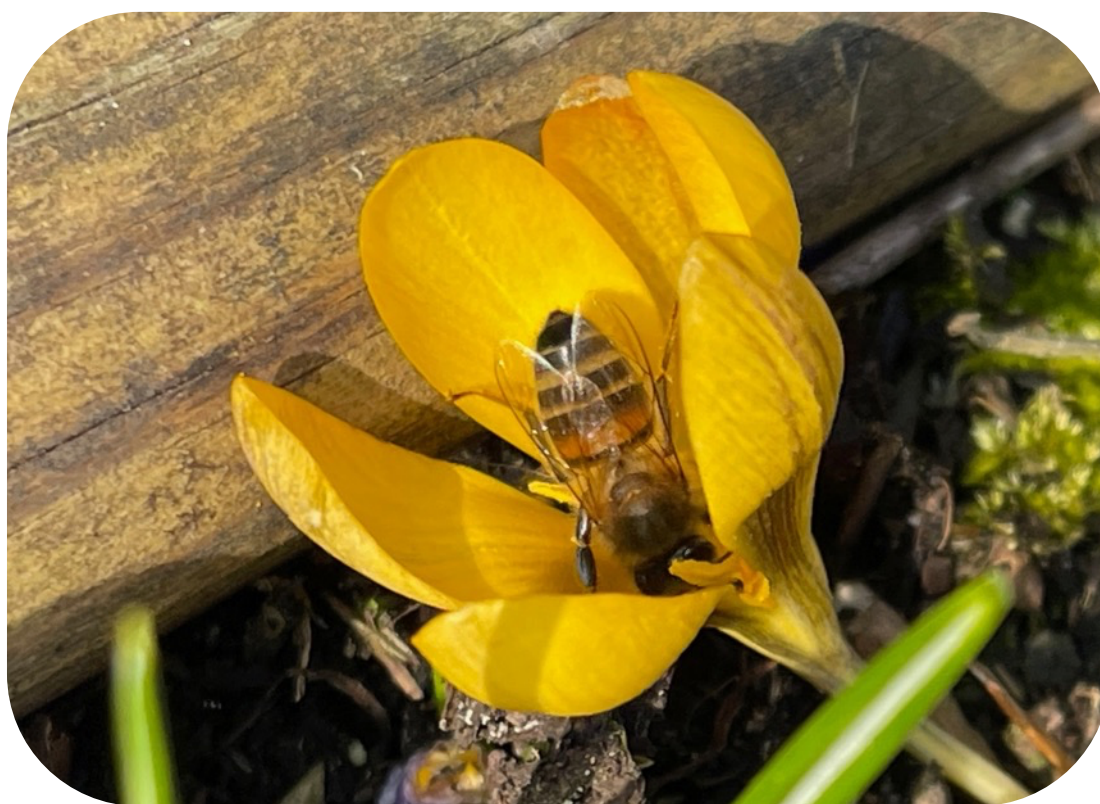




HONEYCRAFT

Winter 2024



© Sandra Palmer-Snellin

Dorset County Beekeepers Association

Index

Contents	Page	Contents	Page
Chair's Welcome	2	Newbees First Season – article	11
Editor's Buzzings	2	Learning more about our Bees	
Dorset Associations' News		Courses	15
Sherborne BKA	3	Online learning	15
Dorchester & Weymouth BKA	3	Notes from Ron's Apiary –Wax Rendering	16
East Dorset BKA	4	Vacancy – Web Manager	18
North Dorset BKA	5	Report of the SWBKF meeting 28 Nov 23	18
West Dorset BKA	6	Who's who	22
Dorset BKA Convention Report	9	Dates for your Diary	23

DCBK Chairman's Introduction

Happy New Year!

Welcome to the first Honeycraft of 2024 which hopefully will warm the heart and beat the January chill.

On behalf of the Dorset BKA committee, may I wish you a successful new beekeeping season as we look forward to some better weather to come. It may be that we are about to encounter an Asian hornet battle on our doorsteps this year, so it is essential that we spend this January preparing for the worst. We all must ensure that we have all the equipment needed to meet any eventuality and make sure we are ready to help out as an AHAT. We really do need to pull together in the South-West against this very real threat to our bees.

