



Stockport Beekeeper

June 2022

Stockport Events

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

Saturday 11th June 2.00 p.m.

Apiary Meeting

Paul Beardmore, Happy Valley
Honey, Endon Quarry SK10 5AZ
[https://
www.happyvalleyhoney.co.uk](https://www.happyvalleyhoney.co.uk)

Saturday 18th June

The Bee Garden at Notcutts
Garden Centre, Woodford
<https://www.notcutts.co.uk>

Cheshire BKA Events

National Events

From The Chair Peter Carefoot



Chairman: Peter Carefoot

I am relieved that May is over. It has been a busy month with 2 major events to deliver and several others to plan. There has been much positive feedback from delegates and teachers on the Bee Health Day on 21st May. The facilities at Aquinas College were ideal for the classroom format. The bee inspectors isolated real diseases on the comb from their regular apiary inspections into one secure area. And with full PPE required just to step over the door, there was a hark back to the COVID requirements of several months earlier. The presentations from Mark McLoughlin and his team of regional bee inspectors were first class.

On 28th May, with 7 stalls selling beekeeping products, a great backdrop of the Mersey Way Woodland and support from the security team, the World Bee Day celebrations were a big hit with the shoppers in Stockport town centre. Due to the tremendous support from the public, this now has the makings of an annual event. Special thanks to Alan Towse and Tricia Watkins for their help in planning these events and other colleagues for their support.

The practical beginners' course is in full swing with a full complement of enthralled beginners getting their first taste of handling the bees. A beekeeping taster day is planned for 10th July at the Woodbank Park Apiary. It is an ideal opportunity for any friends or family interested in beekeeping or just interested in bees to come along to hear and feel the buzz.

Alan now has bees at three schools in the Stockport area. We have bought initial equipment, and the schools have had fundraising events to finance the setup. The



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

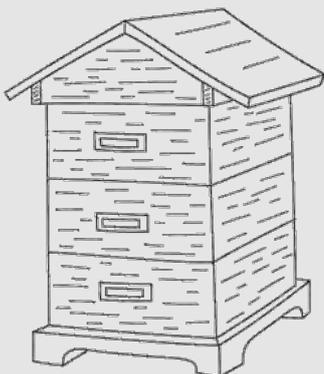
Mark Davis

Dermot Carty - Asst. Apiary Mngr

Next Committee Meeting

Thursday 9th June at 7.15pm

Woodbank Meeting Room
(Committee members only)



celebration of World Bee Day, particularly at Mellor Primary School and Torkington Primary School, was a delight for the kids involved and the lookers-on. It was a brilliant day.

Tricia Watkins is getting to grips with the 2023 events programme. The latest event schedule is now on the Stockport Beekeepers website. She would like members to let her know what types of events or beekeeping topics they would like presented.

This week Alan and I have completed beekeeping theory lessons at The ARC, an abstinence and recovery centre next to HMP Strangeways. The hive and the rest of the kit are in place, and there is much excitement with the bees due soon.

From The Apiary Peter Carefoot

After ten days away in France and visiting my sister in Dorset, swarming anxiety was well established as I arrived home. The first day back was wet and windy, which kept me out of the hives. I found swarm cells the next day in one colony, just one day from sealing. I transferred the queen a nuc, and later that evening, a glass of red calmed the swarming anxiety. Five days later, I destroyed all the cells except the chosen one. I am now waiting expectantly for the new arrival to start laying, watching the entrance daily for signs of pollen.

Since then, I have managed the swarming of another large colony by removing the queen to a nuc, which is now my preferred way of swarm management. I use poly nucs, which are light and easy to carry around. I have a prepared nuc to hand for each hive inspection, ready to add immediately the frame on which I find the queen. I think poly nucs also keep small groups of bees much warmer than the wooden

The swarming season is in full swing, and the swarm catchers have been very busy. Every day, I get several emails and calls about "swarms" of the European tree bumblebee, which is spreading ever more widely across the region. These range from just two bees in the garden shed to bees in the bird box beside the dog kennel and even bees under the bath; each day brings a different scenario. On one day recently, every swarm catcher in the Stockport region was out gathering bees when I tried to contact them.

Remember to keep up with your weekly checks and have a straightforward swarm control method in mind.

versions. None of my three other colonies has yet developed signs of swarming.

I no longer lie awake at night fretting about swarms and mating flights. What will be, will be. However, I get anxious with this showery, cold weather that is not conducive to successful mating flights. Will they get properly mated or not? Especially when I am hoping for some daughters that will be as good as or if not better than mum. I do not want to lose the genes I think I have been nurturing for several years. My bees are mostly very calm, and I like it like that.

