



Honey Harvest

This month brings the summer honey harvest— so eagerly anticipated by some, and dreaded by others!



'Well', said Pooh, 'what I like best,' and then he had to stop and think. Because although Eating Honey was a very good thing to do, there was a moment just before you began to eat it which was better than when you were, but he didn't know what it was called.

A. A. Milne, - 'Winnie-the-Pooh'

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BBKA 'Positive Thinking' Newsletter



The BBKA has published two newsletters from Margaret Wilson in July. The most recent is reproduced here and the earlier newsletter may be viewed on the WSBKA website via the link.

We have been thinking about the delivery of the Module exams in November, taking into account the social distancing etc., the teaching could be by Zoom, certainly my own branch has managed that, or there are the correspondence courses as well, so I held back on further talk about the exams until the Exam Board met which they did Sunday 19th July and below I show you an extract of their decision:

'The global outbreak of COVID-19 has meant that we have had to limit socialising and gatherings, to help prevent the spread of this disease. Inevitably, this has had a huge impact on the BBKA exam system, that relies on candidates, assessors, and invigilators to meet in close proximity or travel some distance away from home.

Following the feedback from many associations and individuals on the matter, we have taken the difficult decision to cancel the BBKA assessments for the remaining part of 2020. These include Show Judge certificate in October as well as Module exams and Microscopy assessments in November.

The main concern of the Exam Board is the safety of all candidates, assessors and invigilators. While some associations have indicated that they may be able to facilitate the Module exams, others have advised against it. We want to offer equal opportunities to all members who wish to take the BBKA exams. With the current situation however, we do not feel this is achievable for all involved.

Candidates who have applied for assessments in 2020 will get free transfer for 2021, or get their fees refunded if they prefer. Due to the cancellations of the exams, the condition that candidates need to have taken all Modules within 12 years of the first module taken has now been removed.

We know how much value beekeepers put on the BBKA exam system. To support those who continue on their learning journey, we are exploring alternative ways to hold the Module exams and hope to have a solution in place for the early part of 2021.'

The above statement is from the Exam Board who are independent from the Executive Committee of the BBKA. You will also find this statement on our web site and it will appear again in the BBKA News.

I know it will be disappointing to many of you, this virus is not doing us any favours at all, I wonder what the 'new normal' is going to be in the future.

On a brighter note, the work on the apiary at Stoneleigh started at the beginning of June and I believe it is going well, I would love to go and see how the design is developing, but I do not think that we will be having our meetings there just yet, certainly the 25th July EC meeting will be by Zoom again.

The apiary is used for education and training, so the bees are having a holiday this year, it will give them a chance to build up ready for any future plans we may have.

Our BBKA News editor has been investigating how we can make savings on the magazine. Where the main cost is the postage and this seems to increase each year. The weight of the paper matters quite a lot and Sharron has found an alternative paper; it comes from Sweden and it is a virgin fibre paper from sustainable forestry. Every tree which is harvested is replaced by a further two to three trees; younger trees are better at neutralising Co2 than the older trees so that is good.

The climate benefit last year was the equivalent of neutralising 800,000 cars driving around the world.

The paper Sharron has found is produced by an organisation called SCA which is the largest private forest owner in Europe.

The paper is not glossy, I have asked if the front cover could be glossed slightly to enhance its appearance and it is believed that they can do that.

This paper will reduce the weight of the magazine which means the postage will reduce, at the same time helping the new trees planted in reducing the Co2 in the world.

It also means that we can use paper envelopes which will again reduce the impact on the world and also reduced costs again.

We should thank Sharon Blake for all her work on this and I do hope that you will approve the change this will result in. Certainly the budget will look considerable better and just at the moment that is quite important too.

To close, the new question is 'Have you downloaded the Asian hornet app?'

www.bbka.org.uk/questions-for-beekeepers

Stay safe and look after each other.

