

# North Somerset Beekeepers



Welcome to the 17<sup>th</sup> edition of our branch newsletter. As usual your feedback and contributions are very welcome. Please send items to the editor by 25<sup>th</sup> of the month.

## **Branch talks and educational events – Rob Williams, Programme Manager**

We have a full calendar of events in February and after an excellent turnout at Stephen Brain's talk last month, let's see if we can keep it up this month.

Keep your eyes on the events programme for up to date information. It can be found on our website here:

<http://northsomersetbeekeepers.org/activities/>

### **Honey Show – 9<sup>th</sup> February**

Our Honey Show will be held on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February at Tickenham Village Hall. Entries are accepted from 13:30 and judging will start at 14:30. There are 10 classes and the Show Schedule can be found via this link: [Honey-Show-Schedule-2019](#)

There is still time to bake a honey cake or make some biscuits etc, so why not enter a few classes. Do come along even if you don't enter. It is educational and an opportunity to meet fellow beekeepers.

### **Winter Cluster – 19<sup>th</sup> February**

Our next winter cluster will take place at The Windmill pub, Nore Road, Portishead on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> February at 12md. Everyone is welcome to talk about bees over a drink and enjoying the views.

### **Lifetime of beekeeping – 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 2-4pm**



Rob Francis will be delivering a talk on his experience of a lifetime of beekeeping, at Flax Bourton Village Hall, Old Weston Road, Flax Bourton, Bristol, BS48 1UR.

**February 2019**

## **Asian hornet traps - the official line from the National Bee Unit**

In response to an enquiry from Tony Slater on recommendations for Asian hornet trapping, the National Bee Unit provided this response:

*The National Bee Unit encourage all beekeepers to be on the lookout for the Asian hornet. Beekeepers may choose to use insect traps. If they do, they should register their use in apiaries on BeeBase.*

*Knowing who is looking and where helps us to target our own surveillance. Beekeepers should be aware that traps do not discriminate and will catch insects of all types, including the Asian hornet.*

*If a beekeeper has an apiary at home then they should use a monitoring trap, especially if they can easily monitor it every day and release trapped insects if the Asian hornet is not present. The National Bee Unit has published instructional videos on how to make these traps.*

*Killing traps are different from monitoring traps in that they will attract and kill insects. They are only used by the National Bee Unit in specific locations where there is a known risk of Asian hornet e.g. in locations where there have been previous outbreaks, and where constant daily monitoring of the traps is not possible.*

*The National Bee Unit also recommend that the more selective type of bait, which can be purchased from beekeeping suppliers, is used in killing traps to reduce the numbers of other insects being trapped.*

*All traps, whichever type is used, should be monitored regularly for the Asian hornet.*

### **Asian hornet trap workshop – 25<sup>th</sup> February**

In light of this advice we will be holding another workshop to make your own Asian hornet trap. This will be held at Churchill Memorial Hall from 7.30 – 9pm.

Further details can be found here:

[Make-a-asian-hornet-trap-workshop](#)

## UWE CAKE Project – 19<sup>th</sup> February - *Rob Williams*



A group of final year students from UWE have been investigating the future needs of NSBK with regards to media communications and an improved web site. Now is the chance for you to come, listen and debate. This activity has been organised within the auspices of the UWE CAKE (Community Action and Knowledge Exchange) project.

The students will be presenting their work to us on Tues 19th Feb, 19:30-21:00, at Tickenham Village Hall.

## Sale of NSBK library books – *Tony Slater*

For many years, the NSBK have held a library of about 100 books on bees and beekeeping, often donated by members. Interest in borrowing them has fallen off in recent years and the somewhat ageing library is now hardly used. The books have been sorted into those, about one third, still worth keeping and those to be sold. Members will be given the chance to buy the books, and those remaining will be sold eventually to a dealer specialising in bee books.

There will be a display of the books at the Honey Show on 9<sup>th</sup> February and will be available for members to buy. Sandra has established the suggested prices on bookfinder.com. and these will be discounted by 40% for members.

Since the pricing is a little uncertain – because so much depends on the edition, condition of the book, dust cover present or not, etc - if a member badly wants to buy a particular book but feels the price is too high (and can demonstrate a lower one being offered on-line, perhaps) we may be persuaded – per John Lewis – to lower the price.

Afterwards, a list of the remaining books will be uploaded to our website so that members who could not attend the show can see if they want to buy any.

Some of the books are fairly recent, and are still valid for today's beekeepers, while others are mainly of historical interest. Prices range between 20p to £40.

## Wider educational events – *Jenny Wakenshaw*

*"A future without imports"*  
16th Feb, The Eden Project

*"Plan Bee"*  
Jan 26th - 17th March, The Eden Project

*Avon Beekeepers Association Spring Day School*  
30<sup>th</sup> March £10, The Village Hall, Shipham, BS25 1SG  
A series of lectures including Celia Davis  
9.45am - 4.00 pm, bring your own lunch  
Booking advisable. See attached flyer for further details.

*Avon AGM*  
16th March, Hosted by Keynsham at Saltford  
Talk by Dr Emily Bell "How to have a social life - lessons from the wasps"

**Sustainable Bees & Queens** - 10:00 – 16:00, £11  
*For everyone, using low cost and simple methods*  
Delivered by BIBBA (Bee Improvement and Bee Breeders Association),

- 23<sup>rd</sup> March – St Mary Village Hall, Clyst St Mary, Exeter Devon
- 24<sup>th</sup> March – The Drill Hall, Chepstow,

Fee includes tea/coffee, bring your own lunch.

Booking essential in advance via [www.bibba.com](http://www.bibba.com).  
Click here for further details of content:  
<https://bibba.com/sustainable-bees-queens/>

There is growing concern amongst beekeepers about the ever-increasing importation of bees and queens. This is on several grounds, including the possibilities of introducing pests, diseases and pathogens, aggression in subsequent generations and the unsuitability to our climate.

Defra has recently conducted a Queen Replacement Survey that shows most beekeepers prefer home-reared queens but need help to produce them. In addition, many BKAs are unable to produce enough bees for their beginners and queens to head them.

In response to this need BIBBA are staging a series of one day regional events during the 2018/19 winter. These are to help and encourage all beekeepers and BKAs to produce bees and queens from local stock, by using simple techniques at low or no cost.

