
07767 838317 / 07841 291449

Lots to include Beekeeping
accessories, Beehives, Extracting
Equipment, Beeswax, Honey,
Beekeeping Books, Antique
Beekeeping Equipment and a Live
bee (nucs and complete hive)
auction at the end.
A full catalogue of lots entered will
be available from 24th April

The Showground, Great Somerford , Nr Chippenham, Wiltshire SN15 5JA

Word Puzzle

Please read the clues carefully – the numbers for clues across and down may be duplicated on the grid..... all answers (arguably) have some (possibly tenuous) links to beekeeping!



Across	Down
1. The scientific name for Western Honey bee (4 – 9)	1. A collection of bee hives
2. A name given to the bee nurturing young bees	2. Early stages of development, marked by cleavage, the laying down of the basic tissues, and the formation of primitive organs
3. Flagellum, pedicel and scape are the names of three parts of this essential pair of anatomical structures	3. The recognised shape of a bee cell
4. Each honey bee has two pairs of these, one pair larger and the other smaller	4. A popular design of bee hive
5. Said by some people to be the “father of beekeeping” credited for designing and building the first wooden hive with a moveable comb in 1780 (7-5-5)	5. Sticky resins collected by bees sometimes used for strengthening and sealing
6. The final stage of development of the bee, before the molt	6. 1806 – 1909, a British author and beekeeper whose name is given to a particular design of bee hive
7. A manmade structure within which bees live	7. This name might be given to a person nurturing and caring for bees
8. Typically yellow powder produced by plants involved in the fertilisation of flowers	8. A honey based spiced liquor often associated with Wales
9. A collection of the process of a colony reproducing by the old queen leaving with some of the bees.	9. This might be an extreme response to bee venom
10. This is said to be more of a danger to bees than cold	10. + 12. A highly aggressive predator posing significant threat to honey bees and other insects (5-6)
11. The outer casing of a WBC hive	11. The recipe for this cocktail includes honey
12. The bellows are vital to the operation of this common beekeepers tool	12. See 10 down
13. A solid feed for bees commonly used during the winter months	13. Commonly described as the sound made by honey bees
14. See 17 across	14. Secreted from the glands in the heads of the worker bees and is fed to bee larvae
15. The name used to describe the young of the honey bee	15. Sugar rich liquid produced by plants
16. The dominant, reproductive female in a hive of honeybees (5-3)	16. When added to whisky with the sweet sticky substance produced by bees for their own nourishment, this is said to ease a winter cough or cold
17. + 14. - said to be the home of a particular type of bee bred by Brother Adam in Devon (8-5)	17. All the worker bees, drones, queen, and developing brood living together in one hive
18. The stage between egg and pupa in the development cycle of honey bees – white, legless, grublike...	18. Simple word describing a female bee whose reproductive organs are undeveloped
19. An alcoholic beverage made with fermented fruit and honey	19. Made of twisted straw, a traditional housing for bees
20. An abbreviation - a box put onto a hive for the bees to store honey in	20. Meshed material to allow vision and protect the face whilst caring for bees
21. Made by bees to store honey and eggs	21. A spacer that goes between, over or under hive parts to create extra space
22. Name given to the male honey bee	
23. One of the glands secreting substances used to communicate with other bees	
24. Chemical substances secreted from glands, used as a means of communication	
25. Used to seal the top of the hive from the roof (5-5)	
26. Secreted by bees – we collect it and use it to illuminate the dark	

Beekeeping Supplies

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



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

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[what3words poetry.unto.driveway](http://what3words.poetry.unto.driveway)