

# HONEYCRAFT

*October 2019*



Asian hornets' nest, Christchurch photo courtesy of Kevin Pope

*Dorset County Beekeepers Association*

## Editor's Note

The summer has come and gone and just as we were thinking we could relax, an Asian hornets' nest has been found in Christchurch—and was spotted by our Seasonal Bee Inspector (SBI), Kevin Pope. At the time of writing, the nest has been destroyed by the NBU, but doubtless much will be written about the identification and follow-up over the coming weeks, with lessons to-be learnt. Meanwhile this incident is a timely reminder that Dorset is on the front line for countering this threat and we are urged to keep monitoring our traps; we must also ensure that they are registered on Bee Base. On the same theme, Mark White reports on a busy week in Jersey, learning how they are coping with Asian hornets—which will have stood him in good stead in Christchurch.

The branch reports indicate that most people have enjoyed a good summer, with satisfying honey crops and new members joining to swell the numbers of beekeepers. Reaching back into our memories, Caroline Dilke revisits that really useful Bee Health Day in July when the Regional Inspector and local SBIs reminded us of the importance of hygiene and of keeping up to date with our knowledge of diseases and threats.

Ben Benjamin describes the new membership system introduced over the last year by the BBKA and also reports on a busy meeting of the South West Beekeepers Forum in Taunton. Lesley Gasson has ranged further afield to Montreal and reports on Apimondia, which was held in September. As Terry Payne came to the end of his list of “must-have” books in April, Chris Harwood has sorted out some of the more worthwhile videos that can be accessed on the internet, so that our winter evenings are not wasted. Our marvellous and very public-spirited Master Beekeepers are prepared to give up more of their precious spare time, to help the rest of us improve our knowledge and prepare for the BBKA module exams; their plans can be found on p.7.

Towards the back, Dennis Clemens reports on a local experiment on the effects of sublimation and finally, if you can trust your bees not to swarm next May there is a wonderful-sounding bee-related holiday in Morocco on offer!

Happy reading.

*Tim Villiers*

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## Chairman's Chatter

We have come to the end of the season and hopefully our bees are ready for winter. The bees in the Blandford & Sturminster Newton association apiary have been treated for varroa, fed with 12 kg of ambrosia each and tied down for the winter. Hopefully they will survive the gales and rain and be ready to go in the spring.

We are carrying out an experiment. Half the hives in the apiary are going to be given insulation on the top of the hive under the roof and half are going to be left with only a crown board under the roof. The theory put forward by Derek Mitchell is that with good insulation bees will consume less stores and be ready to take advantage of early spring flowers because they will be able to raise brood earlier in the warmth. There has been increasing emphasis on hive insulation as a way to reduce stress on bees and improve their health. It will be interesting to see if there is any difference between the two sets of hives in the association apiary when we look at them at the end of March, before the annual Introduction to Beekeeping Day at the beginning of April.

Have you thought about hive insulation? If so, what have you done about it? I made little quilts to go under the roof one year and I have used polystyrene boards as well. The advantage of the quilts is that you can put some fondant in a tray under them and they accommodate it. Below is a picture of the quilts and the polystyrene board.

Lesley Gasson



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## The Inspector Reports.....

Hello everybody at the end of another season..... or is it the beginning of another one?

The season was reasonable and really quite uneventful. I found some English Foul Brood (EFB) at the beginning the middle and end. The areas were between Wareham and Dorchester , Dorchester and Yeovil and Blandford and Shaftsbury.

The Blandford to Shaftsbury area was not somewhere I would normally expect to find foul brood. We had some a few years ago but nothing since. This just proves that anywhere can have disease, so please stay vigilant .

Some of the hives that were infected were poly hives. This does bring complications, such as when you need to petrol the bees to destroy them the hive can potentially melt. The bees therefore have to be transferred to wooden hives. The next issue is how to sterilise the boxes as you cannot scorch them..... so they have to be bleached, each surface being submerged in bleach for 20 minutes at 0.5% concentration. Some of the frames, of course, were plastic as well, so they had to go to be incinerated in Weybridge as we cannot just burn them in a pit. Lots of driving for me but, more importantly, hassle for the beekeeper.

On to Asian hornet: We had a sighting, capture and destruction of a queen in New Milton earlier in the season. Since she was killed, however, we have not seen any more (although I have been travelling to New Milton every week to check the traps)

There was also a nest found in the Tamworth area. It as located and destroyed within a couple of days of confirmation of the sighting.

Two hornets were spotted in Kent and then no more, just like last year at Dungeness. It all feels a little strange as for the last few years I had been running all over the south of England by this time in the year. The next question is: are they not there, or have we as the whole population missed them? I do think that the bad weather through June may have been our best friend as a lot of queens may not have made it through..... there have certainly not been as many European hornets this year.

Again, can you all please be VIGILANT? Go to your apiaries and spend 20 to 30 min just looking for AH. Keep looking at your traps and recharging them. Also, can you please register on Bee base if you have traps in your apiaries so if we do get a sighting the first thing we can do is go to all the beekeepers, in that specific area with traps to check them?

Having just finished writing this article, I received a message informing me of sightings in Highcliff; so off I go-----I'm sure the press will have given you all the information before reading this!

*Kevin Pope*

*Editor's note. The sighting was confirmed and branch secretaries quickly disseminated the information to all their members. At the time of producing this magazine, the tracking and follow-up action is still in progress. Branch AHAT team leaders have been called on to help—see page 5.*

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## Asian Hornets

Despite only three confirmed sightings within the UK at the time of going to press, it has still has been an extremely busy season for me. In July I headed over the Channel to Jersey for four days to work alongside the AHATs there and get experience in handling some hornets. When I arrived in Jersey I was met by John de Carteret who is one of the lead team members in Jersey and also chair of the Jersey Bee Keeping Association. He promised me that within 30 minutes of arriving in Jersey I would see an hornet and true to his word I came face to face with one in a trap. A suspected nest and tracking station was located in Howard Davis Park around 100m away from my hotel on the outskirts of St Helier.

I lost count of the number of hornets I did see both in the wild and in captivity. I was allowed to take an active part in the track-and-trace methods, where hornets were caught and marked before being released so that their activity could be checked. I was surprised to find how docile the hornets were when away from their nests. On day 3 of my visit, reports of the first secondary nest came in and we located this high up in a tree on a narrow country road in the centre of the island. The leaves covering it made it hard to spot. I was pleased to be able to mark a hornet that later led us to its nest within the roof space of a local house, making it the second nest find of 2019.

Working with the environmental teams in Jersey I was able to take an active part in a secondary nest dissection where we were able to learn a lot more. I was able to witness how the queen builds her nest, and her laying patterns and see hornet larvae. Looking at two nests we were able to see one had failed at an early stage due to queen loss whilst the other would have developed and established. I was also able to see three captive hornet colony experiments where two small secondary nests were in observation tanks, along with a third tank with hornet queens. One thing that will stay with me was to see both an Asian and a European hornet feeding together on a bait station. Unfortunately the Asian Hornet got a little too confident around the European hornet which resulted in the European hornet decapitating and killing the Asian hornet!

