Your East Dorset Beekeepers' Association News July 24

Hello EDBKA Family,

Warm greetings to all our dedicated beekeepers! Swarm: I am never going on holiday again in May! 3 strong hives had strong laying 2023 queens, space to lay, no queen cells or play cups, splits prior to going, additional super in case we had strong flow. Back and 15 days later multiple open queen cells. It's almost as if they knew! Moral of the story is you will not have done enough preparation to prevent a swarm and ask a friend to check on the "buzzy babies" as they cannot be trusted!

June sees some beekeepers hoping swarm season is over but as we move into July the bees are proving us wrong!

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

M. Skelton, N. Smith, T. Smith, A. Owen, N. Hutchinson, E. Copeland, K. Sims, J. Hodges, A. Mason, L. Doel

S. Weld, T. Barker, A. Westlake, R. Skillings, B. Feilder. N. Timms, E. Chandler,

We are lucky to have you join us.

TIP OF THE MONTH – Check your suit.

The teeth on my OZ Armour suit have broken (2 years in). They replied to my email saying "the front zip might have been left unfastened during washing, which can sometimes cause it to become brittle or broken" Moral of story, do your zipper up when washing suit.

BBKA Module 1 Update: Congratulations to Members who passed - Yippee

"Really delighted for those of you who passed Module 1 and disappointed for those that didn't. It seems those that didn't pass, had in the main very near misses which for me would be even more frustrating. We had a 50% pass rate which I think is national average, not sure that is a comfort though!" Helen

As someone who took the exam abroad and missed out by 5% I take heart that Kevin Pope and many extremely knowledgeable beekeepers have never done any exams. The most important thing is to remember it is a hobby that fascinates you, you can grow with, and that you enjoy it. Exams may or may not be part of that journey.

Our wonderful Apiary Hut

Rome wasn't built in a day, and it looks as though our lovely hut on the apiary site will not be either.

Good news is that I am meeting Lee from Sturts Farm, our landlords, to discuss our ideas. Getting that quote, for an 8 x 4 on new concrete footing is taking longer than expected as the idea of a lovely garden room seems to be out of our budget.

Currently it is a post, timber, timber floor and corrugated roof structure. I have been looking at garden rooms but they are out of our budget.

As planning permission will be needed if we want to extend and put concrete down, Mark White will step back from giving advice on the planning due to a conflict of interest in his current role.

Shows, Talks and Community Events. – anyone spot the new banner? We have two.

- **Summer BBQ!** Wow the grass was cut, the tables and chairs laid out, the bbq's ready and some really supportive salad making. It has been heralded as the best EDBKA BBQ yet and our heartfelt thanks to Helen, Terry and the whole team that helped. The raffle took over £100 which was amazing too. Thanks to you all.
- **Sheiling Show** – Summer festival was on the 22nd June and
- **Broadstone** show held on 23rd June. The Asian Hornet banners where produced to this deadline and there was a lot of community engagement in bees and the Asian Hornet. Thanks to Stephanie and Karen for taking the gazebo, banners and some lovely honey.

- **West Moors Westival** this coming Saturday and Jenny will be there. Pop along and see her and some of our great Committee
- Mark White is giving a talk to Bere Regis Garden Club which we know they will appreciate greatly.

Apiary Report

We are incredibly lucky to have such a great Apiary Management team. We currently have 11 hives and 3 nucs from splits. It was agreed to give Margaret and Clive a nuc for all their help, over the years, on the committee as Margaret is planning on stepping back from the Committee this autumn.

We are working out if there is any honey which is ready should be extracted as the team are running out of made-up supers.

We need to take action to strengthen the stands as one almost collapsed when Karen and Pete were doing an inspection of a heavy hive. Luckily Pete leaped into action and selflessly supported said flailing hive and saved the bees!

At the barbecue we had a word with one of our members who is a carpenter about, he is kindly going to visit the apiary and see what can be done and will report back to Karen and the AMC

We agreed to sell two nucs of bees. If you are interested, please contact Jenny.

Asian Hornet Update:

Mark White continues to be our EDBKA Asian Hornet Co-Ordinator.

Hurray, 65 of you took home our free Gardis Apis traps. If they are still sitting on the side be sure to take 5 minutes to set them up. The little glass jar fits well in mine. Thanks for the demo Mark.

Dates for Your Diary

20th July	Apiary Meeting 2.00pm	Club Apiary, West Moors
10th August	Apiary Meeting 2.00pm	Club Apiary, West Moors
21st Sept	Honey Show	West Moors
11th Oct	Skittles	Hamworthy Club
18th Oct	EDBKA AGM	Corfe Mullen Village Hall
24th to 26th Oct 24	National Honey Show	Sandown Park

Education and Training

The new BBKA Zoom Talk series is excellent, and we are thoroughly enjoying them at EDBKA

Mark and Jude are setting up the next round of training for new beekeepers. This really is such good news, and it starts on the 29th July for 6 Monday evenings at the British Legion again.

There are a number of people interested in joining the next training course, so Mr White suggests

1. the next sessions be on **29th July, 5th, 12th, 19th August, 2nd and 9th September** which will include
2. apiary training on **Saturdays 17th, 24th August and 7th September.**

EXTRACTOR HIRE: Want to extract a little honey? The Association extractors can be hired for £5 per day if you need one. Karen Cadman has one for the Broadstone, Poole, Purbeck areas contact no 07774 440938 and Jenny Wellman have one for other areas – 07890 499852 to book.