Editor's Buzzings

I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year holiday. We look set for a spell of cold weather over the next few weeks and I must confess to fretting over how my bees are faring. Just before Christmas, when we had sunny days, some were still flying. One tired honeybee landed in the laundry basket flat on her back too cold and tired to move as I hung out the washing. She soon warmed up on my hand and, after we took a walk around the garden with her exploring my hand and wrist, she revved up the muscles and spiralled off to make her way back to her hive. Whether it's the right thing to do or not (yet another one of the beekeeper debates), I've left my varroa trays in as it just reassures me to see some evidence of life in the hives on the trays. I also like to keep an eye out for any varroa drop. I lost one fence panel around the hives in my out apiary due to the recent high winds but fortunately that was the only damage and was quickly replaced. I hope you and your bees have been kept safe and have not suffered any harm/damage.

2023 was an interesting year, I remember that 'may you live in interesting times', is supposed to be an old Chinese curse, therefore I am hoping for 2024 to be quiet, peaceful, and ordinary for both us and our bees! May the winds blow across the channel from us to Europe this year and keep the Asian hornet away from us. But just in case this wish is not granted my traps are going up early and I've invested in some of the new Gard'Apis traps as well. They do look a good solution for minimising bycatch. Doubtless there will be an ever-increasing industry of Asian hornet material as the year progresses, now that it is so close to home.

I purchased some of the Asian hornet identification labels that Thorne have introduced and they do look smart on my honey jars, no doubt other suppliers will soon have their own versions as well.

Two important dates for your diaries that I would like to bring to your attention are;

Sunday 18 February – Asian hornet workshop in Dorchester, and

Sunday 17 March – Annual General Meeting of the Dorset County Beekeepers Association in Dorchester.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed articles to this issue of HoneyCraft and to Sandra for her lovely photograph on the front page.

Dorset Associations' News

Sherborne BKA

Judy Easdale

We have had a couple of talks; October Kevin Pope took us through the situation with the Asian hornets. How hard those inspectors work! In November we went through some bee anatomy, had a little quiz to remind us of important things in the beekeeping year and then Tony showed us how to make a hornet/wasp trap. The downside of these killing traps is the other insects that they catch. We decided to facilitate a bulk order of the Gard'Apis traps, which over 20 people have subscribed to. In December Kevin shared some statistics with us over the last few years and left us with the puzzle of why there are so many colony losses. We then had time to catch up with members to share our joys and struggles.

We look forward to a successful Beekeeping Year in 2024! Happy New Year everyone.



Dorchester & Weymouth BKA

Sally Leslie

Our last event for 2023 was our Christmas Social on 6th December. We held this as usual at the Colliton Club. We had a quiz, partook of sausages and chips and a good time was had by all.

I think D&W's main focus this year will be on the Asian hornet. Having had the experience of two nests being found on Portland in August, it has brought it a lot closer. As with other associations, we have put in our bulk order for the Gard'Apis traps, with Romsey beekeepers. However, only about a third of our membership took us up on this offer, so we still have some work to do to persuade them to engage with us in combating this threat.

We are also running another 'Beginners Course'. It has made a big difference having an association apiary, it has enabled us to carry on teaching throughout the season this last year.

We still have many things to sort out as a 'Training Team' for example the logistics of cleaning all the equipment as we don't have a shed or facilities for this. However, the site has definitely fulfilled our expectations and given us and the beginners hours of enjoyment.

Winter flowering plants – if you can find room for one of these plants in your garden you will be doing bees generally a favour.

Mahonia is one of the best flowering plants



at this time of the year and a good source of food for bees. There are some flowering on Portland and Wyke at the moment.

Lonicera Fragrantissima (winter honeysuckle) which has very scented nectar and pollen rich flowers at this time of year.



Unfortunately, at the moment I have been getting reports of quite a few winter losses. This is even before any really cold weather. Maybe it is the mild weather that is the problem?

2024 is definitely going to be a challenging year but it seems every year recently is a challenge. However, beekeepers are

generally an optimistic group of people as we always tend to move on from bad seasons, low honey harvests and erratic weather.

So... Happy New Year from Dorchester & Weymouth Beekeepers and looking forward to a new beekeeping year with whatever challenges it brings



East Dorset BKA

Sandra Palmer-Snellin

Hello, warm wishes to you all.

EDBKA set a goal last spring, to revamp the apiary and oh boy did they do a great job. New fencing, 11 robust hives, each queen with her own personality! The apiary management committee and volunteers have been incredible!

Training is the buzz word of 2024! Mark White delivered training to two groups of passionate and inquisitive trainees in 2023 and has another group lined up for 2024.

