

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.

Above - The honeybees are early onto my Sedum Spectabile – hardly open just yet!

After a bit of thought I tore up the first draft of the introduction I had written for this edition of the newsletter and decided instead to use this opportunity to acknowledge the many members of the club who go out of their way to support each other – whether they know each other well or sometimes only through other members. I have been helped throughout this season by members who have listened to my variety of queries and “bee dilemmas” and “chewed over” the options with me. When I have had concerns about my hives, there has always been somebody around – however busy they are – who has dropped what they were doing, to help and advise me.

What a group of helpful members we have in the WWBKA! Such an effective and supportive network! We all have something different and valuable to offer – sometimes just a shared coffee, or exchange of text or “WhatsApp” messages – and other times members might go round in person to mentor each other or share their knowledge and skills, to “co-inspect” hives and support each other etc. I also know, in times of need, members pass on queens, frames of eggs and so on. I feel very privileged to be part of this community. Aren't we lucky! Thank you all!

Diary of Events

September

September 7th will be our final apiary meet this year.

WWBKA Honey Show – Saturday 28th September. Jubilee Hall, Bratton. BA13 4RW

October 2024

Wiltshire Bee and Honey Day Saturday 12th October. Devizes Corn Exchange. SN10 1HS 10am – 4pm.

National Honey Show Thursday 24th to Saturday 26th October. Sandown Park Racecourse, Esher. KT10 9AJ

Need to know

Lectures

You can also see Preparing for Winter BBKA zoom meeting on YouTube using the following link – or just by searching on the BBKA website

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83824579560?pwd=kjhdRbTQz1THpUcmwAHUkn6LZxaq37.1>

Beekeepers need to remain vigilant!

Below is the link to the **Asian Hornet Watch App**, we are all encouraged to have:

<https://www.facebook.com/TheBritishBeekeepersAssociation/posts/pfbid0fgVBgc2JVMY17ShhTnUsXq2o3Znky3GeSoUfhNj4LecCNsboXuVr2FYff6nEaoSI>

Did you miss viewing the AH conference 17th February? It is still available for you to view on YouTube.

Use the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/live/dUMk2tzaw1E?si=CXzQZtZNWfLGv7SF>

Apiary sessions - reminder:

- Hive inspections start at 14.00
- Parking is in the lane outside the farm.
- Please wear a clean bee suit and remember no leather gloves, please.
- Everything you will need for inspecting the bees will be provided, please do not bring your own tools/equipment.
- There is tea and coffee in the club house, but please bring your own mug.

If the session has to be cancelled due to the weather, an email will be sent out in the morning.

Good to know

Did you know..... “Improvers Study Group”



The Improvers study group provides beekeepers who have one or more seasons of beekeeping experience with the basic knowledge and skills to prepare for the BBKA Basic Assessment.

The Improvers Course is also an excellent refresher course for more experienced beekeepers who feel that their knowledge or skills might have become a little rusty!

The course runs for 6 weeks, starting in mid-February. The cost of the course is £30. The 2024 sessions will begin on Tuesday 13th February and will take place in the Oratory Room at the Church Institute, Tynning Lane, Bratton BA13 4RR.

If you would like to enquire about enrolling, please contact our Training Officer on education-WWBKA@outlook.com

Congratulations are due to those members successful in passing their recent assessments!

I have not been able to check with each successful member, so until next month –

“Well done everyone” I hope in the next edition when I have tracked you all down I can have permission to publish your names in the October newsletter?



West Wiltshire Beekeepers Association Honey Show – Bratton Jubilee Hall.



Do you remember receiving the email (around 9th August 2024 I think) with the attachment “2024 Special Edition Newsletter”? Within this there were the details and schedule of our club Honey Show in Bratton Jubilee Hall on the morning of Saturday 28 September. We are hoping that a bumper number of members will enter exhibits – and we hope members will come forward with offers to help with the organisation of the events on the day.

Have you chosen the categories you are going to enter? If you are undecided – take another look, there are a great variety of classes to choose from. West Wiltshire Beekeepers Association is a Club for hobby beekeepers, so do not feel shy about “having a go,” take the plunge – and remember it is not all about honey!

We are lucky to have Dan Young co-ordinating the show. He can be contacted on the following email address: DANIEL.YOUNG12@yahoo.co.uk.