Our social media went into overdrive with our daily video blogs being picked up by the BBKA and shared. The video blogs received over 20,000 hits over four days; since they were up-loaded the East Dorset BKA Facebook page has had half a million viewings internationally, which shows the power of social media. I picked up lots of information, too much to include in this article, and so I am writing a full report to be published shortly.

Back in Dorset, a few days after arriving home Stephen Potts, AHAT leader for Dorchester & Weymouth, and I were called to a suspected nest in Preston. We sent photos to my new contacts in Jersey for advice; the response was that the nest needed checking. On arrival our new-found knowledge helped determine it was a failed wasps' nest. Since then we have had sightings closer to home in New Milton along our Dorset border; there have also been sightings in Tamworth and Ashford, Kent. In all cases the confirmed sightings were by members of the public who were not beekeepers. The last sighting came at the start of the national Asian Hornet Week which has now come to an end.

As the leaves fall, now is the time to start spotting nests in the tops of trees; as always, keep your eyes and ears open for to any possible information that could be hornet related.

*Mark White*

Editor's postscript. An AH was spotted near Christchurch at the end of September and a nest identified; Dorset beekeepers, led by Mark White, the county's Asian hornet co-ordinator, assisted with the investigation. The nest was destroyed by the National Bee Unit on 4 October.

Kerry Redman, Blandford & Sturminster BKA's Asian hornet co-ordinator, helped in the early stages of the investigation and provided this report and photo on Tuesday 1 October:

"As part of the Dorset Asian Hornets Action Team (AHAT) I had a fantastic experience to be able to go and observe the NBU and help with the surveillance of the Asian hornet (AH) sightings. I arrived at 10.00am and was paired with a surveillance group at some ivy, where we spotted a lot of activity from a variety of wildlife, with several AH making a brief appearance.

We went to another location, where the NBU caught several more AH; they were marked, feed, and then released. I even got to name one, Lady R. (Mint dot). I truly loved seeing the ordinance flights, aiding with the timing of them and seeing what a fab job the NBU do. The experience was very educational. It was confirmed later that there was a nest.

Beekeepers really need to observe their hornet traps regularly. AH are feeding on protein at the moment, so prawns, fish or raw chicken are a good bait to use. Please make sure you have put your traps out and have let Bee Base know the location.

*Kerry Redman*



## Asian hornets - near Christchurch

Kevin Pope has kindly provided two photographs, which demonstrate how difficult it is to see an AH nest. One photo was taken with the camera lens on a normal setting and second with a zoom setting.



## Winter Courses

A number of courses will be run on a county basis for those wishing to study for the BBKA module exams, or merely learn more about the craft of beekeeping:

### **Module 2 – Honey Bee Products and Forage: Liz Rescorla**

The syllabus includes:

- removal, processing and storage of honey, including oil seed rape and ling heather honey, and the preparation of all types of honey, including comb, soft set, seeded and sections, for both sale and show.
- composition and properties of beeswax, recovery and processing of beeswax and the use of other hive products.
- floral sources of nectar and its composition, how nectar becomes honey, local forage, pollination, and a little elementary botany.

Dates will be 18 Nov, 2 Dec, 16 Dec, 6 Jan, 20 Jan, 3 Feb, 17 Feb and 2 March (ending in time for the BBKA Module exams on 21 March 2020)

Mondays , 7 pm to 9 pm

Sessions will be held in a meeting room in the Magna Housing complex in Martinstown

Cost – will depend on numbers, but I anticipate between £15 and £20 per person to cover all eight sessions

Anyone interested please get in touch with Liz Rescorla, preferably by the end of October: 01305 889916 or [winkyozz@uwclub.net](mailto:winkyozz@uwclub.net)

### **Module 3 – Bee Pests and Diseases : Lesley Gasson**

Six sessions on Thursday evenings from 9th January from 7-9pm in the Shillingstone Church Centre. If you are interested in joining this group please let Lesley know by phone on 01258 861690 or email address: [lesleygasson@btinternet.com](mailto:lesleygasson@btinternet.com)

### **Module 7 – Bee Breeding and Genetics: Terry Payne**

If you are thinking of raising your own queens you will find this an interesting module. Terry's meetings will be on Saturday afternoons from January in the Shillingstone Church Centre. They will finish in time for the March exams. Terry's telephone number is 01747 811251 and email address [twpayne@btopenworld.com](mailto:twpayne@btopenworld.com)

### **Basic Assessment : Lesley Gasson**

Lesley will be running a six-week course for those interested in taking the basic exam in the summer. There will be four evening lessons in March, followed by two sessions in the Blandford & Sturminster BKA apiary. If you are interested in joining these, please let Lesley know on 01258 861690 or email: [lesleygasson@btinternet.com](mailto:lesleygasson@btinternet.com)

## Bee Health Day: Shillingstone Village Hall, 20 July 2019

Lesley Gasson welcomed 80 or so beekeepers to a day organised by Peter Davies, Regional Bee Inspector, and the seasonal inspectors Mark Lynch, Avril Earl, Phil Spillane and our own Kevin Pope. The day was to be divided up into lecture sessions and practicals.

Peter Davies began by emphasising that varroa is still Enemy Number One, and updated us on the incidence of the notifiable bee diseases American and European foul brood (A and EFB), small hive beetle, tropilaelaps and the Asian hornet. In the past year there had been one case of AFB, and four cases of EFB in Dorset, with others elsewhere. There was still no SHB in this country, but it had spread from the Italian mainland to Sicily. There is need for great vigilance: 2,500 imports of bees had been made already this year. No tropilaelaps had been recorded here or in continental Europe.

As for Asian hornets, they had invaded Jersey, but the individuals arriving on mainland Britain last year had come to nothing: all had been well investigated and four nests had been destroyed. One queen hornet had been found so far this year, in New Milton. We were urged to install the Asian hornet app. on our phones, and keep eyes open when walking in woods, in case we spot the hard-to-see hornet nests in tall trees.

Kevin then updated us on varroa. Resistance to the mite is still low, and many beekeepers do not treat for the mite. He ran through the different treatments, pointing out that monitoring alone is not enough: it is better just to treat the hives if time is at a premium, and if you want healthy winter bees you must use a treatment in August, closing up the floors to ensure the best absorption. After running through the effective treatments – thymols, acids, pyrethroids, and biotechnical methods such as shook swarming and comb trapping, Kevin advised us that “snake oils” – unproven treatments such as icing sugar – were still popular but should not be relied on.

After eating our packed lunches in Lesley’s shady garden, we split into three groups. Ours was the first to suit up and watch Kevin and Avril demonstrating an “exotic pest surveillance” – specifically to check for small hive beetle – in Lesley’s apiary. This should be carried out twice or three times a year, Kevin said, carefully removing the frames of bees in a sample hive to check dark corners for eggs. If we all did this routinely, looking at a different hive each time, the pest would be stopped in its tracks.

After this our group donned plastic aprons and gloves to look at frames of the dreaded AFB and EFB in a bio-secure room in the village hall. Personally I found this particularly helpful. Seeing the real thing gave far more confidence than poring over photographs of murky, slimy frames with sunken, dark sealed brood or dodgy larvae.

