

# North Somerset Beekeepers



Welcome to the 18<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**

Keep your eyes on the events programme for up to date information. It can be found on our website here: <http://nordsomersetbeekeepers.org/activities/>

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

Our next Winter Cluster will meet on Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> March at the Failand Inn at 12md. Everyone is welcome to talk about bees over a drink and enjoying the views.

### **Pub Quiz Night 11 March 19:30-22:00 – Rob Williams**

A bee-oriented pub quiz offering something for everyone! Not all the questions are BBKA approved, but Modules 1 & 6 candidates could benefit.

Get your teams of four clustered beforehand; or be shook-swarmed on the night.

Question Master: Garry Packer

The George, Backwell. Entry fee £2, but prizes, prizes, prizes! Come on, give it a go!

### **Bee talk by Ivor Davis at Congresbury library – 21<sup>st</sup> March 7:30pm**

Our very own Dr Ivor Davis is giving a talk on Bees and Humans: who gets the best out of the relationship? Thursday 21 March 7:30 pm Old School Rooms. Tickets £4 from Congresbury Community Library 01934 426 200 or [congresburylibrary@gmail.com](mailto:congresburylibrary@gmail.com).

### **Talk by Brian Durk on Bees and Elephants**

Date for diary - 13<sup>th</sup> April, 14:00-16:00 at Tickenham Village Hall.

## **UWE Community Action & Knowledge Exchange Project update - Rob Williams**



The group of UWE final year students who have been investigating our future website and media communications needs presented their work to date last month.

Matt, Lei, Andrew, Sandeep, Vereen have done a great deal of background work and listened to our thoughts and feedback. The next step is to hold a training session with a small group of NSBK members. More later...

## **Asian hornet workshop update – John Banks**



We organised a workshop at Churchill Hall on 25 February and made some Asian Hornet traps. When you hang your trap up (in your garden or in your apiary), please send me your post code by e-mail to: [ja.banks1@btinternet.com](mailto:ja.banks1@btinternet.com).

We intend to map the post codes to our district so we can check the cover we are giving to the monitoring process. Instructions for making the Asian Hornet trap and identification information for Asian Hornets are contained on the website under the map.

We aim to monitor for the Asian Hornet and report if we find them (but ensure if we catch European Hornets and other native insects that we can release them due to their rarity). Please report sightings of Asian Hornets immediately (sending a photograph if possible) via the free Asian Hornet Watch app, or via email to: [alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk). You can also seek advice from the National Bee Unit and our Regional Bee Inspector: Simon Jones 01823 442 228, [simon.jones@apha.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:simon.jones@apha.gsi.gov.uk).

There is the very real potential for the Asian Hornet to spread across the UK. The Asian Hornet first appeared in France in 2004 and has now spread across of all of France with 50% colony losses reported in the worst hit areas. Bees cannot defend themselves against the Asian Hornet, whereas, collectively, they can defend their hive against the European Hornet.

### **NSBK Honey Show – February 2019**

We had an excellent range for entries this year and David Capon once again gave an interesting and informative commentary to his open judging.

- Winner of Golden Jubilee Cup (most points in show)  
Jenny Wakenshaw
- Winner of Novice Shield (most points for a novice)  
Jane Boss

David Hounsell kindly donated a frame display case to the winner of the Novice Shield. Photos at the end of the newsletter.

### **Help needed for the North Somerset Agricultural Show (NSAS) on Bank Holiday Monday, 6 May 2019 – Sandra Slater**



The Association runs a stall at the NSAS each year to showcase bees and beekeeping. Members of the association are available to share their knowledge with the public. There is an observation hive, virtual hive, a beekeeping display, candle and badge making for the children. We sell members'

honey which is very popular.

In addition, we run a honey show on behalf of the NSAS which is judged by our very own David Capon. Here is a link to the rules and schedule of the honey show:

<http://www.nsas.org.uk/bees-honey/>

It would be great if as many of you as possible could enter something, even if it is just a honey cake or biscuits, as this is our showcase to the world. The person scoring the most points in the show will not only be presented with the Hans Wilson Perpetual Honey Cup but also a prize of £25 kindly donated again by Hans.

Our display is hugely popular and it is great fun to man the stalls and chat to the general public.

### *Helpers*

We are looking for helpers for the stall during the day. You would only need to help out for a 2 hour slot and as a reward you receive a free ticket for the Agricultural show. The slots are for 13:00-15:00 and 15:00 to 17:00.

Some of you have already volunteered, for which I am grateful, but we still need more names. So, if you have done it before and know how much fun it is, or if you have never helped out before, we need you. Even if you have only just entered the world of beekeeping you still have a lot to offer. Come along and help. If you don't think that you know a lot, you will soon find out how much more you know than the general public!

We also need some help on the previous day, Sunday, 6 May at 4.00pm to assist in setting up the exhibit and to help clear up after the show has finished on the Monday.

### *Selling honey*

Finally, if you have wish to sell honey at the show please let me know. The branch takes a commission on honey sold, which is reduced if you help out on the day. Sellers are required to provide a spare jar for the public to taste.

Contact Sandra on: 07792 702513 or email [Sandrajlater@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Sandrajlater@hotmail.co.uk)

### **Avon & wider educational events – Jenny Wakenshaw**

#### *Avon AGM*

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

#### *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.

#### *Welsh Beekeepers Convention*

Sat 30<sup>th</sup> March  
Royal Welsh Agricultural Showground

### *BBKA Spring Convention*

12th, 13th and 14th April

Harper Adams University

Tickets cost: Friday £13, Saturday £17, Sunday £12 or weekend £26.

Further details and to book tickets click: [Here](#)

### *Plan Bee*

Jan 26th - 17th March, The Eden Project

### **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/>

### **Apiary site offered in Yatton**

We have received an offer of an apiary site. The landowners are planting a small forest garden on a plot about 650m<sup>2</sup>. There are already some established fruit trees on the site and a further 13 trees and some hedging have just been planted. Planting the perennial shrubs and ground cover will start this Spring.

They would like to have bees on the site in exchange for a few jars of honey, if the site is appropriate.

Contact Marina by email: [marinavv@gmail.com](mailto:marinavv@gmail.com).

### **Offer of 20 acres Oilseed Rape for out-apiary**

Bristol Beekeepers have passed on an offer from a farmer at Dundry. He wondered if anyone would be interested in putting some hives on 20 acres of oilseed rape. The location is Dundry Hill, BS41 8NS, near Chew Valley Lake.

Please contact Richard Kessel if interested: [kessel43@live.co.uk](mailto:kessel43@live.co.uk)

### **NSBK Honey Show 2019**



David Capon presenting Jenny Wakenshaw with the Golden Jubilee Cup



David Capon presenting Jane Boss with the Novice Cup



David Hounsell presenting Jane Boss a frame display case he donated to the winner of the Novice Cup

