

BOURNEMOUTH & DORSET SOUTH BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION



Newsletter

November 2021

Association Diary Dates

West Parley Memorial Hall

2021

Tuesday 16.11.2021 (evening) - November meeting

Tuesday 14.12.2021 (evening) - December Christmas meeting

2022

Tuesday 18.01.2022 (evening) - January AGM

Tuesday 15.02.2022 (evening) – February meeting

Tuesday 15.03.2022 (evening) - March meeting

Tuesday 19.04.2022 (evening) - April meeting

Evening meetings from 7:00pm to 10pm

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need any additional information. For arranging speakers I am being helped by Ed Gentle.

Natalie Sewell, Treasurer

07786 998614 at treasurer@bads-bka.org

Christmas Meeting

7pm Tuesday 14th December

We want to make this a FUN event so we are asking you to come along and make up small teams to compete in our Quiz. The quiz will be on bees as well as on general knowledge.

Please could you each bring along a cold plate of food with a Christmas theme, savoury or sweet, to share with other members.

Coffee and Tea will be served, but no alcohol!

We hope to see you there.

Members of the BADS BKA Committee

Christmas Present

What could be better than a free entry to the **Wannabee Day (April 9th)**. Several members have already bought tickets to give to friends or family. The Day earlier this year was a great success and we already have some who could not attend then and are signed up to come next April. The cost is £40 per person. The Day is held at Highmead. A series of talks are given by experienced beekeepers, followed by small question and answer groups, demonstrations of equipment and practical sessions in the apiary. You will be putting on a bee suit, looking inside the hives and handling the bees. Tea and coffee is available throughout the day.

To apply please contact **Anne Moran, Membership Secretary**, at membership@bads-bka.org

Dear Members – a reminder

You may recall we increased the frequency of the Newsletters from quarterly to two monthly during Covid. This seemed a good idea whilst we have not had other opportunities to meet. However, we are now back meeting face to face in the Memorial Hall and hearing regular educational talks. For these reasons, we will now be reverting back to quarterly issues of the Newsletters. Thank you so much to all those that have contributed. Please continue to do so.

The next Newsletter will be in March. I don't mind what you would like to send in so long as there is a bee theme...good or bad experiences, some ideas on how to do things better, anecdotes, interesting photos, honey based recipes...

Thank you

Adrian Rozkovec, at newsletter@bads-bka.org

The Honey Show

Thank you to everyone who entered and helped out at this years Honey Show. I think it was a great success and had a nice feel to the whole day. We had 19 people enter exhibits with 79 entries over all which is great!

It's was noted how high the standard was, especially the photo class which every one could have gotten a 1st on another day. So well done to your all. We look forward now to starting to plan next year where we hope to be open to the public again.....



Fred Sedgeley
Honey Show Secretary

.... One of the Photographs in The Honey Show...



This was in a poly nuc which was made up with a surplus queen. The nuc started quite weak but has built up nicely. We had been feeding up for winter with syrup and on inspection found a supercedure cell. The queen was laying well and there was brood at all stages. Being so late in the season thought, "what are they doing??" Decided to leave them to get on with it and a couple of days later found she had emerged. Still had the original queen looking well and



still laying so left them to it and will sort out next spring.

Steve Smith

A Terrible Year!

Perhaps it is because I am getting old but this year it has seemed beekeeping has become harder!

All our colonies came through the winter strongly. By the end of March supers had been added to each, more for space than in the hope of an early nectar flow. However, with the exception of a few odd days, the months of April and most of May were wet, cold and windy. Supers were filling with nectar and then emptying as opportunities to forage disappeared, often for days at a time.

The wind was very strong in early May. Our colonies on the rooftops of buildings at Bournemouth University were so badly affected that they were not flying. Stores of pollen in two of the colonies were completely exhausted between two inspections and we only managed to save the large areas of open brood by inserting frames of pollen from our home hives. We have never had to do this before!

