



# Bath BEEkeepers NEWSLETTER



ISSUE 2

DECEMBER  
2023



## HELLO AND WELCOME



### Welcome to the December Newsletter

The Festive Season is upon us and another year is almost at a close. Perhaps an opportunity to think back over the events of the previous 12 months as we look forward to the 2024 beekeeping season ahead. Interaction with our bees is very limited during this time of the year, although with the very mild weather of late our bees have continued to fly quite strongly. I hope that you enjoy reading this newsletter, if you have any comments or there is something that you would like to see please drop me a line (email address below) and I'll look into the possibilities. **Wishing you and your families a very happy Christmas and see you in the New Year!!**

## CLUB NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

### Vacancies:

The Club has a vacancy for the role of Treasurer a very important role required for the club. If you feel you can take this on, you'll get a good hand-over and plenty of support from all the committee members while you learn the job, you won't be left on your own. Please contact Charlotte or Shaun at [bath-bka.sec@gmail.com](mailto:bath-bka.sec@gmail.com)

### Supplies:

Pete Davies will be selling fondant at £25 per box of five x

### Well Done and Congratulations to:

**Nick Milton and Keith Hastely**



Both Nick and Keith have passed their BBKA Basic Assessment. During the 2023 AGM Peter Clements the Club President congratulated both on their achievements on passing and presented them with their certificates. Peter went on to say how important it is for

members to undertake the Assessment as it helped to improve everyone's beekeeping knowledge and skills. If you'd like to participate in the next course, watch out for dates..

### Farewell:

**Lyn Sykes** - our Vice President for many years is now standing down from the position. The Club Chairman Trevor Curry thanked Lyn at the AGM for all the hard work she has undertaken during her time in this role.

Also standing down are:

**Jason Brabham** - standing down from the important role of club treasurer.

**Francesca Knight** - stood down from role of producing the club newsletter.

## CLUB VISITS & EVENTS

### Waxing Lyrically:

Alison Hollman our Education Secretary organised an excellent event on the 12 November about the preparation of beeswax for candles and making salves/creams.

The event was well attended by 30 members from Bath and Avon Bee clubs.

The event was split into two sessions. The first delivered by experienced Bath beekeepers **Glenys Lunt** involved a demonstration on how to make salves and

creams with Glenys providing a practical demonstration giving lots of hints and tips to make good creams.

**Nigel Hurst** gave an excellent



talk on the cleaning of wax to the purity required for candles which was followed by a demonstration using various different candle moulds and gave some

practical advice on using the different types available.



If you have any stories, photos or info that you'd like included in the newsletter please email by the 20th each month to:

[alison.hillman@btinternet.com](mailto:alison.hillman@btinternet.com)

### Dates for Diaries:

DATE	EVENT
Now Open	Membership Renewals <b>now open on-line</b>
6 Dec	Zoom talk on Varroa By Prof. Steve Martin
6 Jan 2024	Asian Hornet Conference
Jan/Feb 24	TBC- Preparing for Asian Hornet
9;16;25; 30 April	Basic (Improvers) Course.
May 24	Basic (Improvers) Practical TBC
TBC	Introduction to Bee-keeping Course

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2023 AGM was held on the 25th November at the Apiary Club house. There was a good turn out with plenty of food kindly donated by members attending.

The minutes of the 2022 AGM were approved and end of year reports were provided by the various committee members.

A special thanks was made from the floor to our newly appointed Education Officer—Alison Holman who has done a huge amount of work to engage with the membership and

arrange some excellent events. You are all encouraged to attend and support these events which will help to increase your own knowledge, we never stop learning.

All committee members were returned for a further year of service to the club. However, a new Vice President is needed to be appointed, hopefully this will be done soon. Our outgoing VP Lyn Sykes was thanked for her work.

Peter Clements also announced that he would be

stepping down as our Club President before too long but said what an interesting role it has been, helping to keep his beekeeping knowledge alive when answering questions from the public.

Trevor Curry (Chairman) thanked all our committee members for their support and hard work during the time they have held post for the club.

***Thank you to all who attended the AGM***



## SHOWS - THANK YOU



We were invited to 12 shows this year. They were great days out which helped promote our club, educate the general public about bees, increase our own knowledge and if you had any, sell some of your honey.

You don't have to have a wealth of knowledge about bees but just be happy to help out on the day. Without all your support we would not be able to carry out this really important role.