The next session was held in Lesley’s garden and covered apiary hygiene. I think we all know what we should be doing when we look at our bees, but seeing it demonstrated meticulously again by an expert was a useful reminder. Mark Lynch recommended washing bee suits at 60 degrees, keeping the veils on, and bringing a bucket of soda and detergent out to our apiaries to wash equipment between each hive examination. For perfection, anti-bacterial wipes should be used on boots, notes and smoker – which should be well protected with a shower cap on the bellows. Wooden hive parts should be regularly charred, and polyhives can be disinfected with a 0.5 per cent solution of bleach in cold water.

As for apiary layout, we should consider drifting: different orientation of entrances, variously coloured hives and reduced entrances all help to avoid this. Mark urged us to move an unknown swarm away from our main apiary and wait to feed it for 72 hours; then give it an oxalic acid treatment and leave it for six weeks, two brood cycles, before bringing it back to the apiary. But not everyone has a suitable spot, at least three miles away...

Yet again we were reminded to buy local bees, and to return empty supers to the same hive after honey extraction, if possible. Supers should be stored outside for winter, ideally on the hive stand they came from.

The whole day was a series of reminders: we know what we should be doing and why, but this was an entertaining and useful back-up for our own good practice.

I particularly enjoyed seeing the beautiful, bee-decorated waistcoat Kevin was wearing: a present, apparently.

## The County Membership Secretary's Role

I am Roland Benjamin (usually known as Ben) the Membership Secretary for Dorset County BKA, a role that has changed considerably over the last 12 months.

Prior to the end of the beekeeping year 2017/18, the system was that the BBKA held the definitive membership list (the one we paid our bills against) and a list was held by me (BBKA Dorset – Area Association Code 22) and, in turn, each branch association (i.e. Blandford & Sturminster, Dorchester & Weymouth, East Dorset, Sherborne and West Dorset - Branch Codes 11, 12, 13, 15 and 16 respectively) kept their own membership lists. These lists would add up such that my list and that held by the BBKA were the same. At capitation (spring and autumn), the lists were checked and, once agreed, our fees for BBKA and Dorset County were calculated and invoices sent out.

To make changes to the “master list” each branch Membership Secretary would send update forms to me. I would check them and forward them to the BBKA, who would update the BBKA membership list and, when appropriate, issue personal numbers (e.g. new and returning members). So each BBKA membership number comprised:-

***Association Code + Branch Code + Personal BBKA number***

e.g. a **new** Dorchester & Weymouth member's number would be; 22.12.xxxx.

BDI Bee Disease Insurance Ltd operated differently, with a secure data base that was updated by each branch membership secretary; payments were recorded, receipts sent out and invoices generated for the same periods as BBKA (Spring and Autumn). The BDI system database was known as “eReturn1 (eR1)”.

Over the past two years the eR1 database was developed into eReturn2 which encompasses all the membership lists and payments. Now my role is as manager of the eR2 system and, after a period of adjustment, we all work on the same database and each membership secretary and treasurer (along with other named officers) has access to the lists relevant to them. They can now update the list on their own computer, issue a new number for a new member, lapse leaving members, enter payments, send out receipts (your proof of insurance) and generate their invoices. The system can be used to record additional data (for example; committee members, Asian Hornet Action Teams (AHATs), swarm lists, Gift Aid, amongst others), and to contact selected groups of members.

I oversee the lists for the county and am the point of contact for the branches and the BBKA. Hence, there is now a master list, stored securely, for the county with each area association and branch able to access and make changes to the part of the list that they are responsible for. The eR2 system has a number of other advantages: we can retain, and manipulate, important information, view accounts, issue members' receipts, close the list and generate invoices, email selected lists, and there is shortly to be a facility for individuals to update their membership online. More of that in the months to come.

The move to this new system has not been entirely smooth but, as people become familiar, it is accurate, clear and flexible, administered by those who need it - **us**.

***eR2 is a positive improvement in the management of our membership.***

*Ben Benjamin*

## County Honey Show 2019

This year the Dorset County BKA honey show was incorporated with the Dorchester & Weymouth BKA honey show at Dorchester. The judge was Sue Lang from Bedfordshire.

**The Massey Trophy.** Congratulations to Paul Watkins who won the Massey Trophy, which is awarded to the member with most points accumulated in the open honey classes at the Melpash Show at Bridport and the Dorset County Show at Dorchester. Margaret Massey presented this award in the hope of encouraging members to enter the three, now two, major honey shows around the county. This year one person entered both shows.

**Best in Show** went to Sally Travis with two jars of Soft Set Honey.

**Branch Shield** and £20 awarded by County BKA for the branch with the most points in Open classes was won by Dorchester & Weymouth BKA.



Dorchester & Weymouth BKA	185 points
East Dorset BKA	74 points
West Dorset BKA	22 points
Blandford & Sturminster Newton BKA	14 points

**Dorchester & Weymouth BKA Challenge.** This is an inter-branch composite class started by Roger Russell for branches to enter and encourage entries from their members. Thank you to Tim Villiers for bringing in Blandford & Sturminster Newton's entry.

1<sup>st</sup> Dorchester & Weymouth BKA

2<sup>nd</sup> Blandford & Sturminster Newton BKA

After the Gillingham and Shaftesbury Show discontinued their honey tent in 2012, it was decided that the Dorset County BKA Honey Show should be incorporated alternately in the Melpash and Dorchester Honey Shows. There have been less entries since that arrangement was put in place and it has become apparent that there is little interest by Dorset beekeepers in supporting a county honey show. At the recent County BKA Council meeting in September it was decided to discontinue the county honey show. Following his support and success over the years it was agreed that Paul Watkins could hold the Massey Trophy in perpetuity. The other cups and shields will be divided up between Dorchester & Weymouth BKA and West Dorset BKA.

*Richard Norman*





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## Blandford and Sturminster BKA



Ivy is the main autumn source of winter forage in this area. We do not have Himalayan balsam. Ivy has its drawbacks because it sets like concrete in the cells and unless the weather is mild and there is plenty of water nearby, bees often leave lumps of it in the combs in spring. Ivy also attracts other pollinators such as wasps and hover flies.

We had a good apiary tidy in August and the shed and hives looked spick and span. We are now getting ready for our winter programme. In September, Terry gave a well received talk on “Bees and the Law” which we often overlook.

We have a talk on 15th October on “Bees and Water” in the Shillingstone Church Centre at 7.30pm given by me, while the AGM and supper will be held on 15th November in the SCC, starting at 7.00pm. We have asked our membership about ideas for talks and training so hopefully the New Year will be full of bright ideas.

Terry Payne is prepared to run a course on Module 7 in the SCC on Saturday afternoons during winter. Module 7 is about honeybee genetics and bee breeding. It is interesting for anyone who would like to raise their own queens. Please get hold of Terry if you are interested in joining the course. His telephone number is 01747 811251 and email address is twpayne@btopenworld.com.

I am prepared to run either a Module 1 course (Honeybee Management) or a Module 3 (Honeybee Diseases, Pests and Poisoning) course anywhere, depending on demand.

Finally, don't forget the National Honey Show from 24th to 26th October at Sandown Park racecourse. There are very good talks, all the traders and of course wonderful displays of honey, wax, hive products, pictures, and much more.