Margaret Wilson

BBKA President

[Margaret's newsletter published at the beginning of July can be viewed here.](#)

Beekeeper Wanted

A small apiary set up and previously managed by 'Plan Bee' in Balls Cross is seeking a beekeeper.

It is on the edge of the Ebernoe Common Nature Reserve and the owner of the honey bee colonies is looking for an experienced beekeeper to take over the management on a commercial basis.



Des Res for Honey Bees

A Grayshott resident is offering land suitable for a small number of colonies. Near Hindhead it is clear of footpaths/bridle ways with easy vehicle and foot access. Storage space is available.

If you are interested in either of the above please contact me in the first instance.

Graham

secretary@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk

Melvyn's Missive



Chairman, Melvyn Essen writes for the County News.

It's that time of the year to get your extracting gear ready for action or get your name on the list to hire your association's extractor and settling tank. Usually when chatting to other members about planning to extract your supers a voice pipes up, 'done mine, 500lbs of honey, supers have been back on and cleaned up.' I bet every association has one of those! Well, I'm still thinking about it anyway, I have this missive to write!

It would be nice to know what the other divisions of West Sussex have been doing this strange year. Central Sussex are planning a double beginners' course for the 2020 and the anticipated 2021 beginners. We have had a lot of enquiries as I'm sure the other divisions have had, 'I want to start beekeeping', as many people have had a lot of time on their hands. As I'm sure you all know you can learn all the theory and watch videos but it doesn't replace hands on training.

The CS apiary has been kept going with three of us looking after the colonies. One afternoon enjoying a day out in Kent, visiting Scotney Castle gardens, I had a phone call from the apiary's neighbour about some problem bees, the next day the three of us met and found which colony it was by standing in front of the hives for a couple of minutes, luckily it was only one. We needed an immediate solution so moved the 'Top Bar Hive', dealt with the returning flying bees and re-queened the colony. Fingers crossed all seems well now.

Who knows what next year will bring but you can only plan and hope for the best. Our 'brilliant' Convention team is making plans for 2021, and equally 'brilliant' Graham is planning our 2021 Auction. It would be possible to use technology for the Convention but a little difficult but not impossible for the Auction. We at CS had a member's equipment donated to us and we had a WhatsApp auction and raised £300 which is to be used as requested for our new members.

Melvyn

chairman@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk

Around the Divisions

Divisions are continuing to support members during these difficult times. Please speak to your Division if you need help.

Central Sussex Division

Details from: Debbie Rowland, chairman@centralsussexbka.org.uk or the Division's website: www.centralsussexbka.org.uk

Chichester Division

Details from: Ray Green, secretary@chichesterbeekeepers.co.uk or the Division's website: www.chichesterbeekeepers.co.uk

Wisborough Green Division

Details from : Martina Hendry, secretary@wgbka.org.uk or website: www.wgbka.org.uk.
The Division's Newsletter may be viewed or downloaded here: www.wgbka.org.uk/Newsletters.html

Worthing Division

Details from: Debra Edwards, dmcd.edwards@gmail.com or website: www.worthing-beekeepers.org

and finally...

National Honey Show

The National Honey Show Executive has just announced its intention to cancel this year's Show planned for 22nd - 24th October. This is due to concerns about holding such a large show under the cloud of Covid-19. This year's event will now be a virtual show to which everyone is invited both in the UK and worldwide.

A series of virtual workshops and lectures are being planned, with the opportunity to ask questions afterwards in real time. Also planned are pre-recorded demonstration workshops and lectures with live questions and answers during the day, and on-line social events in the evenings.

For full details: www.honeyshow.co.uk/



We're on the web:
www.westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk

MEMBERS' COUNTY NEWSLETTER

Thanks to all this month's contributors. If you don't have access to the internet and want further details of anything in this newsletter, please contact the Editor & County Secretary. Likewise, if you would like to contribute to future newsletters please send articles and photographs to:

Graham Elliott, Editor & County Secretary, no later than the 20th of the preceding month.
secretary@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk



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Previous newsletters from the last 12 months are available on the website.

