



'Excellent - I didn't realise an online event could be so good.' That's what one delegate had to say about April's Spring Convention!

Members are reminded that, although it's over, the whole event is available to watch again at: <https://springconvention.bbka.org.uk/>. All 20+ presentations and more social events remain on offer. Choose your talks and catch-up on demand – stop, rewind and fast forward!

Catch-up until 31st May is included for all who paid to attend. For those who couldn't make it to the live event, likewise, just £12 secures access to it all until the end of May. The [Market Place](#) is still freely available too – a great way to find key exhibitors of beekeeping kit and services.

Other supportive comments we've received are:

'The Convention was well run and delivered an excellent programme - great we can see everything again.'

'Well done. I feel I've had a brilliant introduction into the many aspects of the beekeeper's world.'

'Was sorry it came to an end!!'

'Much preferred this way - was able to attend many more lectures.'

Please also, if you attended the Convention and haven't completed the short feedback questionnaire, it can be found [here](#) .

See the BBKA website for more [Convention News](#)

Joyce Nisbet

BBKA Trustee & Spring Convention Committee Chair

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WSBKA e-MARKET

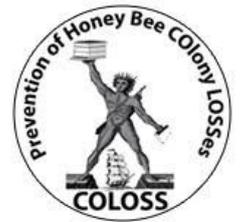
The **WSBKA e-MARKET** has made a good start with 18 items sold so far. However, most of this was beekeeping equipment donated to the Association for sale at last year's Auction. The sales have made a welcome contribution to the WSBKA exchequer. **But we need vendors!**



To sell or to buy go to the WSBKA website: www.westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk/e-market.html where you will find all the information you need to purchase items advertised or to register your own equipment for sale.

COLOSS Winter Losses

Last year several members participated in the COLOSS survey for Winter Losses in 2019. The organisation has thanked us for this support and for the third time in a number of years they were able to submit a return to the pan European COLOSS Monitoring initiative.



Winter losses were on average 10% for England, which represent moderate losses for the second year in a row.

They are again asking for members' help in completing the Spring Hive Losses Survey for this year. COLOSS is inviting all English beekeepers to complete the hive loss survey for 2020 and we can contribute data for our region.

This year's questionnaire can be found by following this link: www.bee-survey.com/index.php/253937

For more information follow the links from the COLOSS website: <https://coloss.org/>

Honey Bee Watch



Honey Bee Watch is a citizen-science project centred round honey bees. By contributing data on honey bees, members will help to better understand the biological, behavioural, and environmental traits that support survivorship among untreated and free-living colonies.

There are more than 10 species of honey bees around the world.

Striving to collect as much data on each of them as possible, Honey Bee Watch will be a multi-year, global study, starting with a UK-based pilot programme focused on Western honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) and eventually expanding to new regions and including all *Apis* species.

Its aim is to increase scientific knowledge about all of these species, potentially leading to more sustainable beekeeping practices as well as educational programmes and conservation initiatives to engage and inspire the wider public to act locally to protect threatened or endangered populations.

To contribute follow this link: www.honeybeewatch.com/

Chairman's Chat

Chairman, Roger Patterson, writes for the County News.

I have spoken to several people up and down the country about winter losses. It seems they are very difficult to understand. Some beekeepers have had very high losses, others minimal, with no correlation to *Varroa* treatment. Some of those who treated have still had high losses. Some beekeepers with out-apiaries, so managing bees in similar environmental conditions, with the same treatment, have experienced very different results in different apiaries.



I speak regularly to a beekeeper in mid-Wales who is a semi-commercial beekeeper with about 80 colonies. He has kept bees for over 50 years, so quite experienced. Some of his apiaries have been completely wiped out, others no losses at all. He treats for *Varroa*.

I urge those who have lost colonies to make up losses from colonies that have survived, rather than taking the quick fix of buying on the open market. Perhaps Divisions can help by making sure those who have lost all their bees can be replenished from swarms.



In this edition (*Page 2*) there are links to two projects where beekeepers can help the scientific community. One involves winter losses, the other monitoring free-living colonies. The latter, 'Honey Bee Watch' www.HoneyBeeWatch.com is the topic of a BIBBA webinar [Home - BIBBA](#) on Tuesday 4th May, with a recording if you missed it. These are two worthwhile projects that should help beekeepers.



Roger

chairman@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk

Des Res for Honey Bees

There is an opportunity to establish a small number of colonies at a site in Holbrook near Horsham. The site is an ecclesiastical organic garden and grounds managed to encourage wildlife. It is also hoped that once established the apiary could be used for children's education. Undercover storage can be provided.

If you are interested in knowing more please contact me in the first instance and I will put you in contact with the lady managing the project.

Graham

secretary@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



Dates for your Diary

Beekeepers Car Boot Sale

In the absence of local Auctions this Boot Sale will take place in **Plumpton on 22nd May** in the hope it will attract buyers and sellers from across both East and West Sussex.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sussex-bee-boot-sale-22nd-may-2021-tickets-150024052981>

It is on the weekend when the Sussex BKA Auction would have happened so should not clash with anything AND both admission and sales are free!

Meon Valley Beekeepers

41st Annual Auction Sale of Bees and Beekeeping Equipment to be sold by Public Auction from 1pm on Saturday, 3rd July 2021. Viewing from 11:30am on the day of the sale at Greatham Village Hall, Near Liss, Petersfield, Hampshire, GU33 6AD.

Contact David Thompson (details below) by 25th June to submit your items for inclusion or to obtain a catalogue, available after 29th June. Please note that only 250 lots will be accepted so if you want to sell do not delay.

Telephone: 01489 892642 Mobile: 07786 510594 Email: divadthompson@hotmail.com



New Regional Bee Inspector

Sandra Gray has returned to the region as Regional Bee Inspector for South East England. Contact Sandra on e-mail: sandra.gray@apha.gov.uk or telephone: 07775 119430.

...and finally

Reporting *Varroa* on Beebase



Amendments to the [Bee Diseases and Pests Control \(England\) Order 2006](#) come into force on the 21st of April 2021 requiring all beekeepers and/or officials in GB to report the presence of *Varroa* in any of the hives that they manage. This amendment will allow Great Britain to comply with the Animal Health Law which is necessary for future working relationships with the European Union.

To make this simple, a tick box will be introduced to BeeBase, the voluntary register for beekeepers managed by the National Bee Unit. This will be the easiest way to report *Varroa* but an alternative mechanism will be provided for those who do not wish to register on the BeeBase system. Details of this alternative system will be provided after 21st April. Although *Varroa* is known to be widespread, it continues to be one of the most serious pests faced by beekeepers. Reporting *Varroa* will contribute to the overall pest and disease surveillance work of the National Bee Unit and the Scottish Bee Health Inspectorate.

At the time of writing we were still awaiting the tick box. 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.