*Lesley Gasson*

# DORCHESTER & WEYMOUTH

dorchesterandweymouthbka.com



Our last event was the Dorset County Show. There is a full report on the show elsewhere in this HoneyCraft edition and plenty of photos on our website, but I attach two photos outside the tent as we had nearly as much going on outside as inside this year. This is a photo of our skep-making corner and the other is of one of our members, Nick, who did four sessions each day on what to find on opening a hive. This was a new venture and very successful. The photo also shows our photo board which was much in use. Suffice to say both show days were very busy, helped by the good weather. We had a very good turnout of about 30 members helping, which included the set-up on Friday afternoon and the taking-down on Sunday. It always surprises me that we can take down in an hour what we spend three hours setting up on the Friday. 2020 will be the 180<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Dorset County Show so we are already thinking of new ideas to incorporate into next year's Bees & Honey Show.

Looking back on the year, we have done an extraordinary number of events but unfortunately only managed to fit in one apiary session, which was our bee safari with Kevin Pope. We didn't receive much notice of any of the events, so were unable to plan too much for them beforehand. However, they have all been enjoyable to do, with some busier than others. We can imagine another busy year in 2020 if "Bees and Pollinators" continue to be popular subjects to include in events.

On a quieter note, another member and I have spent a couple of days skep-making at Hardy's Cottage. There is a lovely cottage garden there and it was very pleasant to sit under an apple tree, making skeps and chatting to the visitors. The cottage thatch is being restored and the National Trust gave us the name of the thatcher contracted for the work. We visited him and bought some of the same straw that he is going to use for the roof. So... we will now be making a skep with the same straw. Apparently Hardy's mother kept bees in the small orchard attached to the garden. The National Trust would like to have bees back there, so this is a possibility we are looking at.

Our next major event is our AGM on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November, preceded by a short talk by Kevin Pope. Our winter programme is progressing. Kevin has agreed to give us a talk on queen rearing which we will open to all associations and we are hoping to do some theory workshops. Also planning for our 2020 beginners' course is in hand. Our monthly "socials" continue to grow, providing a good forum for discussions on new projects, making equipment, swarms and so on. We have also welcomed a few new members through the socials.

The Dorset County Show is at the end of the season for shows. It's sad in one way as you know summer is over and all the excitement and diversity of the different shows have been and gone. On the other hand, it's less busy now bee-wise. There is the winter programme to look forward to with time to sit back and reflect on the year.

*Sally Leslie*



**Lunch break on the Bee Health Day**  
 Participants enjoying the sun and shade in  
 Lesley Gasson's field



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## East Dorset BKA

With the end of the beekeeping season just about upon us, honey harvest done and varroa treatments applied, we beekeepers look forward to a winter of putting our feet up and a pint or two to while away the days – unless you have lots of hive boxes and frames to make, that is.

EDBKA membership is very healthy, and continues to grow, and our beekeeping course has proven very popular. Planning for next year's course is well in hand, and details will be published when known.

The association had very successful honey crop from the apiary this year, thanks to our apiary manager's hard work, with 225lb of honey being taken, which is the best we have ever had. We hope readers will have also enjoyed a good crop this year.

The association stand was at the Livability Community Fair, Holton Lee on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September, with a lot of interest shown in honey bees and the Association, and we signed up three new members for next year, with several more members of the public taking away membership forms.

Our social media presence is extremely strong, with the EDBKA Facebook page now being followed by some 1,500 people. In just six weeks the page was viewed 600,000 times around the world, with our Asian hornet blog reaching over 20,000 people in four days.



Our Hon. Treasurer, Chris, is always looking for a scheme to raise money for the association, and was successful in his bid to the Waitrose Community Matters programme which resulted in the association being awarded a cheque for £490.

Pictured is Chris receiving the cheque from a Waitrose rep, in his bee suit which looks like it has never seen a day's work in it's life – sorry Chris!

Our AGM is on 18<sup>th</sup> October, and we'd love to make a montage of photos of your beekeeping year. If you're an EDBKA, member please send us your photos of your activities this year for the end of year video to be shown at the AGM. Please send us via direct message or post on the Facebook page. We would encourage all EDBKA members to attend, not only to exercise their voting rights, but to have their say on how they think the club should be run and what they would like the association to do.

**Asian hornet.** With late breaking news of the confirmed sightings of Asian hornets near Christchurch, all members are urged to be vigilant and to ensure their hornet traps are baited and deployed, and to have their traps registered on Bee Base. I can't stress enough the importance of having traps registered, as it gives the upper hand to the NBU team. The Asian hornet app will assist in reporting suspected sighting and it is advisable to have this downloaded – just search Asian hornet app in either the Apple or Google app stores, depending on your smart device.

*Jim Dunne*  
Vice-chairman, EDBKA

**Dates for EDBKA members;**

The EDBKA Honey Show is on 12th October at Sturts Farm, West Moors BH10 6DP.

Our annual skittles match with BADS is on Thursday 17th October at Hamworthy Sports and Social Club, Canford Magna BH21 3AP.

The AGM is on Friday 18th October at Broadstone Community and Arts Centre, Dunyeats Road, Broadstone, BH18 8BJ.



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## News from West Dorset BKA—October 2019



Another beekeeping year is virtually over. Where has it gone?

The bees have performed well at our teaching apiary this year -- which is surprising, with all the handling they get. We had over 300lb of honey which was sold mainly at the Melplash Show. The rest, we hope, will go at the Bridport Christmas market. The proceeds will help towards buying two new, large, mouse-proof sheds at the apiary and we will have much more room, after doing away with the three smaller sheds. Extracting this year at my place seemed to go on for most of July and August, what with my own honey and the teaching apiary's. I am glad to say I am back to normal now but honey and wax appear to get to places where you never expect it!

The bees' temperament at our apiary has been exceptional, with very few stings, which is just what you wish for, especially for beginners, to give them confidence. All seven colonies have been treated for varroa with Apiguard this year. We checked them for stores again recently and -- surprisingly -- after being very heavy several of them will need feeding: they have eaten quite a lot in the last couple of weeks. We will treat again in late December/early January with ApiBioxal to give them a good start in the spring with fewer varroa mites lurking around.

Our beginners' course for 2020, starting at the end of January, is full again with 25 students which is very encouraging. This year's students have been exceptionally keen: several have their own bees now and some have even extracted some honey, which has caused great excitement.

Our marquee at the Melplash Show was well supported this year, with our highest ever number of entries: 204. The judge was Hazel Blackburn, who was taken aback by the size of her task. So I called in a favour, asking one of the judges in the handicrafts marquee to take over the cake section, so that judging was speeded up, which pleased Hazel. She thought the standard of entries overall was very good. The Blue Riband was awarded to Carole Astbury with her wonderful wax exhibit and the Novice award went to Barry Haines, one of our newest members, for his honey. A big thank you to everyone for making it such a success.

Since the last article in July we have had our website revamped. Please take a look: [www.westdorsetbees.org.uk](http://www.westdorsetbees.org.uk) It is now in the 21st century. Thanks to Sally Boxall for getting this done and keeping it up to date.