The honey crop was, of course, lower than usual. Only a reasonable flow at the end of the season allowed the bees to collect a surplus to fill some supers. But having a smaller honey crop is not our greatest concern.

What we are concerned about is the effect that the variability of the weather is having on the mating of our queens. Each year we try and raise a handful of queens sufficient for our own requeening needs. This year out of five raised only one went into sustained lay. She is presently heading one of our colonies. Will she be viable next spring? One of her sisters went into lay, produced three largish frames of brood and then gave up!

Just as worryingly two queens produced last year have been superseded. One in the middle of September. Again we wonder how adequate their mating has been. All will be revealed as the season next year unfolds.

In the meantime I repeat beekeeping seems to be getting harder.

David Aldersey, Committee Member

A Reminder...

Beginners Course 23rd April 2022

10 COMMANDMENTS OF BEEKEEPING...

- I. Thou Shalt Use Only Standard Beekeeping Equipment
 - II. Thou Shalt Be Considerate of Non-Beekeeping Neighbours
 - III. Thou Shalt Re-Queen Regularly
 - IV. Thou Shalt Control Diseases and Pests
 - V. Thou Shalt Maximize Colony Populations Before Nectar Flow
 - VI. Thou Shalt Super Colonies According to Their Need
 - VII. Thou Shalt Take Pride in Honey and Other Hive Product
 - VIII. Thou Shalt Protect Thy Beekeeping Equipment
 - IX. Thou Shalt Help Thy Bees Through the Winter
 - X. Thou Shalt Join and Participate in a Beekeeping Organization
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A Recipe for Christmas

HONEY CHOCOLATE CAKE



FOR THE CAKE

100g dark chocolate, broken into pieces
200g plain flour
275g light muscovado sugar
1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
225g soft butter
1 tablespoon cocoa
125ml runny honey
250ml boiling water
2 eggs

FOR THE STICKY HONEY GLAZE

60ml water 175g dark chocolate, chopped or grated finely
125ml runny honey 75g icing sugar

FOR THE BEES

25g yellow marzipan 12 flaked almonds

Take all ingredients out of the fridge to bring to room temperature.

TO MAKE THE CAKE

Pre-heat the oven to gas mark 4/180C and butter and line a 23cm springform cake tin.

Melt the chocolate in a large bowl, either in the microwave or over a pan of simmering water. Leave to cool slightly.

Beat together the soft butter and sugar until airy and creamy, then add the honey.

Add one of the eggs, beating it in with 1tbspn of flour, and then the other egg with 1tbspn of flour.

Fold in the melted chocolate, then the rest of the flour and bicarbonate of soda. Sift in the cocoa powder and lastly, beat in the boiling water and mix everything together to make a smooth batter and pour into the prepared cake tin.

Cook for an hour, but check after 45 minutes and if it is catching, cover the top lightly with foil. Check with a cocktail stick to ensure cooked.

Leave to cool completely, still in the tin on a rack.

TO MAKE THE GLAZE

Bring the water and honey to a boil in a small pan, then turn off the heat and add the finely chopped chocolate, swirling it around to melt. Sieve in the icing sugar and whisk until smooth.

Pour the glaze over the cold cake and smooth down the sides. The glaze stays tacky for a while so ice in time for the glaze to harden a little, at least an hour before serving. Keep the pan of glaze for making the bees.

TO MAKE THE BEES

Divide the marzipan into 6 even pieces and shape them into fat, sausage-like bee's bodies, slightly tapering the ends. Paint stripes using the chocolate glaze (about 3 stripes) and then carefully attach flaked almonds for the wings. You could also add eyes with the glaze. Place randomly on the cake to serve.

Anne Moran

Bee Supplies – Mike and Liz Duffin

If you need bee equipment or supplies please be aware that the Duffins, are the local agents for Thornes (EH Thorne Beehives Ltd), a major national Beekeeper supplier. They are very helpful, keep a good stock and you don't have to pay for packaging and postage!

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**WISHING YOU ALL A HAPPY
CHRISTMAS and SUCCESSFUL
BEEKEEPING IN 2022**