I am joining 13 members signed up for Helen's Module 1, 'Honeybee Management' course which starts in January.

We're socially satisfied! There was Helen's excellent barbecue plus our skittles and quiz nights. The honey show was delightful. We created banners and went to fayres, gave talks at lots of community events (Karen & I gave a talk to a dementia home and have been asked back!). Everyone going home with a pack of Hive Alive was also a treat.

At our AGM we decided to do a bit of an "Ask the panel", remembering that ask one question in the beekeeping world and you may get 20 answers. Our team, sourced from experienced members, was brilliant. Everyone going home with a pack of Hive Alive was also a treat.

Empathy and passion made a course on modern beekeeping a joy for the adults with learning disabilities at Sturts Farm. Ivor gave 6 practical-style training sessions to help them become responsible stewards of their own beehive on the organic, biodynamic farm.

We have also supported Bournemouth University with a study into bee physiology. We may be able to tell you more later in the year on what makes a healthy honeybee.

Having a passion for marketing I joined the EDBKA committee. What fun to spread the word about beekeeping. Going from 20 to 3,600 Facebook likes, videos that made it to 142,000 views, using only our EDBKA beekeeping images has been lovely. Press releases have gone out too but not as many as I would like. We all could do with a PA!

I do wonder if many beekeepers are hearing the Asian hornet threat as some white noise and thinking "it will never happen to me". Apologies if I have insulted anyone but wouldn't it make sense for every beekeeper to have completed the [Ahat.org.uk](https://www.ahat.org.uk) online recognition course: 31 questions you cannot get wrong (I loved that bit). At EDBKA we are planning on bringing the usual trapping forward to the end of February or March to see if we can catch queens before they get established.

<https://www.ahat.org.uk/node/1/take/1>



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ASSOCIATION

I'm super excited to announce that our awesome committee has been re-elected for another year! Plus, I've got the amazing opportunity to step in as Chair, as Karen Cadman has stood down but is a supporting star. Diving into my new role, I'm wowed by the incredible diversity of work our committee does for our members - it's a big deal! A special shout-out to Clive Hutchings, our longstanding member and apiary's guiding star, who's stepping down. We're incredibly grateful for his tireless support and wisdom!



North Dorset BKA

Lesley Gasson



Like all associations we have had our AGM with a few changes to what people do on the committee.

We have many more commitments now which means more and more members are asked to join in.

The Asian hornet threat is being taken very seriously by all associations. Claire and Andy Commons are our new co-ordinators and have produced a very useful newsletter. It is very

comprehensive; we hope to join Romsey and order traps and 'Trappit' for our members.

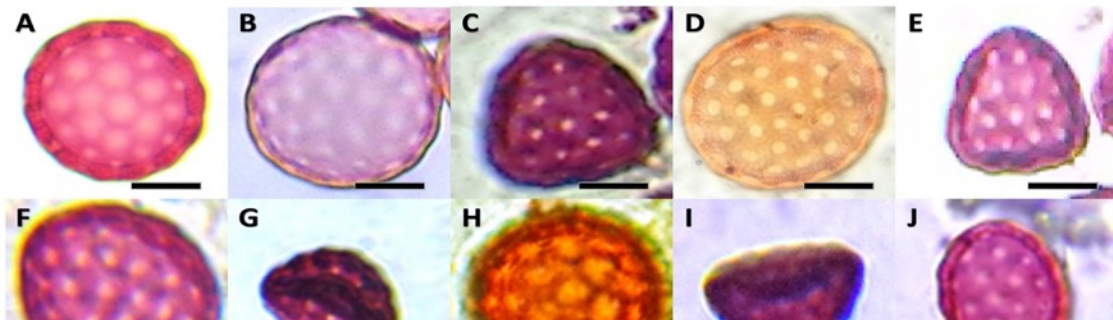
Fund raising for the new apiary has involved a number of members of the committee; we are hoping to obtain some grants from a variety of different charities as well as fund raising ourselves. We are having **a concert of 60s and 70s music in the Portman Hall in Shillingstone on 17th February at 7.00pm**. The musicians Graham Rains and Jon Jenkins play the keyboard and

guitars. They encourage you to dance. So come along and lighten up your February evening and get those toes tapping.

Port Regis School have asked us to run a 'Bee Club' in the summer term as well as arrange a leavers bee experience day. All of this will help towards the new apiary.