Payment can be made to EDBKA's Lloyds Business bank account. Sort Code 30-99-12 and Account No: 01077089

One could boast "The longest pole in Dorset"

Swarm Protocol

The committee have decided that only new beekeepers, on the swarm list, will receive swarms that our listed swarm collectors.

This is because we understand new trainees may lack the confidence to go out and collect their own swarm.

Members who have had bees previously, and request a swarm, will be advised by the Swarm Co-Ordinator where a swarm is situated and asked to collect for themselves if possible.

Jenny will stay swarm co-ordinator for 2025 but we thank Margrit who has offered to help her.

Swarm Collections

The swarming season should be over, I say should be as the bees are a law unto themselves. A huge thank you to our amazing Swarm Coordinator Jenny Wellman who has helped so many people but also to the dedicated team of collectors who have given up their spare time to help others. Thank you for your feedback from new beekeepers who have received swarms. If you need support please reach out on the Whats App group and we are happy to help.

Seasonal Beekeeping Tips: Summer thinking ahead to winter!

The bees will be at maximum numbers at the moment and starting to become more defensive as they protect their honey. I have seen a European hornet and a couple of wasps around my hives and think it will be time to put the entrance blocks back in. Strimming and grounds maintenance (with or without angry bees) is on my list, super removal for honey extraction, varroa mite counts, painting any empty supers, purchasing sale items and wondering if I can start building some winter insulation.

Last year I bought a freezer from Market Place and it came in useful for freezing frames of the honey that wasn't extracted, wasn't left on for winter, but the partially capped drawn comb got popped in the freezer to be used as food the following spring.

2024 https://www.bbka.org.uk/blog/july

https://www.bbka.org.uk/blog/july#:~:text=The%20tide%20begins%20to%20turn,the%20late%20season%20and%20beyond.&text=Continue%20weekly%20inspections.,seasons%20can%20catch%20you%20out.

We Need You!

Volunteer Opportunities:

As we continue to grow, so does our need for vibrant community involvement. Do you have a passion or skill that you could commit 10 – 15 hours a year? We are getting ready to offer some little vacancies to you.

Jenny does a brilliant job, in fact I have highlighted in the table at the end of the newsletter all of the things she does in green. As she is looking to reduce her huge role, we appeal to you to see if you would like any of these roles, and they do not all have to be Committee roles.

1. Pure Secretarial roles as per minutes and committee meetings, also responsible for hall and zoom facilitation.
2. A dedicated swarm control officer/co-ordinator and other necessary duties around this function
3. A functions officer responsible for hiring halls etc for talks, honey show and outside functions with staff to manage the EDBKA Stand etc.

In addition, we are looking for someone to shadow Margaret who is our dedicated honey show organiser. She has it running like a find oiled machine so picking it up and perhaps taking it into a larger show or event is a consideration.

Also we are keen to invite you to any committee meeting, before the AGM if you feel you could contribute to taking our lovely association forward. We are welcoming one observer at the end of July and would like to thank Michelle who has begun learning the membership role.

If you are curious, please contact me on sandraps274@gmail.com

💌 **A Note of Appreciation, Lets** 📬 **Stay Connected**

Warmest regards,

Sandra Palmer-Snellin

Chairperson, East Dorset Beekeepers' Association (EDBKA)

Take a look at the roles and if any tickle your fancy please let us know.

EDBKA Committee Responsibilities but we cannot do it without you.

Asian Hornet Education Trap recipe & setting traps in February Asian Hornet Traps Siting Asian Hornet monitoring/ trapping (in Mark's absence) -	**Apiary Management Team** Committee rep on Apiary Management Committee (AMC) - Site clearing and repairs Beesuit Management/cleaning Hut Management / Tidier	**Communications & Marketing PR** Organisation's email communications Newsletter, Honeycraft, Website management, Press reports and articles Create Banners & Artwork Social Media Admin on WhatsApp groups Responding to email and FB queries etc.
Community Engagement Schools – Book Reading– Store & arrange Banners for events Talks Booking events & Halls Setting up and manning stalls at fetes Liaison with Hive Dental (re. sponsored hive) (Karen)	**Education & Training** Education of New Beekeeping BBKA Module training Honey Fraud Awareness **Extractor Storage & Hire** Storage, manage hire of extractors and monitor distribution to members.	**Finance & Accounts - Treasurer** Care of our funds Accounting, balancing books Purchasing for EDBKA Forwarding subs etc to BBKA Gift Aid Forms **Membership Secretary** Collating Subscriptions and members list Membership drive
Social Events Summer Apiary visit & BBQ. Honey show Skittles Quiz AGM Buying and storing tea and coffee etc Helping Jenny with meeting venue selection and speakers - Chair	**Swarm collection.** Co-ordination of swarm collectors Ensuring new members get swarms where possible. **Website & Marketing** Website management, social media, what's app group Press reports and articles.	**Secretarial** Agreeing agendas and minutes for committee meetings and AGM Organising meetings and booking speakers. Input for EDBKA into Honeycraft (usually based on latest Newsletter) Introducing speakers etc at meetings Dorset BKA Council meetings