*Carole Brown*  
WDBKA Sec

Tel 01308 456210

WDBKA continued

## What's Ahead

All are very welcome to come along to any of our events

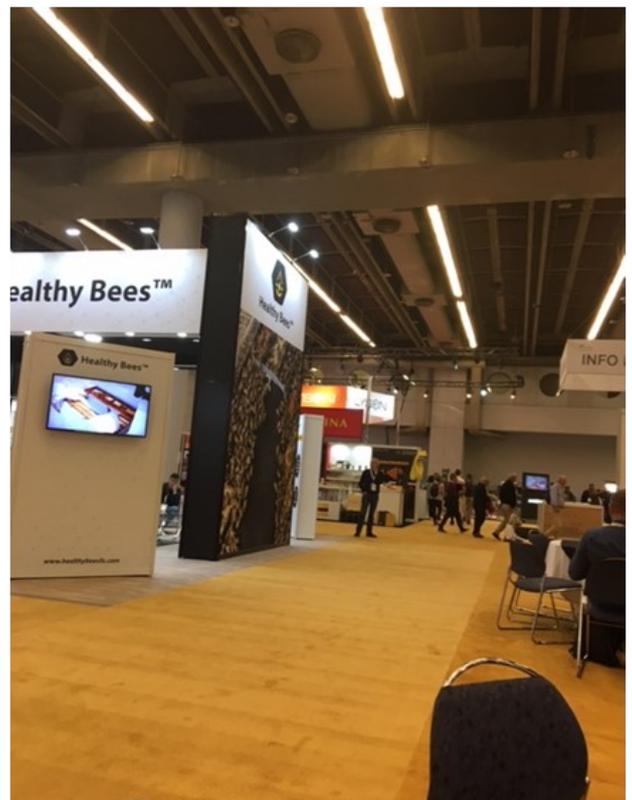
Date	Time	Event	Where	Details
Tuesday 8th October	7.30pm	Talk by Dan Basterfield on 'Dissecting bees explained'	Christian Fellowship Hall East St Car Park Bridport DT6 3QD	Everyone welcome
Tuesday 12th November	7.30pm	<b>WDBKA AGM &amp; Kevin Pope SBI giving an up- date on Asian Hornet and NBU</b>	Christian Fellowship Hall East St Car Park Bridport DT6 3QD	<b>Members Meeting</b>
Tuesday 10th December	7.30pm	WDBKA pre-Christmas get-together  Sarah & Carole's take on Apimondia:	Christian Fellowship Hall East St Car Park Bridport DT6 3QD	Everyone Welcome.  There will be festive eats etc
Tuesday 14th January	7.30pm	Joint meeting with East Devon  Talk by Wally Shaw from Wales on 'Self-Sufficiency, Locally Adapted Bees and Apicentric Beekeeping'	Christian Fellowship Hall East St Car Park Bridport DT6 3QD	Everyone welcome
Sunday 19th January 2019	12.30pm for 1pm	New Year get-together lunch	Bridport & West Dorset Golf Club DT6 4PS	<b>Smart casual dress please. Menu in December NL</b>

## Apimondia in Montreal

Apimondia is a world beekeeping conference that is held every two years in a different part of the world. It is somewhere in Europe every other year then somewhere else in the world. This year it was in Montreal from 8 -12 September. The programme covers seven different areas of beekeeping: economy, biology, bee health, pollination, technology, apitherapy and development in poor countries. Besides the talks there are trips around the city and to beekeeping areas or farms; Apiexpo, which is a huge hall of worldwide bee supplies; and the world honey show. All of this is very exciting because of the variety of events, people and ideas.

Canadian beekeeping is vast in scale. It is very like American beekeeping. People keep 10,000 hives or more and truck them to various pollination sites. Blueberries are the main crop for honey and pollination. Some people truck their bees to pollination places in cold storage trucks so that they don't come out of their hives in transit.

The weather is more extreme than our weather, with temperatures varying between 30C and -30C. Single brood hives are sometimes put in cold storage at 5C so that the outside weather does not affect them because it is below that. The hives are wrapped in polythene wrapping during winter if they are left outside. The snow can be 6 feet high and the hives need the blanket of snow to keep them from the intense cold. In the Yukon there can be only 22 frost-free days a year, though this is improving with climate change. Canadians prefer snow to rain, which upsets the expected weather pattern.



he World Honey Show was mainly judged by British and Irish judges, with a second judge from somewhere else in the world. There were two types of entry: hobby beekeepers and commercial beekeepers. The price of entry was very high: it cost CD\$126 to enter. Most of the entries were in the honey section. People had to send in three jars, of which one was sent to a government laboratory for testing and the other two put on the show. 47% of the entries were disqualified!

*continued on p.20*



Enid Brown was the judge's referee and had to explain to people why they had been disqualified. The main reasons were: it was adulterated, it contained pesticides, or it was overheated. The main addition was corn syrup, which was detected by the lab; the pesticides were mainly varroa treatments which had been done before the Enid Brown was the honey was extracted; and the overheating was the result of trying to clear the honey at too high a temperature for too long. Many countries do not have a culture of honey shows and do not appreciate the quality of the honey that can be shown. Having two judges meant that people from other countries learnt something about judging from the British and Irish judges.

The second picture is a composite class of honey and hive products. There were only two of them in the show. The show was pretty thin compared to our National Honey Show, with many classes having only two or three entries. People whose honey was disqualified tended to go into the show when no one was looking and take away their entry so that by the end of the show there were large gaps on the bench of the honey classes.

During the show I went to see some urban beekeeping on the conference centre roof—which was quite an eye-opener because the beekeeper wore shoes, shorts and a cap. No bee suit, gloves or boots. Here is a picture of the hives and the beekeeper.

The first hive is on a very low metal stand. The beekeeper is pointing to a set of slats that the brood box sits on. The brood box is behind his leg on its side and the honey super is sitting on the roof. The second hive is on the edge of the picture on the left. The hives are kept on wooden decking surrounded by plate glass and metal on the fifth floor of the building.





These pictures are from a honey farm 275 km from Montreal. Anicet and his wife run a huge enterprise which employs about 100 people in summer and about 27 in winter. The first picture shows Anicet and his queen-raising area where he raises 12,000 queens a year. They keep them in the grass on the edge of the woods and graft on Mondays and Fridays, running a 14-day programme. The barrels in the picture on the right contain sugar syrup. The bees have to fly to the syrup; it is not fed to them on the top of the hives.

Below on the left are some of the hive products that they make. They also run a restaurant which sells everything with some association with honey. They sell 60 tons of honey a year. Below on the right is a picture of some of the barrels used to make mead which they call honey wine. It comes in three strengths. There is 5% alcohol, 12% alcohol and 20+% alcohol. They freeze the mead and remove the frozen water to increase the strength of the drink.

*Lesley Gasson*



## Beekeeping Videos

There has been a lot written about looking after bees but there is nothing quite like practical experience. Obviously the best help is from an experienced tutor, but when that isn't possible, or if it is simply not the season for, say, swarming, then videos are an excellent second.