At present we have 19 hives: some on the new apiary site and some at the Forum School site. This is to ensure we have enough hives for 30 new beginners; 12 second year course students and a number of people interested in a queen raising course in May.

All Dorset Beekeepers are invited to a talk **on Pollen by Pam Hunter on 30th January at 7.30pm** in the Shillingstone Church Centre. Pam is a member of the Central Association of Beekeepers (CABK). For those who do not know, the CABK organises lectures and publications to keep beekeepers up to date with the latest research. Pam also has the National Diploma in Beekeeping qualification.



Different Pollens ([This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY](#))



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News from West Dorset

Website: www.westdorsetbees.org

Carole Brown



This year appears to have flown by again. We have had a very successful time at our teaching apiary, with the attendance up on previous years. The students have really been excellent in coming along to learn and have been a great help too. We would of course like more experienced members to come along; hopefully next year we will twist a few arms to attend!



We completed our varroa treatment using Varroa Med, this time on 7th December, on all the colonies. Carole Astbury and I decided to treat them there and then -- as the weather was so awful and the river levels were so high, -- as opposed to treating with Api-Bioxal as planned. Members would not have been able to park at the apiary, owing to deep mud and flooding! Thankfully the beehives are up on their stands, so they have not been washed away! The varroa levels were high again on several colonies; this appears to be the case every year around the Beaminster area, we think owing to its being a well-populated area for bees. We gave two colonies a kilo of fondant each to keep them going.

On 7th November we held our AGM. Before the meeting Peter Crabbe, our Asian hornet coordinator for West Dorset, gave a super presentation on the hornet. The attendance from members was very good this year and,

as you can imagine, there was lots of bee chat afterwards. There have been a few changes this year to our committee. Peter Crabbe was elected as our chairman after saying a big thank you to Sally Boxall who had completed her excellent three-year term of office. Caroline Dilke has stepped down from the committee after serving for many years, providing great service and knowledge, especially with our beginners' course. We welcome Suzie Mutch who has stepped into Caroline's shoes.

We have purchased 80 Gard'Apis traps for catching Asian hornets, via the invitation from the Hampshire BKA — 62 have already been taken up by our members, which is an excellent start.

I personally would like to thank all the contributors to our monthly Newsletter and to everyone who has played a part during 2023 to keep our association going for all the students and members.

We are all looking forward to the new intake of newbies for the 2024 beginners' course, starting on 30th January -- which is now full, with a few on the reserve list.

Happy New Year from West Dorset 🐝🍷.



DORSET BKA CONVENTION REPORT

OCTOBER 2023

By Sue Billington

After a break, mainly due to Covid, we resumed the Dorset Convention this year. It proved to be an informative, interesting day with a chance to catch up with old beekeeping friends and to make new ones.



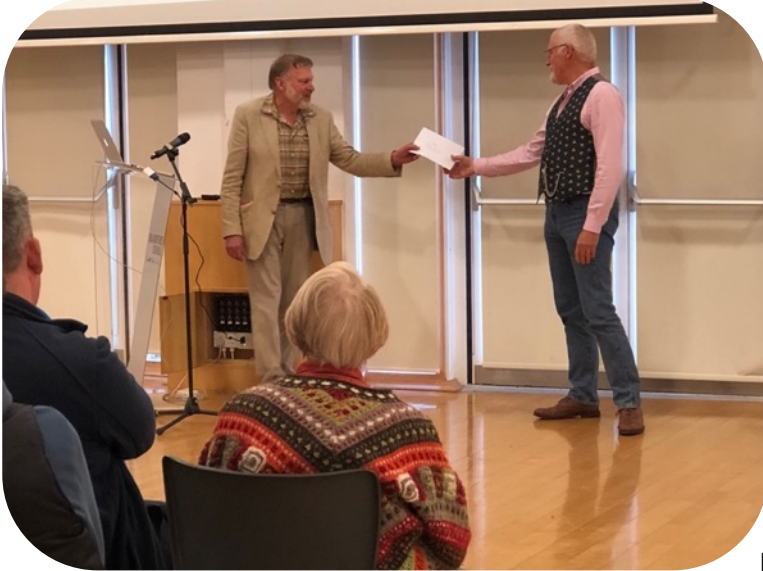
The day started with an update on the Asian hornet situation from Kevin Pope. Kevin has been our seasonal bee inspector for many a year and has just retired. He told us his computer had been turned off on the previous Friday! Richard Norman, President of Dorset BKA later presented Kevin with a token of our appreciation for all his wisdom, kindness and help over the years. Kevin's input maintained an excellent balance between facing the fact that the hornet is here whilst resisting the drama often associated with it. He asked us to impress upon the public that the Asian hornet is everyone's problem, not one solely confined to beekeepers and their