***Thank you so much to those of you that did give up your time to supported these events during the year. Your help, support and assistance is really appreciated and we look forward to seeing you supporting the stand again next year. Remember all are welcome.***



## THIS MONTH IN THE HIVE -DECEMBER

The warmer December temperatures we've been having mean that our bees are still venturing out and about to look for forage. However, the availability of nectar and pollen bearing flowers have massively reduced along with the numbers of foraging bees but the bees still come out of the hive on bright days to collect water. But importantly we should still be monitoring the hive to ensure there is a sufficient

food supply. Make sure you have some fondant to hand in case you need quickly.

### ***During December:***

- ♦ Monitor the hive entrance for build up of dead bees and blockages.
- ♦ Wedge up the back of the hive to ensure the floor slopes gently forwards.
- ♦ Ensure the roof is

secure; bricks, blocks and/or a strap will do the job.

- ♦ Gently heft (lift) the hive to check food weight, if light put block of fondant over the feedhole, a shallow eke may be needed.
- ♦ Record your observations for each hive in a book or record card each time you visit them, this is more reliable than a memory!





## TIME FOR CHRISTMAS



### THE BEES KNEES - COCKTAIL



#### Ingredients:

- ♦ 2 tsp Honey
- ♦ 50ml Gin
- ♦ 25ml Lemon Juice
- ♦ Ice
- ♦ Lemon Zest strip to serve

#### Method:

**Step 1:** Put the honey in a small jug or cup and add 1 tsp freshly boiled water. Stir well until smooth and the honey is nicely thinned down.

**Step 2:** Pour the honey mixture into a cocktail shaker along with the Gin,

lemon juice and a large handful of ice. Shake until the outside of the shaker feels very cold.

**Step 3:** Double strain into a cocktail glass or a coupe and garnish with a curled strip of lemon zest – you can do this by wrapping it tightly around a spoon handle.

## CHOCOLATE AND HONEY TRUFFLES

#### Ingredients:

- ♦ 65g Cashew nuts
- ♦ 1tbsp Cacao powder
- ♦ 1tbsp Honey
- ♦ Extra Cacao powder for dusting

#### Method:

**Step 1:** Blitz nuts in a food processor until fine pieces.

**Step 2:** Add remaining ingredients, blend until mixture sticks together.

**Step 3:** Divide mixture into 8 equal pieces and roll into balls.

#### Method: cont

**Step 4:** Place into fridge for about an hour until set.

**Step 5:** Roll in Cacao powder.

**Store in fridge**



## WORD SEARCH

### Honey Bees

I	S	R	A	T	C	E	N	N	B	W	U	I	W	C	H	Y
S	S	Z	G	S	U	E	H	K	E	J	D	S	A	O	O	Y
S	O	R	N	V	L	W	N	X	K	L	L	I	D	L	N	E
C	G	G	I	V	L	Z	F	O	N	P	L	B	L	O	E	N
H	F	B	M	I	M	R	G	O	R	V	D	O	M	N	Y	O
G	U	A	R	D	B	E	E	S	R	D	M	L	P	Y	C	H
L	A	T	A	K	J	F	V	B	B	A	W	X	G	T	O	S
M	P	D	W	U	S	I	E	N	K	E	G	T	M	X	M	Y
S	I	Z	S	Z	B	E	E	B	O	D	V	E	N	F	B	E
C	A	D	I	O	S	E	C	E	M	P	I	R	N	X	L	
O	R	T	U	W	U	B	C	E	F	L	H	C	H	S	J	L
U	Y	J	A	Q	M	Y	U	K	U	I	Y	J	P	E	O	E
T	G	X	D	Q	S	E	W	E	V	V	F	F	P	Y	E	K
B	K	Z	Z	K	T	N	V	E	D	C	N	O	D	O	V	B
E	N	Z	R	R	Z	O	O	P	D	Y	B	V	N	M	B	U
E	V	Y	R	B	C	H	U	E	E	B	R	E	K	R	O	W
S	C	J	X	I	K	J	G	R	L	U	P	F	G	Y	O	A

apiary  
colony  
hive  
nectar  
swarming

beehive  
drone  
honeybee  
pollen  
worker bee

beekeeper  
foragers  
honeycomb  
queen

beeswax  
guard bees  
kelleys honey  
scout bees



### BEE-NUTS by A.P. Hairy