Beekeepers are often asked by neighbours what they can do to help. Defra have produced some simple introductory videos to help stimulate interest in the general public. A short introductory address you can email to those who ask is <https://www.facebook.com/TheBritishBeekeepersAssociation/videos/463419497826852/>

For beginner beekeepers there is a large number of videos. The video at <https://youtu.be/M8nP59loX6M> entitled "Getting started in beekeeping: the beekeeping Year Part 1" is the start of a series, each one covering one season. This video covers Spring (March, April and May) and describes how a colony fluctuates throughout the year and the jobs a beekeeper has to do to make sure that the bees are healthy and productive. It looks at buying a nucleus, installing, feeding, adding frames, inspecting, swarm control, building up the colony, disease inspections and checking for eggs. It contains links to videos on feeding, the diseases that may be encountered, what a healthy brood pattern looks like, record keeping, how to mark a queen, splitting a colony and to the Norfolk Honey Co website at [www.norfolk-honey.co.uk](http://www.norfolk-honey.co.uk). It is not a substitute for being trained at a BKA, but it is a good introduction or reminder.

For those who are more experienced at beekeeping, then <https://youtu.be/HF6MpolcvCw> entitled "How to find and mark a queen" is aimed at developing those skills. There is a number of different ways of achieving this, so there are a number of videos covering the topic.

When you get to the stage where you want to perform an artificial swarm, then <https://youtu.be/YUm4-Tn166g> will be of interest. If you are going to do this, one thing is certain: you will want to plan it thoroughly in advance. There are many ways to perform an artificial swarm, so if you decide to use a modified version of this method or even if you use a completely different method: this will help you think it through.

If you are thinking of using a Snelgrove board to perform an artificial swarm then see <https://youtu.be/sne2riqU4ug>. There are actually four parts to this and also a link to making your own Snelgrove board!

Those with woodworking skills may be interested in building their own boxes, especially if they are going to perform an artificial swarming procedure or a shook swarm. <https://youtu.be/NAj5cpkJFzk> describes building your own brood boxes using ply.

For light relief you might want to watch the BSBKA video on making an Asian Hornet trap. This shows Ian Condon leading a practical session at a meeting at Shillingstone : <https://youtu.be/Ctcl4upsrMY> The important point here is to make an inspection trap, not a kill trap. Some of those sold commercially are kill traps. You need to differentiate between the two.

*Chris Harwood*

# South West Beekeepers' Forum

Tuesday August 27<sup>th</sup> 2019

***The South West Beekeepers' Forum (SWBKF) comprises 12 Member Associations (Avon, Bournemouth & Dorset South, West Cornwall, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Hampshire, Salisbury, Somerset, Wiltshire, Avon and Jersey).***

*The aim of the SWBKF is to further the interests of beekeepers by providing a forum for consultation among the participating Area Association Members of the British Beekeepers' Association of the South West and the Channel Islands on matters of concern and interest to beekeepers, including but not limited to the policies and activities of the BBKA. It generally meets twice a year, with additional meetings if this is felt necessary.*

*The forum has no mandating powers; however it can make representations on behalf of beekeepers and association members, invite speakers or advisers, and make donations and assist with funding in respect of projects approved by the forum.*

*Each member association can nominate a maximum of three representatives. Guests with a standing invitation to attend and speak, but who have no vote, include former representatives from participating associations who have served as President of the BBKA, current Regional Bee Inspectors for the Western, Southern and South West regions, and Link Trustees assigned to the participating associations.*

\*\*\*\*\*

After the normal apologies etc. there were a number of matters arising; subscriptions (held over to next meeting), change of bank to the Charities Foundation Bank (to be implemented), and the need to contact Hampshire to establish whether they intend to remain as members.

There was a detailed discussion regarding exchanges between Forum members and the BBKA about the current status of the Governance/Standing Orders Committee (SOC). At the moment this is a single entity, which brings into question the independence of the committee when discussing SOC matters. There is only one wholly independent member, Martin Smith who sits in an advisory capacity, and this was viewed as unsatisfactory by a number of Forum members, and should be changed.

It was agreed that the two roles are separate and distinct. Governance is responsible for ensuring that all aspects of the BBKA are run within the law, and the rules of the Charity Commission, and its role is to do as the ADM directs. The ADM in turn should be run according to the Standing Orders; which need to be firm, and only changed when necessary, and then by a body independent of Governance.

Electronic voting was given as an example of not following SOs at the last ADM - where a complainant was dismissed by the chair, effectively overriding the BBKA Constitution.

The meeting was unanimous that the committees should be separate, but it was agreed that each county be asked for an opinion on the change, and to report back, in writing to the forum secretary, K.Lovegrove (KL), as soon as possible - by the end of September if possible. The aim is to have responses in by mid-October. The possibility of a proposition being put to a future ADM can then be considered.

There was also some expression of the need to generally sort out/refine electronic voting – there being issues still to resolve, e.g. accuracy, error, and the use of the “membership” and “delegate” votes.

Lynne Ingrams (Somerset AH coordinator) gave account of the recent events:-

K Pope to visit New Milton in near future – it is probably a lone wolf queen.

Fowey AH may have got in via fishing boat(s)

Jersey Government has appointed an official specifically for AH. Also they are now using killing traps in Jersey along with commercial pest controllers, who now collect samples for laboratory analysis.

The need for a special category for trapping and releasing AH - widespread publicity and communication with authorities, public, and interested groups is called for.

A/H is becoming a general problem, i.e. not a beekeeping problem.

Training needs. Desire to have a South West AHAT day expressed. Lynne Ingrams offered to host an event for AHATs and act as co-ordinator. AAMs to supply her with county AHAT co-ordinator, and she will contact them.

#### Potential propositions for the next ADM

*EFB and the EU* - In the light of Brexit some thought needs to go into this. Must have provision to trace sources.

*Tradex* - There was disappointment in the support offered by the BBKA to Tradex, and it was suggested that this important event in the beekeeping calendar should be viewed more positively, and that the BBKA should be doing more - lectures and workshops for example.

*Draft Minutes of 2019 ADM* - Judged to be poor bordering on useless. They were thought to be 'not adequate and vague' and there should be a move to improve.

*Responsible beekeeping* - Losses reported in latest BBKA News 90,000 colonies (not in UK). Need for better reporting. Is the media becoming more of a problem?

#### BBKA structure and improvement of links with AAMs

A member expressed concern about the direction, communication, and corporate memory of the BBKA - and suggested that a CEO could be the answer. There was a little scepticism as to whether this would work - given BBKA history. Reference was made to the low number of people currently central to the running of the organisation - 9 trustees and 6 office staff - simply as a contribution to the discussion. The point being, there may be a requirement, but is it for a CEO?

The next meeting of the SWBKF will be held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 11:00 am in the Taunton Division Clubhouse.



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# Oxalic acid dihydrate sublimation : an experiment to determine its effectiveness

by Dennis Clemens, D&WBKA

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## A small-scale local comparison of the levels of varroa mites found in 22 hives after 0, 1 or 2 treatments

### The thinking behind the project

In the past, my annual treatment regimen was as follows:

January, week one: each colony treated once with oxalic acid dihydrate sublimation

June, week one: spring flow supers removed and each colony treated with MAQS (formic acid)

August: main flow supers removed and each colony treated three times with a ten- day thymol-based product

Definitely an integrated pest management routine, using a belt and braces approach which worked for me!

