



Stockport Beekeeper

August 2022

Stockport Events

**Woodford War Memorial
Community Centre,
Chester Road, SK7 1PS**

Cheshire Game and Angling Fair

Sunday, **August 7th 2022** at
Peover Park, Knutsford, WA16
9HW

The Branch will have a stall
selling honey and hive products,
there will also be an exhibition
hive. If you are there come along
and say hello.

Preparing for the Honey Show

a talk by Joyce Nisbit

Weds, **August 10 at 7.30 pm**

at Woodford Community Centre,
Chester Road, Woodford, SK7
1PS

Joyce is a Trustee of the British
Beekeepers Association. Joyce is
a qualified BBKA Honey Judge.
This talk is a 'must' for all
aspiring Honey Show competitors
and will open the path through
some of the intricacies of the
showing and judging world.

Disley & Lyme Horticultural Society Show

Saturday **20th August 2022** from
12.00 noon

Disley Amalgamated Sports
Club, Jackson's Edge Road,
Disley, SK12 2JR

Free shuttle bus from High Lane
and Disley

[https://dlhs.weebly.com/uploads/
2/0/2/3/20232171/115th_annual_
show.pdf](https://dlhs.weebly.com/uploads/2/0/2/3/20232171/115th_annual_show.pdf)

From The Chair **Peter Carefoot**

I am part of a small working
group making recommendations
to the Cheshire Committee about
the financial reserves of branches
and the Cheshire Association.
Stockport is financially sound and
will support initiatives within our
area and the wider Cheshire
county.

This year Alan Towse has
arranged beekeeping equipment
for four schools in the area, for
which the branch has paid. Also,
working with one of the 2022 new
beekeepers, Alan has purchased
equipment to help Heald Green
Scouts set up a community
apiary. If you would like to
support Alan with these initiatives
or have other ideas, contact Alan
or me to discuss.

The Committee is also exploring
ways to use the branch funds to
support members. Stephen
Donohoe is arranging a bulk
delivery of syrup from Paul
Beardmore at Modern
Beekeeping at an excellent price.
Members can collect from
Woodbank Apiary and save the
postage for buying from external
agents. We have considered
buying varroa treatments and
fondant, but this is more
complicated. Later bulletins will
have more news on this.

During May, Alan and I delivered
a beekeeping course at the ARC
Support Centre at HMRC
Strangeways. Alan recently
handed over two colonies of
bees, and such is the interest and
excitement that The Pavilion, a
residential drug and alcohol
treatment centre near Lancaster,
has asked for support to set up
an apiary. Alan is on the case!

As the autumn show season
begins, SBKA has received
invitations to bring stalls to sell
bee-related products. It is also a
chance to educate people on
honeybees and beekeeping. An
observation hive is usually taken
along to most of these events
proving to be very popular with
the general public. 'Find the
queen' is good fun as long as we
remember to mark her. At the
recent event at Notcutts Garden
Centre, four experienced
beekeepers could not find the
queen. Then a member of the
public spotted her. So much for
the experts! Watch for the events
in the newsletter and come along.
Come along if you have honey to
sell or enjoy explaining
beekeeping to the passers-by.
You will be very welcome.

The 2022 Beginners Practical
Course has now ended. Once



Who's on the Committee?

Peter Carefoot - Chair

Paul Wheeldon - Vice Chair & Library

David Lilley - Apiary Manager

Vacant - Assistant Apiary Manager

Tricia Watkins - Programme and Events Manager

Sue Payge - Honey Show Manager

Alan Towse - Education Secretary

Brian Gee

Liz Sparkes

Alistair Taylor - Treasurer

Steve Donohoe - Secretary

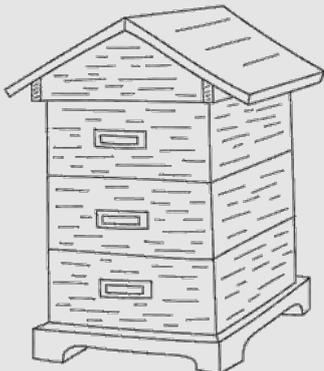
Mark Davis

Dermot Carty - Asst. Apiary Mngr

Next Committee Meeting

TBC

Woodbank Meeting Room
(Committee members only)



Members of 2022 beginners' practical course

again, it was fully booked and a great success. Thanks to all members who helped out. Alan is now taking reservations for the 2023 theory and practical courses. At the final practical session, Roy Brocklehurst, Pat and Colin Booth received long service awards of inscribed glasses with bottles of their favourite tipples. As prominent members of the SBKA

Committee, they have played a significant part in making the SBKA successful. Well done, and thank you.

On Saturday, August 13th at 1 pm, Margaret Charlton and Carl Nicholls will take their basic beekeeping exam at Woodbank Apiary. Best wishes to both.



Colin and Pat Booth



Roy Brocklehurst receives his award from Brian Gee, long-time colleague and friend.