Showing is not only about the competitive aspect – through the process of entering shows you will learn much about how to prepare your produce and how to present your show entries to maximise the quality of your produce. Over recent years a number of shows have fallen by the wayside: the Royal Agricultural Show folded a few years ago and many village shows have also gone. Different levels of show present opportunities to gather, chat and learn. Shows will only continue if we have entries. Covid did not help in this context; people got out of the routine of showing, so **please support your local show**. However, if you are wanting to refresh your knowledge or learn a new aspect about any of the categories you are interested in, please let us know, either at the Branch Apiary or by email to the Secretary at secretary@wwbka-outlook.com.”

Well - that was all about the West Wiltshire Beekeepers Association Honey Show on Saturday September 28th – (you can download the “Show Special” edition by using the following link - <https://westwiltsbka.org/download-wwbka-newsletters/>)

There is another show on Saturday 12th October 2024 – the **Wiltshire Bee and Honey Day** (10am – 4pm) at the Corn Exchange in Devizes (SN10 1HS) - you can follow this link to find out more.... <https://www.wiltshirebeekeepers.co.uk/events/wiltshire-bee-honey-day/>



The poster features a honeycomb background at the top with the word "Wiltshire" in a small font. Below it, the title "BEE AND HONEY DAY" is written in large, bold, white letters with a black outline. The event is sponsored by "Eden Renewables & Whitehall Vineyard". The date and time are "Saturday 12th October 10am-4pm", flanked by two cartoon bees. The location is "The Corn Exchange, Devizes, SN10 1HS". The text "FREE ENTRY" is prominently displayed in large, bold, orange letters. Below this, it says "Talks include 'Thinking of becoming a beekeeper? - How to get started'". A list of activities includes face painting for kids, virtual hive exploration, mead and honey-beer tasting, and local honey gifts and seeds for bees. The bottom section shows images of honey jars, beer bottles, a glass of beer, a honey dipper, a jar of cream, and several honeycombs. A QR code is in the bottom left, and the website "www.wiltshirebeekeepers.co.uk" is in the bottom center, with a cartoon bee in the bottom right.

Wiltshire
BEE AND HONEY DAY

Sponsored by Eden Renewables & Whitehall Vineyard

Saturday 12th October
10am-4pm

The Corn Exchange, Devizes, SN10 1HS

FREE ENTRY

Talks include
**“Thinking of becoming a beekeeper?
– How to get started”**

Activities include:

- **Face painting for the kids**
- **Explore inside a virtual hive**
- **Mead and honey-beer tasting**
- **Local honey, bee-related gifts and seeds for bees**

For more information visit
www.wiltshirebeekeepers.co.uk



Well done Den!

**An amazing 668lbs of honey from the club
apiary!**

Club members thank Den Pictor – our apiary manager - for all his hard work - long hours of commitment to developing and managing the apiary

FIRST COME FIRST SERVED!

The Apiary's new season honey is available to members to buy by the bucket

£5 per lb

If you would like to buy apiary honey, please pay the treasurer direct after checking with Den the weight of buckets available (this can be done via WhatsApp)

You can contact the club treasurer by email at Treasurer-wwbbka@outlook.com

PLEASE NOTE ALL GOODS TO BE COLLECTED FROM THE APIARY ONLY.



Photos from the apiary meet 31st August 2024



Here follows a thought-provoking article from **Nina Wilton** – thank you for your insightful words, Nina

Out Apiaries – the Good, the Bad and the Ugly

When I took up beekeeping, I only planned to keep a hive or two at the end of my garden. However, after a couple of years' worth of swarm collections, splits, and accumulation of different hive types, it became apparent that it would be useful to have an out-apiary. Quite by chance I got the offer of two sites in quick succession and decided to go for both.

The first site is on a small holding, where the owner keeps some chickens, a herd of sheep and a couple of farm cats. The site had previously been used as an out-apiary for several years, but the previous beekeeper moved out of the area. The apiary site is fenced off from the rest of the site and is behind a couple of disused pig-sties – The Piggery. It's accessed over the field where the sheep are kept. The arrangement I have with the site owner is verbal and informal.