honey crop. The winter with its bare trees, is an ideal time to spot nests and adopting a grid system with a named person responsible for checking a given area, would seem to be a sensible and manageable way forward. Dorset, having both the coast and ports makes us, along with Kent, a prime arrival destination for any hornets crossing the Channel. Peter Crabbe, East Dorset AH co-ordinator, manned an exhibit which created an opportunity for those wishing to talk more about the issue.

Geoff Blay from Somerset then spoke eloquently about the pros and cons of oil seed rape from both the position of a hobbyist and a bee farmer. He explained that new varieties had been bred to flower earlier to reduce the intensity of flea beetle attack. He covered the consequences of this for the beekeeper building up their colonies at a time of year when the temperature and thus reduced nectar flow on a post winter colony could put the hive's food supply under strain. He also reminded us how easily a boiling colony could swarm leaving a very depleted work force, a subsequent drop in food supplies and ultimately the crop. His words and photos clarified his strategies for managing both as a hobbyist and farmer. Geoff continues to write articles for BeeCraft paying particular attention to how we can work more sympathetically with the bees and avoid exploiting them.



Bee genetics confuses many and Margaret Murdin in her talk 'Genetics made Simple', gave us a masterclass in how to enthral an audience. She drew parallels with human genetics, whilst pointing out the major difference between the human male – diploid and the haploid drone. We are all encouraged to breed our own replacement queens who should be better suited to our local conditions, but selecting a queen with the characteristics we find desirable, is only half the story. Female honey bees may only have 16 chromosome pairs, but the presence of multiple alleles for a particular characteristic means that the combinations and thus the resulting characteristics of the new queen, are vast. The dangers of inbreeding were also highlighted. Margaret gave us much to consider as we move into the next queen rearing season.



The BBKA remained a mystery to many members. We pay our subscription, have a vague understanding that this is linked to hive insurance and very little else! We were lucky enough to have Anne Rowberry, the current President of the BBKA to explain the history of the BBKA from its roots with the gentry beekeepers wishing to improve beekeeping and the lot of cottager/working class beekeepers. The BBKA has evolved and withstood many ups and downs and now seeks to be of value to all beekeepers. The system of dedicated trustees, who can then represent the local issues is in place. Anne explained

that there were currently some vacancies and that they were looking for individuals with different skill sets to widen the knowledge base and increase their efficiency. We were all encouraged to bid for grants for equipment and support.

The day was completed with a hugely enjoyable talk by Stephen Fleming on his work on drone congregation areas (DCA). It was both amusing and informative. His presentation integrated photographs, video clips, graphs and maps and his enthusiasm was infectious. The vision of drones 'coming' onto a flyfishing rod lure or onto an inoculated queen cage strapped to a drone (mechanical not of the male honeybee variety) was a joy to see. The clear indication of the area boundaries was a revelation. The work done on the Scilly Isles is fascinating with the reverse drone marking (in the DCA) to see where their returning hive was situated, certainly left me with a 'why didn't I think of that' moment. Stephen is co-editor of BeeCraft – recently given the gold award for bee publications at the Apimondia in Chile this year. Further work on DCAs is scheduled to appear in upcoming issues.

There were a number of exhibits to browse – Northern Bee Books had sent us a selection of books and Jeremy Owens of Vita presented their range of products. Richard Stainer demonstrated his BeeVac and made many of us think about Christmas lists! Dorset Wildlife Trust reminded us just how important open spaces are and the Great Dorset Hedge Survey Group suggested practical ways that individuals can help the environment. Plant World had lent us some plants, but at this time of year – as we know, very few produce any nectar or pollen of use to our bees. However, it served to remind us to maybe refresh our borders for next season.

Our thanks should also go to Ian Condon who fought and overcame a number of IT issues so that to us it appeared seamless and to Pam Payne who valiantly kept us lubricated with tea and coffee throughout the day. Finally, a huge thank you to all of you who supplied cakes. The tradition is alive and well.





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Newbees First Season

By Andy and Claire Commons

Life before bees feels like, well, a lifetime ago. It was, in fact, only 6 months ago!

