

BOURNEMOUTH & DORSET SOUTH BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION



Newsletter

June 2024

Chairman's report

The courses at High Mead for beginners and those of our members wanting to take their Basic Assessment have just concluded. Both have been well-attended and Kelly, Helga and I have greatly enjoyed all of the sessions. Despite the vagaries of our spring weather we were able to visit the colonies on all but one of the Sundays. I want to thank Kelly for not only sharing the load of teaching but for all her effort in making sure we had excellent colonies to work with. Behind the scenes Anne Moran has again been a tower of strength. She has dealt with the hours of emails involved in the enrolling of the classes and their administration. Having done it once I know just how much time this takes. Many thanks Anne!

I know that the summer is a very busy time for us all but I do hope that as many of you as possible can find the time to come to one or both of the social events planned. The first is on 15th June and the second on 3rd August, details of which you will have received by email. They will give you a chance for us to meet and exchange news and views on the ups (and downs!) of the beekeeping season which is happening apace. Look forward to seeing you.

David Aldersey

Following Last Year's Beginners Course

David asked me to submit a review / piece of text about my experience on the recently completed Beginners course. As such please find below:

Before attending the Beginners course, I was already satisfied, regardless of the outcome, it provided very good value, costing less than a return train ticket to London for a tutor led hands on course spanning 6

weeks. Having just completed the 6 weeks course I can safely say any prejudice I had about it being good value has been superseded many times over, in fact I would go as far as to describe the course as invaluable to any aspiring beekeeper. The wealth of knowledge and experience provided by David, Helga, Kelly and company, every session felt like I was cheating my way to competence. The lessons were a good balance of theory and practical hands-on, delivered with a patient approach catering well for complete newbies like me. Gathering insights into not just the how but also the why is an important aspect of learning for me, and the course always delivered on this.

Committing 6 mornings on a weekend was a big decision for me, but am so pleased I did so, not only have I learnt a lot, and concreted my desire to start beekeeping, but have also met some great folks. Fully recommend the course to any beginner - thank you BADS, keep up the good work.

Kayvan Javid

Asian Hornet

Some years ago Arian Dwyer, myself and a young scientist who was studying the Asian Hornet travelled to Jersey in the hope of finding out some useful information in the case of an invasion of the British Isles by this unwanted insect.

As we all now know last year 2023 appears to be the beginning of this invasion and fortunately the UK appears to be far better prepared to fight back than our Continental friends were.



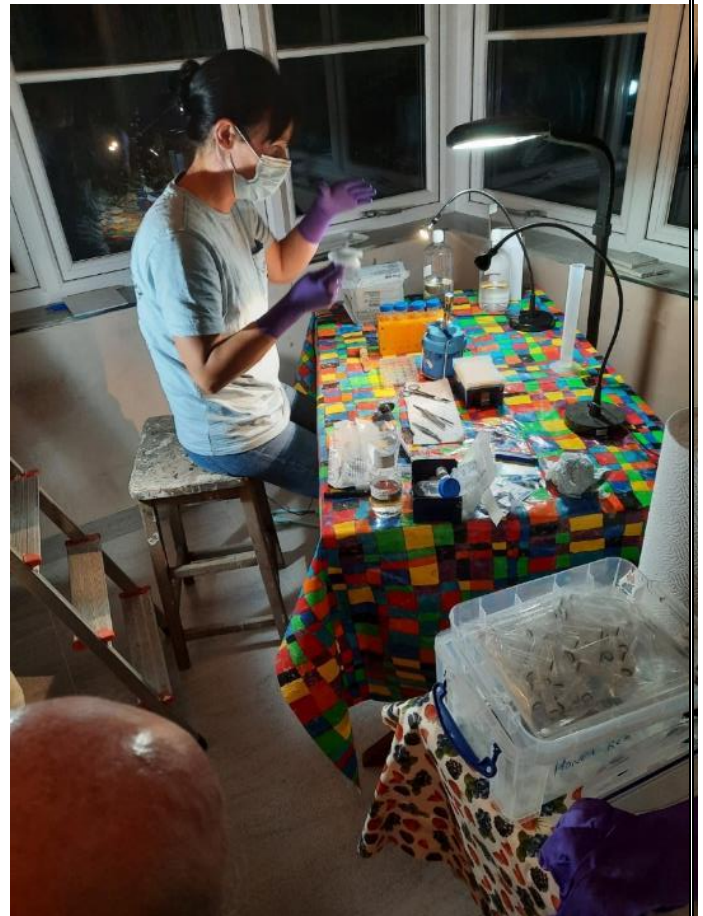
Hovering up the Hornets in preparation for the removal of the nest on the island of Jersey.



Dissecting the nest to count the number of Hornets, larvae and to hopefully find a queen.



Collecting nest for analysis.



Kirsty extracting what she needs for DNA analysis.



Using CO2 to put the hornets to sleep.

This does not kill the hornets but they look and act dead until the CO2 wears off.

More recently, at the end of April, Adrian Dwyer and myself set up an Asian Hornet Awareness Tent at the Christchurch Sailing Club Open Day. A major event for the sailing club as it celebrates 150 years of being a club. We had over one thousand people through the gates and quite a lot visiting our display for information on the Asian Hornet. We were joined on

the stand by David Neal and Joanna Bellis for which we are extremely grateful.



Adrian on the left, me with hands in pockets and Joanna with her back to the camera. David had gone home by this time having spent the morning with us on the stand.

I think that most of us in our association know the risks of having Asian Hornets permanently on our soil and I hope that we are all preaching the gospel to anyone who will listen. The most important thing to ask people to do is of course to report anything that looks like it might be an Asian Hornet. The second most important thing is to try to encourage them to download the Asian Hornet Watch App on to their phones.