There is a mystery at the church apiary. When I opened my large, double brood colony in March, the bee numbers were lower than expected. I could not find my lovely, prolific but old green-dot queen. In her place was a new queen, so I presumed it was a late autumn supersedure, and I marked her white. Subsequently, weekly checks revealed eggs and developing brood, and the white

BBKA Modules

The syllabi for the BBKA module exams have been updated for 2022.

The updated syllabi are available on the BBKA website alongside updated reading lists:

<https://www.bbka.org.uk/modules>

Mentors

If you are a beginner and want the guidance of a beekeeping mentor please ask the secretary about this secretary@stockportbeekeepers.co.uk

Also, if you are more experienced and **wish to become a mentor**, your services will be very much appreciated. You don't have to be the world's leading authority on keeping bees - just share what you know and you can always ask a more experienced beek for support if needed. Again, contact the secretary about this.

Contact Details

If you want to contact the secretary (Steve Donohoe) the email address is:

secretary@stockportbeekeepers.co.uk

Feel free to send in any articles for the newsletter, snippets of news or events.

dot queen was easy to find. That is until two weeks ago when I could not find her. Two swarm cells did not look quite right, so I destroyed them to go back in five days to see if there were any more due to a missing queen. Five days later, there were plenty of new eggs, no queen cells, but again, no sign of the white dot queen. Then I saw her, the Green Queen, not seen since autumn 2021 and presumed dead. There was no sign of the white dot queen. So now I do not know if the white queen is still there in hiding and is laying the eggs. Or if she is dead and the old Green Queen has always been the one that lays the eggs. I cannot wait until the next scheduled check. I shall take my wife, the ace-queen finder, and finally get to the bottom of this mystery.

The church apiary is looking good, with spring flowers bursting all around. It is a place of peace for some meditation and some calm. The extra winter work to

clear the brambles has left space for the flowers to thrive, though we might pay the price of less honey from the bramble flowers. S. has also managed swarm cells from her double brood. Neither of us wants more colonies, so our queen rearing plans could take a back seat if these queens get mated and become 'belters'.

I have added some drone foundation to all my brood boxes attempting to help increase the drone gene pool here in Glossop. Two colonies have used the foundation whilst the other three have not. When the first crop of drones emerges, I will remove the frames. It is an experiment, but I am now not sure what it will show me. I am aware of the propensity of the varroa mite for drone larvae, so I remain unsure about the outcome and have now developed varroa anxiety. It is a lark this beekeeping!

Peter Carefoot

FOR SALE

Two full size colonies for sale, in brood box and supers. £125.00 ono

Two 2022 artificial swarms in brood boxes. £75.00 ono

Collected from Alderley Edge and a prior inspection welcomed

I am selling only the bees so please bring your own boxes and leave me with as many frames with foundation as the frames of bees and stores you take.

Malcolm Robinson
Whitebarn House
Whitebarn Road
Alderley Edge
Cheshire SK9 7AN
malcolm@wrenproperties.co.uk

The committee of Davenport Golf Club Poynton is interested in keeping hives around the course. There are no fees but they would like a few jars of honey to sell for charity or even use in the kitchen. Contact details are:

garethdodds76@gmail.com

June Events

The practical beekeeping course continues at the Woodbank Apiary on June 1st, 8th, and 15th ending on June 22nd.

Apiary meeting at Happy Valley Honey, Bollington June 11th 2pm

The meeting is hosted by Claire and Paul Beardmore of Happy Valley Honey and Modern Beekeeping. Paul will demonstrate techniques available used by commercial beekeepers but are just as suitable for the hobbyist.

Happy Valley Honey,

Endon Quarry
Windmill Lane
Kerridge
Cheshire
SK10 5AZ

Road Entrance Location - [What 3 Words Map HERE](#)

Shop Entrance once arrived - [What 3 Words Map HERE](#)

The Bee Garden 10am - 3pm

A day at the Notcutts Garden Centre, Woodford, where the garden centre team will display plants favoured by honey bees and pollinators. SBKA will provide information about beekeeping and display an exhibition hive with live bees.

Notcutts garden centre
Chester Road,
Woodford,
Stockport,
Cheshire,
SK7 1QS

Beekeeping Taster Day

Sunday, July 10th at Woodbank Apiary

A chance to learn a little about honey bees and mingle with live bees to get a flavour of what is involved in keeping bees.

Sessions will run from **10.00 am to 12 noon and from 1 pm to 3 pm**. There will be a maximum number of 10 people for each session and the cost will be £10 per person.