Andy and I had signed up for the beginners' course before Covid. We couldn't get onto the course that year because it was oversubscribed, then Covid hit and...well, you know... the world changed somewhat! Things began to return to a semblance of normality, and we patiently waited another year. Excited to respond to the invitation to attend the



Heading to the hives

introductory day in 2022 we discovered that the popularity of the course meant we had to wait just one more year.



Day 1 at the NDBKA Apiary

We arrived at our first 'proper' day in April 2023. We listened to our pre-lesson and then were allocated our (different) tutors (did someone warn them to split us up?). Blessed with good weather we headed down to the apiary and began looking at all the frames. I remember worrying that I wouldn't be able to tell the difference between a bee and a wasp, let alone identify a queen bee, worker, or drone.

My group was tutored by Sue Billington and Andy's by Lynne Richley. We both felt that we had the best tutor, and this set the tone for friendly competition throughout the whole course!



Inspection while the bees are flying

We soon discovered the purpose behind having couples in separate groups. Andy and I talked at length about what we saw in our respective hives.

Jovial competitiveness bloomed

between the groups, to do with the health of the hive or how quickly it was growing. Where one had a bit of mould or chalk-



Spotting and Marking the Queen

brood, the other was trying to manage a split to avoid a swarm.

We both made good friends within our groups, learning together, and enjoying loads of tea and cake after each session! We quickly learnt that cake plays a key role in anything and everything to do with bees (or probably, more accurately, beekeepers!). The absence of a photo of the selection of cake is only due to the seriousness involved in eating it all – no time for pictures!



A good frame

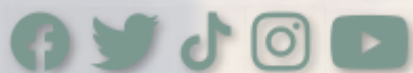
Taking lots of photos while we were taking it in turns to pull frames and inspect meant that we could study the frames afterwards and zoom in on pictures to help us learn how to spot eggs – those elusive promises and reassurances of a productive queen.

Most of our inspections were in glorious weather, a couple where the weather was bad, we had extra theory tutorials and a practical lesson in building frames.



Bees doing it their way

The wonderful part of being in the apiary is that just because something is happening in one hive, it doesn't mean it's happening in another... and vice versa.



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We also took advantage of a generous drone population to practice picking up bees and clipping them. This was the first time we had handled them, and it took some getting used to. It also provided a good opportunity to talk about the reasons to clip, or not to clip.

As time went on the hives and volume of honey stores began to get us thinking about honey extraction.

Of course, there are processes for extracting the honey, so Leslie kindly took us to her honey extraction room to learn this sticky process.

Learning about keeping bees wasn't just about how to get the honey, we also talked about pests and diseases, what a healthy colony looked like and therefore when something doesn't look quite right. We thought we had seen a varroa mite, although thankfully it was just propolis.



To clip or not to clip



Oh Honey!

We also spent a long time watching the bees react to the arrival of a bee with a completely bald thorax. They seemed to be rejecting her at first and then after a while accepted her and allowed her in. We learnt how to use bee base to look things like this up and did wonder



The students (well, my group anyway!)

whether she had a paralysis virus. As it happened, she was accepted but never seen again so perhaps she was just an old, tired bee.

Thank you so much, to the tutors who we now call friends. It was a wonderful course; we learnt loads and now have our own happy hives.



The Tutors



Bald bee



Enjoying a drip of honey







Propolis



Learning More about our Bees

Courses

Here is the list of courses on offer in NDBKA. If you are interested, you are welcome to join us:

-  In the New Year Terry Payne will be running Module 1 'Honeybee Management'.
-  Sue Billington will be running Module 3 'Honeybee Diseases'.
-  A second year. practical beekeeping course run by Geoff Buckland and Lesley in 2024 (this will help prepare for the basic assessment).
-  Geoff will also run a queen rearing course in May 2024.



If you are interested in any of these courses, please contact Lesley on 01258 861690 or lesleygasson@btinternet.com Finally Gordon Grant and Ron Briggs will run a one-day course on the General Husbandry Exam in the next beekeeping season. Lots for you to learn about your bees.

