

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.

Would you believe it – a year since the opening of the clubhouse! Hoping for continued success of both the bees and the beekeepers! The apiary sessions are now on the calendar and looking forward to a full and rich season with the bees (though the weather leaves much to be desired in my opinion – where has the sun gone to?)

I am sure you look forward to reading about the next step of Liz's beekeeping journey – she plans to update us with another instalment of her experiences when she receives bees into her hive.

Diary of events

May 2023

20th May The United Nations has designated this date as **World Bee Day** to raise awareness of the importance of pollinators, the threats they face and their contribution to sustainable development.

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

If you know of any upcoming dates please let me know and I will add for next months newsletter.

Good to know

Bee Fayre Celebrations 2023. This celebration is to mark the 400th anniversary of Charles Butler's book "The Feminine Monarchie" at his pastoral home in Wootton St Lawrence RG23 8PE on Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th August. It will be a very special weekend of celebrations on all matters beekeeping including international speakers, a beehive education centre, craft demonstrations, hog roast, real ale - and more! For programme details, visit www.charles-butler400.co.uk

Follow on Instagram beefayrecelebration

Follow on Facebook BeeFayreCelebration.

The WWBKA Apiary

Picture taken on April 1st 2023 – what a great variety of hives there are now!



The following are dates for apiary "meets":

13th May: 27th May: 10th Jun: 24th Jun: 8th Jul: 22nd Jul: 5th Aug: 19th Aug: 2nd Sep.

Apiary bound? Don't forget to bring your cup or mug with you if you would like a drink – the kettle is (usually) on and there's always a welcome!

I was unable to attend the apiary meet on April 15th – but I have heard on the grapevine that the afternoon was well attended and there were even reports of the sun being seen and a reasonable temperature being attained. I hear that we had quite a few new attendees and take this opportunity to welcome them.

The sale of three nucs from the apiary proceeded and raised additional funds for the WWBKA.

Donation of Observation hive:

You may have read of the observation hive offered to the WWBKA – if you missed the email here's a reminder - it was decided to mount this in our new Clubhouse, giving the bees access to the outside through a hole, so that it can be a living hive for all our members to enjoy throughout the season. It has been suggested a plaque be mounted on it with words along the lines of "The Arthur Goodhead Memorial Hive" as a lasting memento to Arthur Goodhead and his beekeeping hobby.

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.



Solution to April newsletter word puzzle

Across (numbered in red)	Down (numbered in black)
1. Apis mellifera – scientific name for Western Honey bee	2. Apiary – a collection of bee hives
3. Nurse – name given to the bee nurturing young bees	2. embryo - the early stages of development that are marked by cleavage, the laying down of the basic tissues, and the formation of primitive organs
4. Antennae – flagellum pedicel and scape are the names of three parts of this essential pair of anatomical structures	3. Hexagonal – the recognised shape of a bee cell
5. Wing -	4. National – a popular design of bee hive
6. Stefano Della Rocca – 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	5. Propolis – sticky resins collected by bees sometimes used for strengthening and sealing
7. Pupae – the final stage of development of the bee, before the molt	6. William Broughton Carr – 1806 – 1909, a British author and beekeeper whose name is given to a particular design of bee hive
8. Hive – a manmade structure within which bees live	7. Beekeeper – this name might be given to a person nurturing and caring for bees
9. Pollen – typically yellow powder produced by plants involved in the fertilisation of flowers	8. Metheglin – a honey based spiced liquor often associated with Wales
10. Swarm – a collection of the process of a colony reproducing by the old queen leaving with some of the bees.	9. Anaphylaxis – this might be an extreme response to bee venom
11. Damp – said to be more of a danger to bees than cold	10. + 12. Asian a highly aggressive predator posing significant threat to honey bees and other insects
12. Lift – the outer casing of a WBC hive	11. Bees Knees – the recipe for this cocktail includes honey
13. Smoker – the bellows are vital to the operation of this common beekeepers tool	12. + 10. Hornet - Asian a highly aggressive predator posing significant threat to honey bees and other insects
14. Fondant – solid feed for bees commonly used during the winter months	13. Buzz – commonly described as the sound made by honey bees
15. + 18. Abbey - said to be the home of a particular type of bee bred by Brother Adam in Devon	14. Royal Jelly – secreted from the glands in the heads of the worker bees and is fed to bee larvae
16. Brood - the name used to describe the young of the honey bee	15. Nectar – sugar rich liquid produced by plants
17. Queen bee - the dominant, reproductive female in a hive of honeybees	16. Lemon – when added to whisky with the sweet sticky substance produced by bees for their own nourishment, this is said to ease a

1. + 15. Buckfast – said to be the home of a particular type of bee bred by Brother Adam in Devon	17. Colony - all the worker bees, drones, queen, and developing brood living together in one hive
2. Larvae – the stage between egg and pupa in the development cycle of a honey bee – white, legless, grublike...	18. Worker – simple word describing a female bee whose reproductive organs are undeveloped
3. Melomel – an alcoholic beverage made with fermented fruit and honey	19. Skep – made of twisted straw, a traditional housing for bees
4. Super – an abbreviation - a box put onto a hive for the bees to store honey in (superstructure)	20. Veil – meshed material to allow vision and protect the face whilst caring for bees
5. Honeycomb - made by bees to store honey and eggs	21. Eke - a spacer that goes between, over or under hive parts to create extra space
6. Drone – male honey bee	
7. Nasanov – one of the glands secreting substances used to communicate with other bees	
8. Pheromone - chemical substances secreted from glands, used as a means of communication	
9. Crown board – (5-5) used to seal the top of the hive from the roof	
10. Beeswax – secreted by bees collected to illuminate the dark	

Are you in need of bees? Do you need a swarm? Here's a reminder of how to pass on your contact details..... please let the Branch Swarm Coordinator (David Newell 01373-825560 or sj007g0836@blueyonder.co.uk) know so your name can be added to his list (please give landline and mobile numbers).

Of course there is no way of predicting the number of swarms available – understandably it is impossible to guarantee that everybody who wants a swarm will get one.

Once captured, swarms need to be hived fairly quickly so, when a swarm is reported, the coordinator will ring the next member on the list, but if that person cannot be contacted quickly, he will ring the next member below that (he will not normally use email or answering machines).

Remember that you will need to have an empty hive ready (assembled and complete with frames and foundation) to receive the swarm.

If you hear of a swarm in your locality but you cannot collect it yourself, or if you capture a swarm that you do not want to keep, please ring the Swarm Coordinator so that arrangements can be made for it to be collected.

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