The second site is behind a pub in a heavily forested area. It is on a slope, and when I was offered it, the land was derelict. The pub owner planned to landscape the site and wanted to have some beehives, primarily to add to the pub's rural character. We walked the area that had been earmarked for landscaping and I identified a suitable site for the colonies, considering their need for shelter, and the need to screen them from public view. This was agreed with the pub owner, a full health and safety plan was drafted and accompanied by a signed agreement based on the BBKA template for out-apiaries.

I've been running the out-apiaries for 3 years now. There are several considerations that have contributed to their success, or otherwise, which I thought I'd share with members so that people can learn from my mistakes!

Out Apiaries – the Good, the Bad and the Ugly contd...

Distance from home: at least 3 miles away because of the “3 feet or 3 miles” rule. The Piggery is about 4 miles from home, which is ideal. It doesn't take long to get there, which keeps fuel costs and travel time down to acceptable levels. The Pub is further away – a round trip takes about 50 minutes, which is at the outer limit of what works for me personally in terms of travel time, particularly in peak season when I need to do frequent inspections.

Forage:

The Piggery bees have access to lots of arable fields and the 3 colonies I keep there have performed consistently well, producing lots of honey. The Pub bees have never produced a surplus, and although there are several factors that contribute to this, I suspect that one of them is simply that they are in an area that lacks adequate forage.

Access:

The Piggery has good, level access from the road and parking is easy. The hives are in a fenced area across a field, so I've bought a festival trolley to use if I need to carry lots of kit. That works well, although the resident sheep do like to come and see if I've got anything interesting for them in my trolley!



Access at the Pub is more difficult, mainly because it gets quite busy, and I often must park at some distance and walk. Access to the hives is over gravel, which the trolley wheels can't cope with.

Out Apiaries – the Good, the Bad and the Ugly contd...Storage:

Both sites have provided me with secure storage areas which are under cover. This has proved to be helpful, because it has meant that I can store spare kit on each site. I use the storage areas to keep a couple of spare supers, brood boxes and frames, as well as smokers and hive tools. Until I'd had a few months of experience running an out-apiary I didn't really appreciate how useful it is to be able to store some spare kit on site.

Security

The Piggery apiary is some distance from any roads, footpaths or housing, so presents little risk to the public. It's shielded from view by farm buildings, so is unlikely to be an easy target for theft or vandalism. The owner was happy for me to put in some additional fencing and a gate to make sure the sheep can't get access to the bee hives.

Security at the Pub site isn't nearly as good. In initial discussions with the owner, we agreed a site for the hives that would be out of public view, sheltered from the prevailing wind, fenced off and with warning signage. Unfortunately, after this was agreed the owner spent a considerable amount of money on landscaping and decided on a different location for the hives, which are now clearly visible, unsheltered from prevailing wind, and without fencing and warning signage.

Lessons learned:

A big lesson for me has been that I should not start an out-apiary just because a site is available. The first considerations in setting up an apiary must be the welfare of the bees, and safety. The bees at the Piggery have thrived, but those at the Pub have not, despite re-queening and lots of coddling. I could not necessarily have predicted the bees' failure to thrive, but when I saw the changes that the pub owner made to the agreed site and safety precautions, I should have said straight away that they made the site unsuitable as an out-apiary.

Out Apiaries – the Good, the Bad and the Ugly contd...

For any out-apiary arrangements, a clear set of boundaries and good communication are, I think, essential. The welfare of the bees and safety should be non-negotiable.

The owner of the Pub site wanted white, traditional-looking hives. I agreed to that, but in retrospect, found that if I needed to swap out kit I didn't feel able to use what I had available if it wasn't painted white.

**Very pretty – but not practical for this particular site!**

Beyond that I suspect that different beekeepers will have different priorities. For instance, travel time and on-site storage facilities might not be as important for people who are more organised than me. Level access might not be essential for people who are younger and stronger than I am. Some beekeepers might be able to comply with a site owner's wish to have hives that look pretty and match – my kit is all colours and ages, and complying with that requirement is not practical for me.

I hope those considering an out apiary will find this useful to read. Maybe others have a tale or two to tell? If so – please let the editor know and your wit and wisdom can be included in another edition of the newsletter.

Nina Wilton - Thank you very much Nina for sharing this with us, an interesting read for sure!

