



Asian Hornet Week

Asian hornet week is planned for 7th - 13th September.

The BBKA will be encouraging the public to download the free app, 'Asian Hornet Watch' onto their phones so that they have the information to hand if they spot an Asian hornet nest once the leaves come off the trees.



If a plausible sighting of an Asian hornet is received the Animal Plant Health Agency (APHA) sends an email with the details to the BBKA office and asks the Association to contact the nearest Asian Hornet Team to visit the area of the sighting and commence their observation work.

The AHT map is on the BBKA website: www.bbka.org.uk/asian-hornet-action-team-map where the AHT online training exercise can also be accessed.

To get involved with your local AHT speak to your Division's coordinator.



The European hornet is on the left and the Asian hornet on the right.

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DEFRA Consultation



At the BBKA ADM delegates passed a resolution to raise the awareness of the importance of trees for pollinators and support education of planners etc. so more appropriate trees could be planted and maintained in the future.

The BBKA has become aware of the DEFRA consultation on the England tree strategy and we are encouraged to complete the survey as groups or as individuals so tree planting and management in the future has an input from those with a care for bees and pollinators in general.

If you would like to read BBKA's response to the survey it's available on our ['Newsletters' website page](#). To complete the survey go to the following link:

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/forestry/england-tree-strategy/>

Note the consultation closes on the 12th September.

BBKA News - Digital Version

Did you know BBKA has a digital version of the magazine?

Diane Drinkwater, BBKA Vice Chair, and Chair of the Communications Committee has put together a useful page on the BBKA website to help members make more use of this resource:

www.bbka.org.uk/reading-bbka-news-online

Visit bbkanews.com to read the BBKA News online. Note that the Username is *member* and NOT your membership number as shown on the screenshots.



Beekeeper Wanted



A company based in Brighton is planning a small apiary at their solar farm in Yapton.

Their biodiversity team is seeking an experienced beekeeper to set up the apiary - perhaps just two colonies to begin with - and to manage the apiary thereafter.

If you are interested in knowing more contact Serena on 0203 9292200 or email: serena.thaker@wise-energy.eu

BBKA Exam Board Vacancy

Val Francis, who many of you will have corresponded with over the years, is stepping down as Exam Board Secretary in Spring 2021. We will be very sorry to see Val go but we would like to appoint her successor during September so that there is a period of handover training.



This is a part-time, annual hours service contract, based at home with some evening and weekend working. Travel to Stoneleigh Headquarters for meetings and assessment examination days will be necessary but travel expenses and the cost of any essential overnight accommodation will be reimbursed.

If you are a highly accurate administrator and are interested in learning more please email me by the closing date of **4th September**. Interviews will take place week commencing 14th September.

Kind regards

Leigh Sidaway

BBKA General Manager

gen.manager@bbka.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

The National Bee Improvement Programme (NatBIP)

BIBBA is launching NatBIP to encourage all beekeepers to produce hardy, docile and productive bees suited to their local environment.

For over 100 years there have been significant importations of honey bees and queens into the UK. The reasons have varied from the 'Isle of Wight Disease' and hard winters, such as 1962/63, to management reasons to suit beekeepers.

There is increasing concern by beekeepers, both new and experienced, to continual importations, which is backed by scientific evidence. These concerns include, but are not limited to:-

- Bee health — possible introduction of pests, diseases and pathogens.
- Unsuitability to the locality – possibly contributing to increased colony losses.
- Drones interbreeding with existing queens weakening the quality of local stock.

A series of webinars have been planned in a logical progression to explain NatBIP, experience of importations, scientific evidence, teaching beekeepers and how beekeeping associations can help improve our population of bees for the benefit of everyone.

The provisional programme of webinars for NatBIP — all Tuesdays at 7.30pm:-

22 nd Sept	<i>The National Bee Improvement Programme, Outline</i> — Jo Widdicombe
29 th Sept	<i>More details of the NatBIP and Participation</i> — Jo Widdicombe
6 th Oct	<i>Global Pandemics, Bee Imports and Native Bees</i> — Norman Carreck
13 th Oct	<i>My 50 years' experiences of imported bees affecting local stock</i> - Peter Jenkins
20 th Oct	<i>Resilient Honey Bees</i> — Grace McCormack
27 th Oct	<i>Where we are, how we got here and how we can move on.....</i> — Roger Patterson
3 rd Nov	<i>Some Fresh Ideas for Teaching and Learning</i> — Roger Patterson
10 th Nov	<i>Bees and Queens for Everyone</i> — Roger Patterson
17 th Nov	<i>Answering Your Questions</i> — All Speakers

NatBIP provides us with the first ever chance to choose to be self-sufficient with our beekeeping, reducing the need for increasing importations that many beekeepers feel are harming our own honey bees.

More information is available at www.bibba.com where you can also register to view the free webinars.



Melvyn's Missive



Chairman, Melvyn Essen writes for the County News.

For many of us it's going to be a poor honey harvest this year, do you leave supers on a little longer for the bees to use or take them off and feed? As long as we make sure our bees have enough stores to keep them going until next spring and are healthy that's all that matters. Let's hope next year will be better for the bees and us.

Personally, I have reduced my number of colonies down to around 5 or 6 and have strict instructions not to increase, so any 'insurance splits' if not needed will be moved on, still in the nucs.

Thoughts go to next year now with running events and beginners' courses. Nobody knows what will happen, you can hope and plan as I'm sure a lot of us have with postponed occasions and holidays. At least we know more about the virus and what it takes to reduce the spread.

You may be aware it's the annual 'Asian Hornet Week' 7th - 13th September where we try to raise awareness of the Asian hornet (*see the lead article in this newsletter—Ed.*). Some of us joined the webinar recently with Professor Xesus Feas from Spain. He spoke about not only the impact the hornet has on honey bees but on other insects and fruit growers as well as the general public. Prof. Xesus showed with photos where nests have been found, not just high up in trees but in public areas, barbecues, children's play grounds and all over buildings.

Melvyn

chairman@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk



Des Res for Honey Bees



A landowner in Copsale near Horsham is offering to accommodate a small number of honey bee colonies.

The property is on Broadwater Lane and has easy access by foot or car.

If you are interested in knowing more contact Charlotte:

cmacdonald881@btinternet.com .

...and finally

BBKA 'Positive Thinking' Newsletter



As yet I have not seen the September edition of the Newsletter.

When I receive it I will publish to the 'Newsletters' page of the WSBKA website:
www.westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk/newsletters.html Ed.

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.

