

North Somerset Bee Keepers



July 2018

Welcome to the 11th edition of our branch newsletter. As usual your feedback and contributions are very welcome. Please send items to the editor by 25th of the month.

Portishead Flower Show – *David Capon*

The first of our summer shows takes place at the end of the month with the Portishead Flower Show on the weekend of 28th – 29th July.

This show always attracts a large number of visitors to our stand and is one of the biggest local shows in the area.

There are honey classes in the show and entries would be welcome; the number of entries in recent years has been so low that it is almost at the point of not having honey classes.

In the recent hot weather your bees will have been piling the honey in, so if you have honey, wax or comb please make an effort to enter the show. The classes are the same as the honey and wax classes in our other shows, you can obtain a schedule and entry form here:

<http://www.portisheadflowershow.com/beforeshow.php>

We also need volunteers to help on our stand, two years ago we won a cup for the best stand in the show, you do not need to be an experienced beekeeper, just willing to talk to the public about bees; enthusiastic novices often do this best! You will also get free entry to the show and an opportunity to view the rest of the show.

The show is open on Saturday from 12 – 6 and Sunday from 11 – 6, so if you can spare a few hours to help please contact David Capon (djcapon@gmail.com).

We also need a couple of volunteers to help put up the stand on Friday at about 4.30pm.

All offers of help gratefully received.

Contact the Editor: northsomersetbeekeepers@gmail.com

President's BBQ – *Garry Packer*

Garry hosted the President's BBQ at his home in Weston Super Mare last month. The weather was perfect and the event coincided with the WSM Air Show so attendees were enjoyed treats such as a display by the Red Arrows and wing walking. Not sure who that lucky person was!



Thanks to John Banks for the photos.

Volunteer sought for new post of Communications Officer – *Annabel Lewis*

In the last edition we sought expressions of interest for the proposed Communications Officer post but unfortunately nobody volunteered. This should be a very interesting post; taking a proactive approach to working with the media to promote beekeeping and our branch. The post

holder will also work with other committee members to review branch communications with the aim of boosting attendance at branch meetings.

If you are interested in this role, please contact me at: foot.print@btinternet.com to discuss the post.

Bee Diseases day in June – Heather Pitch

On Saturday 2 June nearly sixty beekeepers from associations in Avon attended a Bee Disease Day at Langford Veterinary School. The event was run by the Animal and Plant Health Agency and sponsored by Bee Disease Insurance. Delegates attended different workshops run by Bee Inspectors throughout the day, including varroa and the Asian Hornet.

A practical session was held in a comb workshop where we saw examples of American and European Foul Brood as well as other diseases. Hives had also been set up in an apiary where colonies were inspected and many useful tips gained. The day was a great success with one beekeeper saying “it was the most useful training day I have had”.



Thanks to Annabel Lewis for the photos



Hire of branch honey extractor

Many of us will be preparing to extract honey at this time of year and we have equipment that can be hired by members. We have three extractors, a new four frame extractor, uncapping trays and filter buckets.

The cost is £5 for four days. The equipment will be supplied clean and must be collected and returned clean to Sheila James who kindly manages the honey extractors on behalf of the branch.

To arrange a date for collection, please email: sheilajamesgardendesign@talktalk.net

Branch events - John Banks

Don't forget to keep your eye on our website for any changes to the 2018 programme: <http://northsomersetbeekeepers.org/activities/>

Beekeeping taster session – Stephen Brain

Stephen is holding a second beekeeping taster session on Sunday September 23rd. This is a precursor to the winter course. The session will be held at: The Limes, Kenn Moor Road, Kenn, Clevedon, North Somerset, BS21 6UB. To book a place, contact Stephen on: 0777 321 1394.

Bristol Honey Show 1st & 2nd September University Botanic Gardens

Lots of interesting classes with a chance to win the famous Silver Queen. Entries by 29th August. Entrance to the gardens included.

<http://www.bristolbeekeepers.org.uk/honeyshow/bristolhoneyshow.html>

**Wider events coming up in next couple of months –
Jenny Wakenshaw**

- Welsh Beekeeping Association Conference
13th-15th July
Booking: www.wbka.com
- BIBBA Conference 7th - 9th Sept
Royal Agricultural University
Cirencester GL7 6JS
<https://bibba.com/event/bibba-conference-2018/>
Over the 3 days there will be seminars, workshops
and three streams of presentations:
 1. *Bee breeding, bee improvement, queen rearing*
 2. *Other beekeeping topics to suit everyone*
 3. *Beginner and beyond*
- Somerset Lecture Day 4th Sept £5
8 Cary Court, Somerton TA11 6SB

Bee craft monthly online “hang outs”

All are invited to join the Bee craft online discussion of topical issues. Watch the discussion or ask questions or comment live by email. Hangouts are recorded for future use. Future dates for your diary are: July 27, Sept 26, Oct 31, Nov 28, Dec 19. Access here:

<http://www.bee-craft.com/beekeeping/bee-craft-live/>

Swarm sitting pretty – Adrian Wells and Lee Silver

Lee Silver and I collected these from a back garden in Weston. Bees had been getting comfy in a couch! They are now living a useful and socially responsible life after being re-homed by Lee. No more shlumping in front of the TV for them!