And – while we are on the subject



Wanted for a WWBKA member –

an out-apiary opportunity for 4 hives preferably within a 5-mile radius of Warminster.

Please direct any responses to newsletter-wwbka@outlook.com

Thank you



Here is a recipe for you to try...

While searching for more input for the newsletter I decided that perhaps another recipe or two (following the season's harvest might be a good idea. So, I have been looking on the internet for a few recipes to try but thought I should find time to bake them and try them before putting them in the newsletter. The trouble is that you need to find time to do this, but I was lucky – I had help from elsewhere! Let me explain... I had a phone call from a neighbour who explained that she had made a honey cake with the jar of honey I had passed on to her the week before – and would I like to try it! Yes indeed! I visited my neighbour, and she gave me a piece of the cake – delicious – and I was able to take a photo of it too. While I was there I asked whether she would share the recipe, and she has emailed me the following – I will give you the recipe in her own words....



A recipe for you to try...contd.



Honey cake recipe

“There are many variations on this cake to be found online, “Nigella's” being one. However, I tend to tweak and change a recipe as my imagination dictates. Not too much, sometimes a lot, but no marmite in sight, I promise! I think however that the spelt flour worked really well and produced a soft bouncy sponge and Elaine’s honey of course.”

Honey cake recipe

So – **in her own words** here is the recipe -

“KIKKI'S TWEAKED APPLE AND DATE CAKE FEATURING ELAINE'S YUMMY HONEY!!

As I made it directly in the food processor, I will give you this quick method, but you can also do it the traditional step by step method. It will be delicious either way!

1. In a food processor, chop 3 DESSERT APPLES – (cored of course and peeled if you like,



I did not peel) with 100g stoneless dates



Honey cake recipe contd...

2. Add the GRATED RIND OF 1 ORANGE, the JUICE OF HALF SAID ORANGE (keep the other half for the syrup), 125 ML OF LIGHT OLIVE OIL (or fat of choice), 130g of ELAINE'S HONEY, 70G OF SUGAR (any will do), 2 LARGE EGGS, 300 GRAMS SPELT FLOUR, 50-70 GRAMS GROUND ALMONDS, 1 TABLESPOON OR TWO OF COCOA POWDER, A PINCH OF SALT and a couple of teaspoons of baking powder.

3. Beat/mix it all in your food processor or by hand. Of course, if you mix it by hand or with a hand-held beater, you need to finely chop the apples and the dates.

4. In some of the recipes it is suggested cooking the apples first. I ignored that, seeming to me an unnecessary step. Cook in a preheated oven for 50-60 minutes at 180°C/160°C Fan/350°F.

5. I did not take the cake out of its tin, but when still hot, I pricked the surface of the cake and poured over the juice of last orange half mixed with icing sugar. I did not measure the sugar; you need just enough to obtain a nice syrupy consistency to spoon over the top.

What size tin? Good question! 20cm x 20cm square tin will do **ENJOY IT!**"



“Round the Committee” I still have a couple more names on my list but if you have been left out please let me know, it will have been an oversight on my part and unintentional – I have enjoyed reading about different members of the committee. This time it is **Liz Gwinell's** turn to sit in the “Mastermind” black chair!

Question: What is your role on the committee? **Answer:** Good question! The other members are very generous and often bring things along for us to try. We had samples of honey from Fortnum and Mason last autumn and this summer, there were strawberries from David R's garden. There are always nice biscuits at the meetings. So, I like to think I am part of quality control or at the very least, a grateful consumer.

Question: How did you become interested in keeping bees? **Answer:** I was forced at gunpoint by two Mexican bandits in our local shop.

Question: How long have you been keeping bees? **Answer:** Just over a year. That is probably my role on the Committee: being a novice and bringing my green beekeeping fingers to the table.

Question: How many hives do you have? **Answer:** Three. It amazes me to think that at the height of summer, there are something like 180,000 honeybees living at the bottom of my garden. I only have one neighbour and luckily she loves them because they have hidden in her washing and got stuck to her fluffy jumpers.

Question: Do you like honey and what do you do with it? **Answer:** Honey was never the principal reason for keeping bees but this summer, I extracted honey for the first time with the help of my partner. He turned the handle, and I scraped the frames. It was a late night but there were no arrests for domestic violence. I have given some to friends and family

“Round the Committee”

particularly my next-door neighbour to make up for my bees' incursions and to my partner who has completely fallen under their spell.