However, an article in the BBKA News (December 2018, Page 403 “The Apiary in December” by Lynfa Davies) made reference to a piece of research by the Laboratory of Apiculture and Social Insects (LASI) at Sussex University, which indicated that oxalic acid was more effective when administered as a sublimation treatment (97.6% mites killed) than the trickle method (93% mites killed). They went on to discover that if a second sublimation treatment was given a fortnight later, the kill rate rose to nearly 100% and the mite levels remained at a controlled level for more than a year. The report can be read here: [https://www.sussex.ac.uk/webteam/gateway/file.php?name=1610-bee-farmer-october-13-15-\(ratnieks\).pdf&site=60](https://www.sussex.ac.uk/webteam/gateway/file.php?name=1610-bee-farmer-october-13-15-(ratnieks).pdf&site=60)

If this proves to be the case, the savings to the beekeeper (pence per treatment instead of pounds) and benefits to the bees (fewer chemicals being introduced throughout the year) would be considerable, not to mention the reduced risk of tainted or contaminated honey.

This got me thinking: there should be a correlation between treatments and subsequent mite levels. Not being one to blindly accept the pronouncements of others, I decided to conduct an experiment of my own, the results of which would either support the research or give cause to question it.

In order to ensure that the methodology and the results should be independently verified and to avoid any unwitting skewing of the results arising from my own expectations, I recruited some willing helpers from the ranks of the Dorchester and Weymouth Beekeepers Association (D&WBKA) and organized them into teams. I randomly selected one hive from each of five apiaries as a control group and gave them no sublimation treatment; five hives from across four apiaries were given one sublimation treatment during the last week of December; 12 hives from across five apiaries were given two treatments during the last week of December and again, a fortnight later, during the second week of January. None of the hives was checked to determine if it were broodless or not.

Subsequently, in April 2019, the hives were revisited by different teams who did not know how many

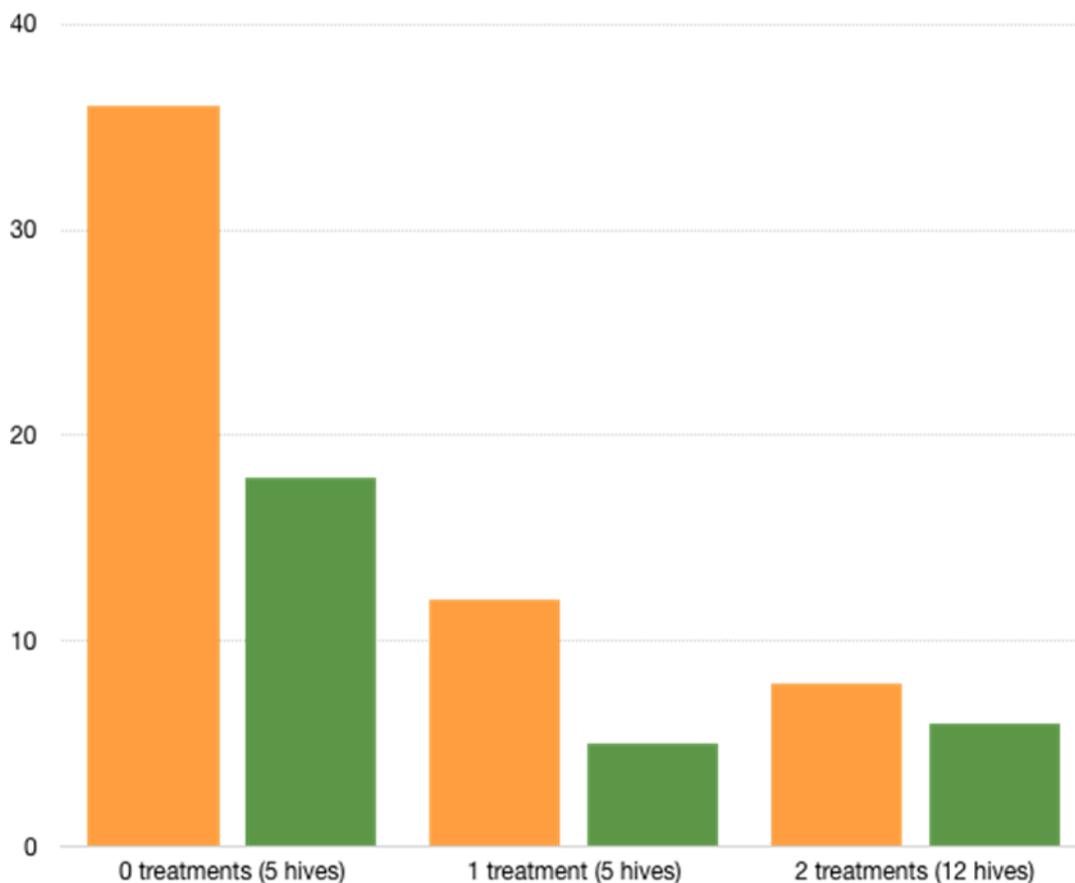
treatments the hives had been given. By using a combination of drone uncapping (about 50 at the pink-eye stage from each hive) and sugar-rolling (about 200 adult bees from each hive) a record of the number of mites found by each method in each hive was compiled. The records were handed back to me and I then passed them on to a beekeeping colleague who, being more computer savvy than myself, was able to process the information and produce the table and bar graph which appears on page 3. I think the results speak for themselves!

I am extremely grateful to all those members of the D&WBKA who so generously gave their time to commit to help with this project (they even found and marked a few queens for me while they were at it – how jammy am I?).

I will continue to monitor for mites later in the year since drift of drones from other sites, or colony failures nearby or even weak feral colonies could result in my bees harvesting stores (and mites) and reinfesting themselves.

**Please note that oxalic acid dihydrate is a dangerous substance if not handled according to the instructions which come with it. Always wear the correct personal protective equipment.**

**Comparison of levels of varroa mites found on bees after 0, 1 and 2 treatments with oxalic acid dihydrate sublimation**





## ADVERTORIAL

### Beekeeping & Cultural Holiday in Morocco with Lynne Ingram 9<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2020

- Enjoy sun, the exceptional menu of local healthy food, an exotic culture and environment at an award-winning, comfortable, sustainably-run [La Maison Anglaise Ecolodge](#) in Taroudant, an ancient walled market town little visited by tourists and with shopper-friendly souks to which you may be introduced by one of our staff. Based here for 5 days in heart of the fertile Souss Valley, the source of an abundance of fruit and vegetables, Taroudant is close to the majestic High Atlas and the extraordinary Anti-Atlas (bordering the Sahara), all providing good habitats for bees



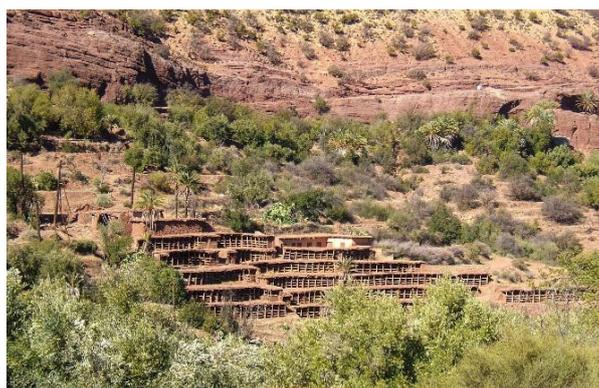
- 3 days at Ouirgane Ecolodge in the High Atlas Mountains
- More about our meaningful holidays at [www.holidays-with-heart.co.uk](http://www.holidays-with-heart.co.uk)
- Based on a successful holiday that we have run before to raise funds for Bees Abroad, with extras



