



Stockport Beekeeper

December 2021

Stockport Events

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

Weds 8th December 7.15pm
Christmas Party **TODAY!**

Beginners Course starts **Mon
10th January** at Aquinas College
(fully subscribed)

Weds 12th January 7.30pm
Bee Stings - Julia Piggott

www.stockportbeekeepers.co.uk/events
has a full list of events

Zoom Events

Catch Up - Beekeeping in the Middle Ages

If you are registered as a member
on the CBKA website you can
access a video recording of the
latest Zoom talk:

[https://cheshire-bka.co.uk/
members/meeting-video/](https://cheshire-bka.co.uk/members/meeting-video/)

From The Chair

Peter Carefoot

There has been some good news for our Secretary Stephen Donohoe. He has been appointed to the board of directors for Bee Craft magazine. His connection with SBKA can only benefit the Branch. Well done Steve.

The 50th Honey Show was a success with 140 entries giving some serious but good-natured competition. This was Pat's last show in charge and as usual, the organisation was spot on. Again I did not win anything and gave a memo to myself of "must do better next year". I will read John Goodwin's new book **Honey show classes: A guide for competitors, organisers and judges**. A copy of this book has been added to the branch library.

The Trees for Bees project has kicked off with Marple Primary School planting the first tree. Thanks to Alan Towse for the idea and for following through to make it happen. Please contact Alan if you would like to help.

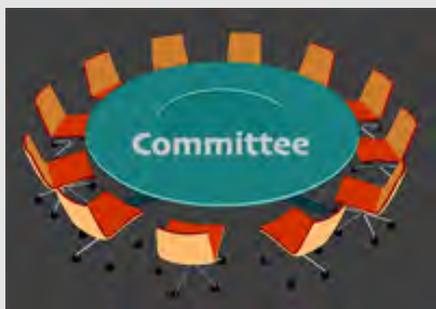
As we enter 2022 the AGM presents the opportunity to elect some new Committee members to replace long-standing members Roy, Pat and Colin. If anyone



Christine Skelly, Forest School Practitioner, planting first pear tree donated by Kindling Trust at Mellor Primary school as part of Stockport Beekeepers' Trees for Bees project.

would like to join the team, contact me for an informal chat.

Alistair has changed our banker so that funds are more secure. With more online transactions I have been anxious to make sure we handle our finances in compliance with Charity Commission



Who's on the Committee?

Peter Carefoot - Chair

Paul Wheeldon - Vice Chair

Roy Brocklehurst - Apiary
Manager

David Lilley - Deputy Apiary
Manager

Tricia Watkins - Programme and
Events Manager

Pat Booth - Honey Show
Manager

Colin Booth

Alan Towse - Education
Secretary

Brian Gee

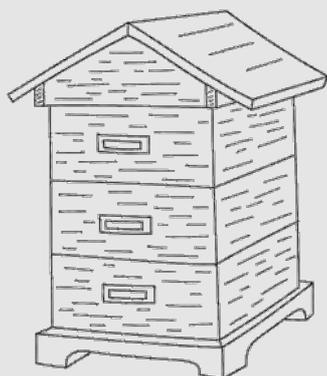
Liz Sparkes

Alistair Taylor - Treasurer

Steve Donohoe - Secretary

Next Committee Meeting

Thursday 13th January 2022 at
7.15pm
Woodbank Meeting Room
(Committee members only)



requirements. This new account will make the transfer of monies more secure.

Susan Payge has agreed to be the new Honey Show Manager, taking over from Pat. Sarah Booth and Dominic Hughes will support her. My thanks to all, the show remains in good hands.

With most of the practical bee work out of the way, I can concentrate on

From The Apiary - Peter Carefoot

Not much going on down at the church apiary. S has pruned the blackcurrants and cleared the nettles around the goosegogs. Yet more brambles have been cleared. It's a balance between saving the brambles for their bee-friendly flowers or keeping them in check and avoiding being lacerated by encroaching tentacles. On November 16, there were a lot of bees out foraging, which I can only presume is from ivy.