Question: Do you have a useful tip to pass on? **Answer:** Do not zip up your bee suit when wearing latex gloves.

Thanks Liz (I suspect some of these answers might have been a bit tongue in cheek?)

Did you spot this in the recent press?

“The bee's knees: new tests created to find fake honey”

Published 17 Aug 2024 **Press release number** PR-SWEE-24-77

Researchers led by Cranfield University have developed new ways to detect sugar syrup adulteration in honey, paving the way for fast and accurate tests to discover fake products.

There is growing consumer demand for honey, with £89.8 million worth of honey [imported](#) to the UK in 2023. But as a high-value product it is vulnerable to fraud, with syrups added to dilute the pure honey – a [report from the European Commission in 2023](#) found 46% of 147 honey samples tested were likely to have been adulterated with cheap plant syrups.

Because honey's characteristics vary due to sources of nectar, season of harvest and geography, it can be difficult and complex to detect adulterated products. Authentication methods are costly and time consuming, and there is a [growing appetite for reliable testing and the adoption of new rules to combat fraud](#).

Now scientists at Cranfield University have successfully tested two new methods to authenticate UK honey quickly and accurately.

The bee's knees contd...

Samples of UK honeys spiked with rice and sugar beet syrups were tested using the non-invasive Spatial Offset Raman Spectroscopy (SORS) method - developed originally at STFC's Central Laser Facility (CLF) - more commonly used in pharmaceutical and security diagnostics. This proved highly accurate in detecting sugar syrups present in the honey. SORS rapidly identified the 'fingerprint' of each ingredient in the product, and the scientists combined this technique with machine learning to successfully detect and identify sugar syrups from various plant sources.

The analysis method is portable and easy to implement, making it an ideal screening tool for testing honey along the supply chain.

Dr Anastasiadi commented: "Honey is expensive, and in demand – and can be targeted by fraudsters which leaves genuine suppliers out of pocket and undermines consumers' trust. This method is an effective, quick tool to identify suspicious samples of honey, helping the industry to protect consumers and verify supply chains."

The paper [Application of Spatial Offset Raman Spectroscopy \(SORS\) and Machine Learning for Sugar Syrup Adulteration Detection in UK Honey](#) was published in *Foods* 2024, vol. 13.

DNA traces in honey used to decipher real from fake

DNA barcoding was used in a second study, in collaboration with the Food Standards Agency and the Institute for Global Food Security at Queen's University of Belfast, to detect rice and corn syrups spiked in UK honey samples. Scientists used 17 honey samples collected from bee farmers around the UK, representing different seasons and floral nectar sources, and bought four samples of UK honey from supermarkets and online retailers. The samples were then spiked with corn and rice syrups produced in a range of countries.

The bee's knees contd...

DNA barcoding – a method already used in food authentication to identify plant species in products – was effective in breaking down the composition of each sample, to successfully detect syrups even at 1% adulteration level.

“To date, DNA methods haven't been widely used to examine honey authenticity,” commented Dr Anastasiadi. “But our study showed that this is a sensitive, reliable, and robust way to detect adulteration and confirm the origins of syrups added to the honey.

“The large variation of honey composition makes it particularly difficult to authenticate. So having this consistent technique in the testing armoury could take the sting out of honey fraud.”

Sophie Dodd, who is completing her PhD on the topic of honey authentication at Cranfield University added, “It is vital to have samples of known origin and purity to validate the methods, so we want to extend our thanks to the Bee Farmers Association who we work closely with in our projects.”

The two methods developed can work together to increase chances of detecting exogenous sugar adulteration in honey.

The paper [Detection of sugar syrup adulteration in UK honey using DNA barcoding](#) was published in *Food Control*, vol. 167.



Asian Hornet Week: 2nd - 8th September 2024

The following information and the poster on the next page can be found by following the BBKA link below

<https://www.bbka.org.uk/asian-hornet-events#:~:text=Asian%20Hornet%20Week%3A%202nd%20%2D%208th,everyone%20actively%20looking%20for%20it.>

Held in September each year to help raise awareness, improve identification, and encourage people to download the 'Asian Hornet Watch' App. The 'Yellow-legged' Asian hornet could decimate our pollinators, so it is important to have everyone actively looking for it.