- Master beekeeper, Lynne Ingram, has been keeping bees for over 30 years. She is an experienced teacher, lecturer and BBKA examiner and assessor. Lynne fell in love with Morocco 8 years ago and has been working with beekeepers from the Atlas Beekeepers Cooperative near Taroudant since then. She is passionate about bees and loves to be able to share that passion with others

- Highlights of the trip include learning about the reintroduction of the endangered Yellow Saharan Bee, a visit to the largest traditionally built communal apiary in the World as well as hands-on experience with the docile Yellow Bees and with various types of hives and habitats

- Support of 8 charming English-speaking Moroccan staff experienced in running group holidays
- A wide choice of other authentic activities including option to support charitable projects
- Substantial pre-visit information and support from owner with 25 years' experience of Morocco
- A chance to buy some beautiful handcrafted items, food and other delights in the souks
- Explore the fascinating culture with the help of delightful guides; option to trek or laze in the sun
- Feel safe thanks to the care of the staff, good medical facilities (no compulsory vaccinations),



safe water as well as the town being small, relaxed and friendly with few tourists. Good WiFi and mobile network. Short, inexpensive flight; road transfer with our own safe drivers. Compared with Europe, better value for money

*"If only there were more places like this: a medina house run by locals offering a rare glimpse into Moroccan life. They offer skilled guides, exciting cultural experiences and delicious Moroccan meals."* Lonely Planet

### Beekeeping & Cultural Holiday in Morocco with Lynne Ingram 9<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Voted Top 10 in the World: Lonely Planet Eco Stays 2014, Vege News Vegetarian Holidays 2005 Responsible Tourism Trophy for Community Project Work 2009. Green Key Certified 2012-now

**Cost: £625 includes:** accommodation for 5 nights in Taroudant; 3 nights B&B in Ouirgane Ecolodge in twin/double rooms (singles will be possible for a £155 supplement); substantial breakfasts; 5 vegetarian evening meals in Taroudant (option of meat or fish for small supplement. Special diets catered for); 3 meat or vegetarian meals at Ouirgane; excursions to Inzerki and the Atlas Cooperative; 4 day/3 night tour in the High Atlas with a spectacular journey over the Tiz N Test Pass; and transfers from Agadir airport at the start & back to Marrakech airport at the end.

**Excludes:** Inexpensive flights (usually about £100 or less return if booked early), travel insurance (must include cancellation cover), tips, lunches and any extra activities that you might like to choose (see below).



**Optional activities** include various cultural experiences including massage, souk visits, a tour of the town by horse-drawn taxi, all run by the amazingly knowledgeable guides. More about our Activities & Price List [here](#)

*“I just want to tell you that the holiday was completely magical and LOVED EVERY MINUTE.! The staff were just amazing with nothing too much trouble and such fun.” M. Collins Feb 2015*

### **Provisional Itinerary**

**Sat 9<sup>th</sup> May** Fly Gatwick to Agadir (Easyjet) arrive in time for dinner. Stay 5 nights at La Maison Anglaise Ecolodge.

**10<sup>th</sup> Introduction & a gentle day** Optional visit to Hammam (steam baths). Optional visit to CLAUDIO BRAVO PALACE AND GARDENS -very popular with our clients.

**11<sup>th</sup> Trip to INZERKI claimed to be the world's biggest communal apiary**

**12<sup>th</sup>** Optional trip to HIGH ATLAS BERBER VILLAGES with Dounia - includes a beekeeping village. Option to visit souks

**13<sup>th</sup>** visit YOUSSEF of ATLAS COOPERATIVE to learn about the reintroduction of the YELLOW SAHARAN BEE. Handle his bees and see traditional and modern hives.

**14<sup>th</sup>** Travel to Ouirgane over the Tiz nTest Pass. Lunch at LA BELLE VUE café and walk nearby before lunch. Visit Tinmal mosque. Stay at Ouirgane Ecolodge at 1000 m in the High Atlas for 3 nights.

**17<sup>th</sup>** Go home or spend 1 or more nights in Marrakech. Choice of flights home from Marrakech back to Gatwick (Easyjet) – daily, sometimes twice daily.. We can book excellent accommodation in Marrakech for anyone wanting it.



Read our excellent reviews about our drivers, managers, guides and cooks [here](#) on Trip Advisor.

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Early booking ensures a place on these extremely popular holidays as well as a cheap flight! We will then confirm availability of room(s) and supply you with the payment schedule which is split into 3 parts to make it easier to budget. It's essential to book early in order that we can give you the go-ahead to book flights as soon as they're published.

## Dorset Dates

Members of all associations are **WELCOME** at all meetings. However, if it is not your parent branch, please contact the organiser beforehand, so that they can ensure that there are enough seats (cake?) for all attendees.

Date / Time	Branch	Event	Contact	Venue
8 October 7.30pm	West Dorset BKA	Talk by Don Basterfield on "Dissecting bees explained"	Carole Brown	Christian Fellowship Hall, East St car park, Bridport DT6 3QD
12 October	East Dorset BKA	Honey Show	Jim Dunne	Sturts Farm, West Moors BH10 6DP
15 October 7.30pm	Blandford & Sturminster Newton BKA	Talk by Lesley Gasson: Bees and Water	Lesley Gasson	Shillingstone Church Centre
18 October	East Dorset BKA	AGM	Jenny Wellman	Broadstone Community & Arts Centre BH18 8BJ
24-26 October		NATIONAL HONEY SHOW		Sandown Park, Esher
15 November 7.00pm	Blandford & Sturminster Newton BKA	AGM & supper	Lesley Gasson	Shillingstone Church Centre
12 November 7.30pm	West Dorset BKA	AGM and talk by Kevin Pope, SBI on Update on Asian hornet and NBU	Carole Brown	Christian Fellowship Hall, East St car park, Bridport DT6 3QD
14 November	Dorchester & Weymouth BKA	AGM and talk by Kevin Pope, SBI, on Queen Rearing	Sally Leslie	
10 December	West Dorset BKA	Pre-Christmas get-together. Sarah & Carole's take on Apimondia: Montreal & Quebec City	Carole Brown	Christian Fellowship Hall, East St car park, Bridport DT6 3QD
14 January 2020 7.30pm	West Dorset BKA	Joint meeting with East Devon Talk by Wally Shaw from Wales on 'Self-Sufficiency, Locally Adapted Bees and Apicentric Beekeeping'	Carole Brown	Christian Fellowship Hall, East St car park, Bridport DT6 3QD
Sunday 19 January 2020 12.30 for 1pm	West Dorset BKA	New Year get-together lunch (Smart casual dress)	Carole Brown	Bridport & West Dorset Golf Club DT6 4PS

# Who's Who in the Dorset County Beekeepers' Association

President Richard Norman

Vice Presidents: Ken Bishop, Mervyn Bown, Chris Slade

Chair	Lesley Gasson,	
Vice Chair	Trevor Ford	<b>trevorlanners@gmail.com</b>
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