Preparing for the Honey Show

a talk by Joyce Nisbet

Wednesday, August 10 at 7.30 pm

At Woodford Community Centre,
Chester Road, Woodford, SK7
1PS

Joyce is a Trustee of the British Beekeepers Association. She is well known to many members for her talks on beekeeping and for competing in honey shows since the mid-1990s. Joyce is a qualified BBKA Honey Judge. This talk is a 'must' for all aspiring Honey Show competitors and will open the path through some of the intricacies of the showing and judging world.

The Honey Show is a great way to become more involved with Stockport Beekeepers. There is something for all newcomers from how to present your precious honey for showing or for sale and how to save your wonderful wax at extraction time to make candles.

Making mead is a longer process but come along and pick up tips from County Show winners and maybe next year your entry will intoxicate the judge with its excellence. And not forgetting the very competitive **honey cake** and sweets section, where you can follow the set recipes or be creative with your honey buns.

Sue Payge is the manager of this year's show. Sue is a prize winner both locally and at the County level. If you want advice and tips on showing and winning you can contact Sue :

07554 179381
or harasarjana@hotmail.com



Download the HONEY SHOW
SCHEDULE :

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/0cb9aezygwqku5a/2022%20Honey%20Show%20schedulePDF%20.pdf?dl=0>

From The Apiary Peter Carefoot

I started in spring this year with four production hives. One, with a 2021 queen, has shown no inclination to swarm. I have successfully managed the swarming process in the other three, and all have new naturally mated queens and are laying satisfactorily.

I have three production hives, and each has three supers, which are full and heavy. I should extract some honey, but the covid lurgy has left me weary and not up to the rigours of extraction. It was all I could do to check them, especially in the recent heat. I am not adding more supers, so the honey will wait until I have the motivation to deal with it.

Another reason for extracting from one of my hives is the discovery of bees with deformed wing virus, a sure sign of a heavy varroa infestation. After long conversations with Steve Donohoe, on various treatment options, I have decided to use Thymovar for autumn treatment this year. But first, I must remove the supers and extract the honey from this sickly hive.

I got up from my sick bed to collect a small cast swarm from a neighbour's apple tree. During the hot week, the virgin queen was successfully mated and is now laying eggs in a small but good pattern. I will develop the colony, and if the bees are gentle and quiet, I will attempt to overwinter it in a poly nuc. Since I do not

know where this swarm came from I am reluctant to keep it until I know it better.

I have done a vertical split on the hive containing the old green queen. In the bottom box below the split board, a new queen has been mated and is now laying eggs. Above the split board, the old queen is still producing strongly with no signs to me of slowing down. I'm sure the bees must be thinking of superseding her, so I will leave them to it and hope she ends her days in a natural bee way.

So in true beekeeping fashion, I now have seven colonies. When the varroa treatment has finished, I will combine any small colonies. Better to go into the winter with fewer stronger colonies than try to get smaller ones through to the following spring.

S. and I have been watching the activities of newly fledged sparrowhawk chicks from a nearby nest. They flit around the tree tops, each calling for food as the parent birds spread panic amongst the small bird population in the park and neighbouring gardens. They are not everyone's favourite birds, being the hunters of small garden birds from garden feeders. But I like them, especially the smaller male with his reddish chest and piercing eyes.

Peter Carefoot

Branch Honey Extractor

The extractor is available from Peter Carefoot, who lives in Glossop. Contact Peter by email to book the extractor for short periods.
chairman@stockportbeekeepers.co.uk

On the day it is due for return, the user must deliver the extractor to Peter's home (Glossop) or arrangements made for the next recipient to collect it. Usually, this means sharing contact details. The current user cannot retain the extractor for longer than agreed if another beekeeper has reserved it. The extractor must be returned or passed on in a clean condition. There is no charge for the use of the extractor.

Beverley Love has a small flower shop and would like to sell local honey. Contact her directly if you want to help.

Down to Earth
110 Buxton road
High Lane
Stockport
SK6 8ED
tel: 01663 764189
mobile: 07904 494346
beverleydowntoearth@gmail.com

I read recently on the Stockport Beekeepers website that there is a beekeeping mentor scheme available for people who need it - I think this is something I would probably benefit from in the early stages of my beekeeping, and was wondering if you know of anyone in the **Timperley/Altrincham** area who may be able to assist, either online or in person if this is convenient.

If you may be able to assist, I would be most grateful.

My contact details are:

John Swallow
87 Downs Drive
Timperley
Cheshire
WA14 5QU

email: john@officialjohn.co.uk
Mobile: 07414 696292

Two small colonies for sale. Bees to be sold as a standard national brood box and have 6/7 frames of brood with some stores and are currently supporting a super but this will be removed at sale. Queens are 2022 and marked yellow but not clipped.

Price at £120 for the bees and frames they are on to Cheshire beekeeper members with a discount if frames are exchanged. We will supply in our boxes and these can be returned once bees have been transferred.

Bees are located near Anderton, Northwich CW9 6AP.

Any questions please contact us as below.

Richard and Sandra Beal
07825106434