BBKA [Press Release](#) for Asian Hornet Week 2024 and accompanying [spotting](#) sheet.

[Identification and reporting](#) information.

Zoom Talk: Asian Hornet - Beekeepers Update, Wednesday 4th September at 7pm

Andrew Durham will be giving a 'Beekeepers Update' for Asian Hornet Week 2024 via Zoom.

Link to join Zoom

talk: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88324939286?pwd=k6Qd9FZVD2lXctx1XTcF2cGvRBI6kU.1>

Meeting ID: 883 2493 9286 Passcode: 307972

This talk will also be streamed to YouTube for those unavailable to watch live.

Video presentations can be found by following THIS link

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5knZb69Jig7BUyKZt0ne6re2lGwtfQlo>



Asian Hornet Week: 2nd - 8th September 2024

Asian Hornet Look-A-Likes

Get to know the insects you might see out and about
and how to tell the difference between them.

Please keep an eye out for Asian hornets and report any sightings.



BUMBLE BEE

- **FEATURES:** Large and furry, colouring may be black and yellow, or black and red/orange, short wings.
- **SIZE:** Up to 2.5cm
- **WHEN WILL I SEE IT?** April-October
- **WILL IT STING?** Can sting more than once, but not likely if left alone.



COMMON WASP

- **FEATURES:** Shiny, black and yellow striped abdomen, long antennae.
- **SIZE:** Up to 2cm
- **WHEN WILL I SEE IT?** April-October
- **WILL IT STING?** Not naturally aggressive but will sting if threatened. Can sting multiple times.



MEDIAN WASP

- **FEATURES:** Larger than Common Wasp, variable markings, some dark with narrow yellow bands on abdomen.
- **SIZE:** Up to 2.2cm
- **WHEN WILL I SEE IT?** May-October
- **WILL IT STING?** Not naturally aggressive but will sting if threatened. Can sting multiple times.



HONEY BEE

- **FEATURES:** Dark brown head, brown/dark orange and black bands on abdomen, slightly furry.
- **SIZE:** 1.5cm
- **WHEN WILL I SEE IT?** March-September
- **WILL IT STING?** More docile than wasps. Will only sting once, if threatened.



HORNET MIMIC HOVERFLY

- **FEATURES:** Largest hoverfly in UK. Black and yellow striped, big eyes, wide body, tiny antennae.
- **SIZE:** 2cm
- **WHEN WILL I SEE IT?** May-October
- **WILL IT STING?** No - this one might look like a hornet, but it's harmless.



WOOD WASP

- **FEATURES:** Large, elongated body, yellow and black-banded abdomen, long ovipositor for egg-laying, long yellow antennae.
- **SIZE:** Up to 4cm
- **WHEN WILL I SEE IT?** May-August
- **WILL IT STING?** No. Despite appearances, this one won't hurt you.



DARK GIANT HORSEFLY

- **FEATURES:** Large dark brown eyes, black/brown bands on abdomen, loud buzzing in flight, small antennae.
- **SIZE:** Up to 2.5cm
- **WHEN WILL I SEE IT?** June-September
- **WILL IT STING?** Not a sting, but this one will give a painful bite.



EUROPEAN HORNET

- **FEATURES:** Larger than Asian Hornet. Yellow and brown abdomen, brown/dark red legs.
- **SIZE:** Up to 3.5cm
- **WHEN WILL I SEE IT?** May-November
- **WILL IT STING?** Only if threatened, more docile than wasps and Asian Hornets.
- **EUROPEAN HORNETS ARE NATIVE TO THE UK AND DO NOT POSE A THREAT.**



ASIAN HORNET

- **FEATURES:** Smaller than European Hornet. Dark black/brown body with a broad orange/yellow stripe near the tail, yellow-tipped legs.
- **SIZE:** Up to 3cm
- **WHEN WILL I SEE IT?** April - November
- **WILL IT STING?** One hornet unlikely to sting, but will become aggressive if it perceives a threat to its nest.
- **ASIAN HORNETS ARE A NON-NATIVE INVASIVE SPECIES AND SHOULD BE REPORTED IF SEEN.**



Google Play store

REMEMBER: Asian hornets are an **INVASIVE SPECIES** and a threat to honey bees and other important pollinators. Any sightings should be reported, along with a photo if possible. Scan the QR code to download the Asian Hornet Watch app - **SEE IT, SNAP IT, APP IT!**



Apple store

Think you've seen an Asian Hornet? Report it!



