

BOURNEMOUTH & DORSET SOUTH BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION



Newsletter

December 2023

Chairman's Report

Saturday 18th November saw our Association showcasing all things relating to bees at our annual Honey Show. 13 of our members prepared and brought in over 100 entries! Well done to all of them.

As you may be aware we are lucky to number among our members, three National Honey Show judges. And two of them, Michael Duffin and John Bunting, kindly gave their time and expertise to judge the quality of the entries. I heard on the grape-vine that no quarter was given and National Honey Show standards were applied. Red cards were awarded in plenty of categories. (Unlike in football, these are good!)

In the afternoon, the general public were admitted and as in previous years they came in great numbers. People in the area had been asking the Hall for several weeks when our Show was to be held. It was all good fun with honey-tasting, candle-rolling and even a guess the weight of a sealed frame of honey. The candle-rolling had queues of children with parents in tow.

I want to thank all our members who came in the afternoon to help run all the many activities not least those handing out endless cups of tea with scones. Last but not least three new members were recruited.

I look forward to seeing them and indeed, as many of you as possible, at our **Xmas supper meeting on Tuesday 12th December with three short talks by our experienced members. For the last time this will be held at the Winton Baptist Church.**

David Aldersey

Honey Show Judges: Michael Duffin and John Bunting





Meeting Venue from the New Year

We have been very lucky this year to hold our winter meetings in the Winton Baptist Church Hall and we would like to give a big thank you to Lizzy Wood for arranging the hire for us.

Unfortunately this venue will not be available in the New Year, but the good news is we have a new hall.

**St.Andrews Church Centre
Millhams Road
Kinson
Bournemouth
BH10 7LN**

We will have our **AGM there on the 16th January at 7.30.**

There is a large car park but be careful when parking at night there are bollards. A slope leads up to the entrance which is well lit. The room we are using has a refreshment area to one side and the toilets are directly off the room.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the AGM in our new meeting room.

Other Meetings....

20th February "Honeybee disease in the UK"
Kirsty Stainton

19th March "The mind of the Honeybee"
Marin Anastasov

Season's Greetings and Happy New Year to you all.

Lesley Morton on behalf of the Committee

Speakers secretary

speakers@bads-bka.org



Anne Moran with honey products for sale



When the Environmental Officer comes to visit

He's actually called the Community Safety Officer now – and he was very nice.

I have kept bees in my garden for about 5 years. When I started beekeeping I told my immediate neighbours of my intentions and they were happy but I have always worried about the council stopping me keeping bees. One of my non-immediate neighbours recently decided to report me for having 'at least 5 beehives' in my garden, and also claiming that every member of her family had been stung by my bees. I'm lucky to have a large garden, but I only have 1 hive in the garden and sometimes a nuc when I am doing a split. No one in my household has been stung this year. After receiving the letter of complaint, I called the Community Safety Officer and he came to see the actual set up in my garden.

He was very reasonable. We discussed the issues around keeping bees in a garden, the number of hives I have, and swarms. I did some research before his visit and found that a legal case in 1984 concerning a beehive in a garden found in favour of the beekeeper. The judge ruled that someone should expect to be stung by an insect in their garden, and it would be normal for a person to get stung twice a year, and that this is an acceptable risk. I haven't found any cases since that date.

Following the visit I received a letter stating that I can keep the beehive in my garden, and a nuc when necessary. Having been through this process now, I found the officer to be very reasonable and fair. If you find yourself in this situation I would recommend engaging with the council officer as soon as possible.

Clare Tilly

Bumble Bee Calls 2023

Compared with last year's 67 calls and 39 site visits, this year was much quieter with 30 calls, 15 sites visited and 3 of these were in fact *Apis Mellifera*. Why? Well there are so many imponderables that it is impossible to draw any conclusions from a single year: fewer bees, more tolerance about reporting them,

fewer colonies found. Of the 20 Bumblebee nest sites the locations were...

- 9 Wall pipes/vents/soffits
- 1 Compost heaps
- 3 Hedge bottom/gardens
- 1 Under sheds/decking
- 5 Nest boxes
- 1 Paths

The Bumble Bee Conservation Trust, (BBCT), www.bumblebeeconservation.org which runs a nationwide recording scheme, will produce its annual bumble bee report later this year and we will be able to see what the overall national numbers were. These figures are produced by several hundred volunteers who walk designated routes recording bumble bee sightings each month from April to October. However, annual fluctuations can be considerable and it is only by recording over a number of years that any trend can be spotted. The BBCT website is excellent. It is a good site to visit for anyone interested in bees generally and, if you would like the idea of being part, it is easy to join and contribute.

Of the three honey bee calls that I did attend, one was quite difficult, requiring scaffolding and four visits. Because of where the bees were, in the chimney, the colony had to be destroyed; there was no possibility of getting them out.

In quite a number of cases the caller will, when talked through the bumble bee colony's life cycle, be prepared to keep them until the colony dies out naturally. Those are the best calls. However if they have to be moved, Alison and I have it pretty well organised with specialist boxes that I've made. But you never know until you get there. The other year we had to dig a five foot trench through the garden from where the bees were exiting, to where the nest was, and in the process we got well 'pinged' for our efforts.

Again this year there were more nests reported from 'unnatural' habitat than natural ones, but this may be because the 'unnatural' ones were more obvious.

Claire Tilley does an excellent job dealing with calls and coordinating the swarm collectors, and I am happy to be able to help out and advise the public about bumble bees.

Peter Darley
November 2023

Recipe

Chewy Ginger Honey Cookies

These cookies are crisp on the outside with tender, soft middle.

PREP TIME 10 mins, BAKING TIME 12 mins

INGREDIENTS

2 cups All Purpose Flour / Maida
2 tsp Baking Soda / Cooking Soda
½ tsp Salt
1 tsp Cinnamon Powder
½ tsp Dry Ginger Powder
½ tsp Cloves Powder
1 cup Powdered Sugar
¾ cup Soft Unsalted Butter
¼ cup Honey
1 Egg
Granulated Sugar for rolling the cookies

INSTRUCTIONS

Take flour, cinnamon, cloves, salt, baking soda and ginger in a bowl and mix well.

Take butter, sugar in a bowl and beat with an electric beater till creamy.

Add in 1 egg and honey, whip again till creamy.

Add in flour mix in and mix well.

Cover with plastic wrap and chill it for 30 mins to 1 hour in fridge.

Preheat oven to 190 degree C in the last 10 mins of chilling. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper and set aside.

Use an ice cream scoop to scoop the dough and shape it into smooth ball, roll it out and place it in granulated sugar and roll it well.

Place it in a plate and flatten it lightly.

Now pop this in fridge and chill for another 15 mins.

Now arrange this on baking sheet and bake for 9 to 11 mins.

Remove this from oven and cool it for 10 mins, now remove this to a cooling rack and cool completely.

The biscuits merged into each other and looked like a honeycomb!.....



Dear Members – Your Contributions please

The next Newsletter will be in March 2024. 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.

Also, I invite you to send me the story of one of your mistakes! I have made plenty over the years and in this newsletter I have authored number 1. Please contribute and don't feel embarrassed. If you want your piece to be anonymous it will still be acceptable!

Thank you

Adrian Rozkovec newsletter@bads-bka.org

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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