BBKA education support




Online learning

The BBKA online learning platform can be accessed at <https://learning.bbka.org.uk/> using your BBKA membership number and postcode. There are free study units, for BBKA members, on Hygiene and Disease Inspection, Asian Hornet Awareness and on Sustainable Beekeeping. It is worth keeping an eye on the site as more courses are being developed. <https://www.bbka.org.uk/correspondence-courses>

BBKA training courses: <https://www.bbka.org.uk/pages/shop/department/training-courses>

-  Microscopy Beginners Course:
One day Stoneleigh Warwickshire – £75 – Saturday 3 or Sunday 4 February 2024
-  Microscopy Intermediate Course:
Two day Stoneleigh Warwickshire – £150 – 10th and 11th February 2024

Other online resources to support ongoing learning

-  Somerset Beekeepers Association webinars <https://www.somersetbeekeepers.org.uk>
-  Cambridgeshire Beekeepers Association webinars <https://www.cbka.org.uk>
-  Central Association of Beekeepers <https://www.cabk.org.uk>





Notes from Ron's Apiary

More Wax rendering!



Following on from my previous article 'What to do with wax', in this article I will explain my steamer and then finally my soup warmer.

The steamer is relatively simple, mine consists of an old wallpaper stripper with the end plate removed, an old brood box an old



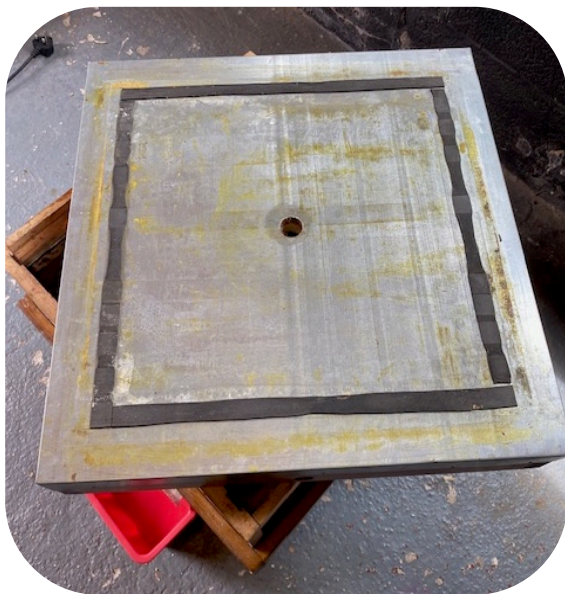
queen excluder and 2 old roofs, (the top one had not been used, it was the first one I made and I made it a few millimeters too small), it ended up being perfect for this project!

I lined one of the upturned roofs with

some aluminum sheet raised at the back and



extended through the roof and overhanging down to allow the molten wax to drain down into a container to catch it (remember to put a small amount of water in the catcher first to make it easy to remove the wax).



Put an old queen excluder on top to catch the slum gum. Then your old brood box will sit snugly on top of that.

are thinking, no it's not my wife's and no it is not a cauldron!!!

Put a hole in the other roof to the same dimension as the end of your steamer. And you are good to go. I did have an issue on first use, steam was escaping under the top roof. I simply strapped it down front and back (you can see I put some notches on the top roof where I strap it) and stuck some foam to the roof as you can see in the photo and that solved the issue.

The good thing about this extractor is you can put whole frames in to be rendered. When the steamer has done its thing, you can remove the frames strip out any wires boil the empty frames and they are good to reuse.

The final machine in my arsenal that I use to render is my soup warmer. I know what you



It works like a bain-marie, with water on the outside of the internal pot. You put a small amount of water in the pot and either put any rendered wax from your solar or steamer straight in or, hang a strainer with wax to be rendered inside it, this will give you nice big lumps of rendered wax for exchanging.










That concludes these few articles on what to do with wax. Next issue something different.



Vacancy – Web Manager for the Dorset Beekeepers Association

The role of web manager for the Dorset Beekeepers - (dorsetbka.com) has become available.

The duties of the web manager would be:

-  To update the site with any relevant national announcements.
-  Update the site with events both in county and out of county which may be of interest.
-  Provide any other material in which they think beekeepers would be interested.
-  Ensure that no material placed on the site breaches data protection legislation
-  Ensure that no material placed on the site breaches copyright rules.
-  Ensure the domain is renewed as required.
-  Ensure that any copy supports the aims of Dorset Beekeepers and the BBKA.

This is a non-technical role as the whole site is sitting on a Wordpress platform. The holder of the post can be assured of support from the present post holder during the transition.

Stephen Potts



Brief report of the SWBKF meeting 28th November 2023

The meeting was attended by several in the room at Taunton Division Clubhouse and as many by Zoom including myself – 16 members, including two guests, in total.