Here you will find some useful links that can be shared via social media, to your friends and of course for you to study.

<https://www.bbka.org.uk/asian-hornet-communications-package>

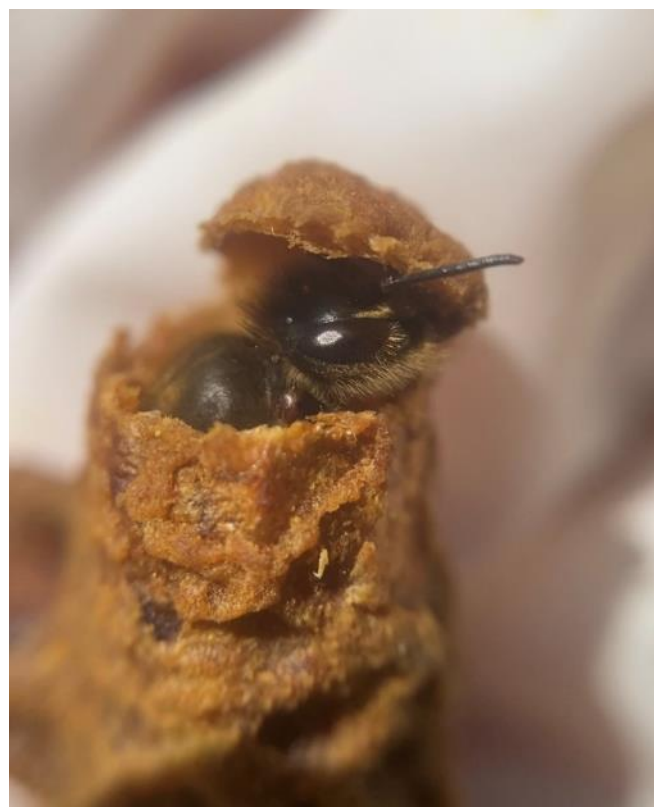
Conor Wall

As you know Lizzy Wood is a very talented artist and photographer

Queen Cup



Emerging Queen



Queen Larva in Royal jelly



Visiting the Beezantium at the Newt

Last October I visited the gardens at The Newt near Castle Cary. It's a lovely place, the gardens are becoming well established and there are numerous walks and interesting places to see around the estate. I was very keen to visit the Beezantium – an exhibit that explores the 'intricate connections between bees, and land and us humans'.

There are a number of hives set up around the building that houses the exhibit (it's not very big) that are almost buried in wild garden areas. Inside there is a lot of information about bees and beekeeping. It was very interesting and fascinating to those in our group who do not know about bees. They had several observation hives built into the walls, all different styles. I was disappointed in these, the bees were not moving in many or were very lethargic. The log hive had obviously lost its colony as there was very little comb, although what there was was fresh wild comb. It is a great exhibit to educate people about bees and their importance. There was a detailed section about honey, its production and the difference between cheap supermarket honey and what you can buy from your local beekeeper.



If you are going to The Newt its worth the 20 minute walk out through the woods to see this exhibition.

<https://thenewtinsomerset.com/garden>

Clare Tilly

Tale of the Unexpected

Not strictly bee-related, but just thought this might be of interest as it shows how beekeepers and their equipment can help carpenters, musicians and people from all walks of life...sometimes it's just a question of thinking outside the box!

"My name is Martyn Cook and I'm currently making a Celtic harp so I can perform and teach. This harp will have 25 strings, each one passing through a small brass eyelet on the soundboard.

Rather than buy a bag of 500 eyelets (I only need 30) I wondered if you have any I could have in exchange for purchasing a jar of honey?"

Many thanks,
Martyn Cook"

We were keen to help Martyn and managed to source some eyelets from Kelly and deliver them to him. He was also keen to purchase a jar of our honey to thank us. A few days later we received a lovely Email back from him...

"Hi Pat and Ian,
Here at long last is the promised email with some pics and details of what the little brass eyelets do. Basically, the strings pass through the soundboard and are knotted behind to stop the pulling through. In the old days when harps had wire strings they made a sort of horseshoe shaped piece that sat on top of the soundboard which the strings then passed over. This stopped the cutting into the wood. Wire strung harps constructed today still use this method. For nylon strung harps such as mine the eyelet gives security against this and makes for an even sound.

They harp has been completed some weeks now but I wanted to play it extensively to make sure it is all good. The harp has turned out really well and I'm delighted with it. I'm very appreciative of your generosity and help."

Many thanks,
Martyn."



Pat and Ian Warmer

Association Diary Dates 2024-5

Evening Meetings will restart in September:
St Andrews Church, Millhams Road,
Bournemouth BH10 7LN

September 17th - Roger Patterson: "The Journey to Sustainability " A talk about buying different sub species of bees highlighting some of the problems that beekeepers face.

October 15th - Andy Willis: "Heather Honey". Taking bees to work heather as well as processing the crop.

November 19th - Margaret Murdin: Honey and processing.

December 10th - Christmas gathering member Joanna Bellis will give a talk entitled "Bees in music "

January 21st 2025: AGM

February 18th - Peter Darby: "Plants for pollinators"

March 18th - Martin and Clare: from Buckfast Abbey: "Defensive Bees"

April 15th - Spring Social with refreshments. Talk on the Osprey Project in Poole Harbour by one of the staff working on the project

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Thank you.

Lesley Morton

Speakers secretary

speakers@bads-bka.org

Dear Members – Your Contributions please

The next Newsletter will be in September. 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. 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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