I check the hives every day, taking the dog. He does not care for the bees, and he is hesitant to approach, even when they are not flying. He is a strange dog and is quite content munching on the grass from around the compost heap. It is 12 months since he arrived from southern Spain, just beating Brexit. He was rescued from the streets of sunny Murcia and has settled well to the Glossop climate, though he is frightened of snowmen.

I have always considered pheasants to be rather stupid birds. There are now 6 regular visitors at the apiary and the solitary cock often gets into the chicken pen, but cannot find his way out. Any attempt to rescue him causes suicidal thrashing into the netting. I retire leaving him to it, and of course, he does eventually figure it out.

Neighbours to the apiary have all had some honey in payment for the bees using their gardens. Some have come back for more and consider the honey the best for years. One jar remains for the priest as payment for use of the church grounds. He has been away on retreats and various conferences, but we will catch up sometime soon. Maybe in 2022, he

catching up with reading the various beekeeping publications. I am working my way through Roger Patterson's latest book: Beekeeping: Challenge what you are told. My final words of 2021 are to send my best wishes for the holiday season to you and your families. I hope your bees make it through the winter and wish you full supers for 2022.

Peter Carefoot

will agree to bless the bees, but then again?

At the farm, D is making speedy progress on his new tractor shed. He started it many years ago but the surge of activity has seen the roof girders added and the remaining gable is almost finished. He is a brilliant dry stone waller and his work looks so good. It is rural art. Even up here on the higher ground, the bees continue to work on calm, warmer days.

As always at Christmas time, the ducks and geese are all safe from the butcher. Only Mr Fox threatens but is deterred by the fortifications around the farmyard. I'm sure he is as scared of the gander as I am.

All honey is now in jars and has been selling well. I have been slowly cleaning equipment making sure the boxes with drawn comb are stored in the cool shed and protected from mice and wax moths. I have two years of wax to melt and clean. It is not a job I look forward to, but Mrs C wants to start making candles so I guess I will have to get down to it soon.

I have been inspired by S's attempt at making mead and have started my own. I can't wait for Christmas 2022 to taste.



Photo by Mattias Diesel on Unsplash

****Local Honey For Sale****

As secretary I get many requests for local honey. I respond with a list of beekeepers who have asked for their details to be circulated. **If you sell your honey through a retail outlet - shop or garden centre** please email your contact details to The Secretary secretary@stockportbeekeepers.co.uk

Branch Honey Extractor

The Branch honey extractor is available for hire at a cost of **£1 per day** or part day. It is available to be collected from and returned to my home in Glossop. The address will be given at the time of booking. Contact **Peter Carefoot** on 01457 238664 or

chairman@stockportbeekeepers.co.uk

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>

SBKA Membership

Our membership has risen to 240 members (and climbing). At the end of 2020 it was 219.

Contact Details

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

secretary@stockportbeekeepers.co.uk

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

Stockport BKA Honey Show 2021

Results and prizewinners

Gales Challenge Trophy for 2 jars of honey - Sue Payge

C.J.Titterton Memorial Shield for 2 jars of heather honey - Sue Payge

Birchwood Honey Tankard for heaviest shallow frame of honey - Sue Payge

Cheshire Beekeepers' Branch Cup for best wax - Pat Booth

J.C. Tucker Cup for 10 jars of labelled for sale honey - Sue Payge

Novice Trophy for one jar and one black jar - David Hedley

Woodbank Trophy most points for cakes and biscuits - Pat Booth

Something Brewing Trophy for most points in mead - Pat Booth

£5 Voucher for best bee related photo - Dominic Hughes

25th Anniversary Cup for most points in show - Pat Booth

Carolyn Hallworth Memorial Shard for Best in Show - Pat Booth for 2 jars of light honey

Blue Ribbon for Best in Show in Class 1 - Pat Booth for her light honey