Report through the Asian Hornet Watch app or www.bit.ly/asianhornetreport



European hornet image: Courtesy The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), Crown Copyright

Honey and wound healing.

Honey is an amazing product! It has long been realised that honey has medicinal properties. Honey is known to be humectant with osmotic properties. Are you aware it also has antibacterial, antiviral, anti-inflammatory, and antioxidant effects? Maybe you have used a spoonful in hot water to sooth a sore throat? **Please be aware there are situations when honey should not be administered. For example – it is advised that children under the age of one year should not be given honey.** Although honey is widely recognised as useful in the treatment and healing of wounds **it must be specially prepared for use.** Before honey is used in the treatment of wounds it must be assured to be free of chemical contamination and is collected from areas where organic production can be certified and is assessed quality assessment with regard to processing and standards or storage. (I expect you already know that honey collected from azaleas and rhododendron might contain toxic active compounds?) These could be harmful if applied to open wounds as a dressing. Medical grade honeys are sterilised by gamma irradiation before use. Although Manuka honey is the name that is well known for medical use, there are other honeys used. Treatment of wounds and burns with honey should be **prescribed by a registered medical practitioner and results monitored and recorded.** Some dressings are impregnated with honey before being applied to the wound and in other cases honey may be applied directly.



(Honey and wound healing contd...)

The following article found on the internet

(<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8398244/> accessed 2052 29/08/2024)

explains that

“Several case studies and randomized controlled trials provide considerable evidence of the effectiveness of honey in healing different types of wounds, such as amputation wounds, burns, skin grafting sites, skin lesions, or skin ulcers including leg, varicose, malignant, diabetic, and sickle cell ulcers.” It makes remarkably interesting reading.

Joel Yupanqui Mileles, (a post graduate researcher from the University of Manchester) in an article accessed on the internet (2115 29/08/2024

<https://www.manchester.ac.uk/about/news/honey-has-sweet-potential-for-wound-healing-argue-scientists/>) considers though the

“...repository of compounds within honey may have immense medical benefit, further research is required to understand more about how they work and how they can be delivered to wounds effectively and safely in a standardised way.

He added: “Knowing the type and composition of honey used in different wound types will also improve the quality of research.”

Hanaa Tashkandi - in an article retrieved from the internet (2122 29/08/202 <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8496555/>) tells the reader “the low water activity of honey helps transport oxygen and nutrients from deep tissue into the wound area, and the low pH of honey increases tissue oxygenation, while free radicals, which lead to tissue damage, are removed by flavonoids and aromatic acids.” Am I boring you? Bear with me! A patient friendly leaflet published by the Oxford Health NHS

(Honey and wound healing contd...)

Foundation Trust (accessed 2130 29/08/2024

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=2edb9e7346&attid=0.0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1808388295381628982&th=1918af92ca323836&view=att&disp=inline>) by following the

link or pasting it into your browser you will arrive at a leaflet entitled "Medical Honey Simplified - A patient guide to the role of honey in wound management" – this online leaflet gives some user friendly explanations about the use of honey in wound healing.

I hope that you might understand why I find the subject interesting. There is much more to read if you are inclined – but we all have different interests don't we? I will let you look for yourselves if you want to know more... all the articles I have used to compose this article are referred to in this feature, so you can read more if you would like to. Thanks for listening!

Elaine Mairis

Your Club Needs You! – We are still looking for a Membership Secretary

A message from our chairperson follows:

"**Gloria Pilz**, our current Membership Secretary, has given notice of her intention to resign at the next AGM. Gloria has given plenty of notice of her intention to resign. I do not want to delay things and end up finding somebody to replace her at the last moment. Therefore, I would like each member to give careful consideration to whether this is an area they could contribute to the running of WWBKA.

Please contact our chairperson **Alan Ridout** using the following email address should you feel this is something you could do (chair-wwbka@outlook.com)".

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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