Just a fortnight after the meeting we moved house, so this report is based on my memory of the event rather than notes taken at the time.

The start of the meeting was delayed considerably due to the absence of a chairperson. Discussions followed as to who could step into the role and whether anyone who did step into the role would have a conflict of interest. Eventually this was resolved with Ann Rowberry stepping forward.

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or over the phone.



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The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

The issue of succession was raised. The meeting had come close to not being held at all when the chair was unable to attend, and a suitable replacement could not be found. This brought the whole issue of succession into sharp focus, as did the imminent retirement of the SWBKF secretary.

Considerable discussion followed, regarding the constitution, but no firm conclusions were arrived at. From my experience of other committees in the voluntary sector this is not unusual with roles rotating among the few willing to stand.

Much of the meeting was taken up with a discussion of the funding arrangements for the upcoming SWBKF Asian Hornet Conference. It was emphasised that this is not just a beekeepers' problem, but extends to a much larger sphere, e.g. the impact on insect eating birds. This was also the topic of one of the talks at the SWBKF Asian Hornet Conference.

There was disquiet that funding was being asked for at such a late stage and so close to the SWBKF meeting. Speaking personally, I was there as a delegate for Dorset Beekeepers and as such I could report back but I was not in a position where I could agree to the spending of Dorset funds. Such a decision would have to be referred to Dorset Beekeepers Council and only then would I be able to commit to expenditure or not, a view expressed by several of those present.


The objection was the timing of the request rather than the principal of the request or the amount being asked for.

From a closer analysis of the accounts, it was clear that it was close to a financial success if they could get just a few more attendees. At the time of the meeting 73 delegates had signed up and it was estimated that 150 would cover it. With the contribution of SW Water (£1000 had been mentioned, but more may be available – SW Water to be approached about this), it was felt that the conference was assured of covering its costs if the member associations covered approximately the same amount as the last A/H conference approx. £750 pro rata according to association size (i.e. Dorset with last active member count of 23% of the SWBKF Membership would be eligible to pay £74.00).

Conference yesterday, Saturday the 6th January. I can report back that it was very well attended with people driving over from as far away as Kent to attend. It was a packed day with excellent speakers, and I came away better informed of where we are and where we may be going with the Asian hornet issue.

The rest of the SWBKF meeting was considering the upcoming ADM and concerns were expressed over the use of a hybrid meeting. Hybrid meetings are not the easiest meetings in which to hold informed discussion, and there was strong feeling that face to face is better. However, there are advantages to hybrid meetings. While, yet to be resolved, face to face is favoured by SWBKF members.

A couple of issues were brought up under AOB:

 The Chair has been approached by Gloucestershire with a view to joining the Forum – to be represented by Marin Anastasov (Chair of the Exam Board, I believe). This should follow them first attending as guests and then receiving approval by the Members.

 A small working group was put together to review and update the constitution.

Date of Next Meeting – 20th February 2024.

Stephen Potts

Who's Who in the Dorset County Beekeepers' Association

President: Richard Norman

Past President: Ken Bishop

Vice-President: Chris Slade

Chair	Ivor Kemp	IKemp@bsorchestra.co.uk	07932 538491
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Secretary	Stephen Potts	dorsetbkasecretary@gmail.com	07740 647945
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East Dorset	Jenny Wellman	jenny@jenny32.plus.com	01202 873292
Sherborne	Judy Easdale	sherbornebee@hotmail.co.uk	07719 578209
West Dorset	Carole Brown	secretary@westdorsetbees.org.uk	01308 456210

Seasonal Bee Inspector **TBN**

Website: www.dorsetBKA.com

Dates for your Diary

Date	Event	Venue	Contact
18 February 2024 2pm – 5pm	Asian hornet workshop	Sunninghill Community Hall, Dorchester DT1 1EB	Sally Leslie, dwbkasecretary@gmail.com
17 March 2024	Dorset County BKA Annual General Meeting	Dorchester	
12-14 April 2024	BBKA Spring Convention	Harper Adams University Shropshire	https://www.bbka.org.uk/planning-your-bbka-spring-convention
20 May 2024	World Bee Day		
24-26 October 2024	National Honey Show	Sandown Park, Esher	https://www.honeyshow.co.uk/

**Copy for the next issue should be with the
editor (honeycraft@dorsetbka.com) by
Tuesday 2nd April 2024**

Acknowledgements

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