



## BBKA Training Returns

The BBKA has confirmed that the following training courses at Stoneleigh will be available this summer:



**Advanced Queen Rearing:** 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> July (2 day course)

**Basic Queen Rearing:** 11<sup>th</sup> July (1 day course) - **Sold Out**

**Advanced Husbandry Training:** 30<sup>th</sup> July to 1<sup>st</sup> August (3 day course) - **Only 3 Places Left!**

**General Husbandry:** 8<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> August (3 day course)

Please go to the BBKA webshop for more details and to book a place:  
[www.bbka.org.uk/pages/shop/departments/training-courses](http://www.bbka.org.uk/pages/shop/departments/training-courses)

If you have any queries contact:  
Sarah Snelson: [sarah.snelson@bbka.org.uk](mailto:sarah.snelson@bbka.org.uk)

### *Anne Rowberry*

BBKA Chair

*We are now able to book the Basic Assessment exam. If you are interested in taking the Assessment this summer please contact the WSBKA Exam Secretary for details:*  
[examsecretary@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:examsecretary@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk)

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# BBKA President's News

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We are all, hopefully, approaching some better weather with less rain and fewer high winds. My bees have not known whether to come out or stay home but they are very busy when it's dry, so fingers crossed.



We are planning to start training sessions again at Stoneleigh, certainly the Advanced Husbandry is all set to go (*see lead article*). However, we have had a problem with the apiary; one of the hives has EFB so there has been the need to remedy that before we use those hives again. Thankfully, we have the option of using other apiaries, thanks to local branches and associations, who have agreed to let us use their facilities.

As we come out of lockdown, we are looking forward to being able to encourage branches to train their new beekeepers for their Basic assessments. This is a practical assessment in their apiary and thankfully this year it looks like we will be able to do that again.

All committee meetings in 2021 have been via *Zoom*. We have managed them quite well, but it will be nice to be able to meet in person again, see the staff in the office and catch up on the new building works. Of particular interest to me is the President's Garden and apiary, despite the EFB outbreak. However, I cannot see that happening before September at the earliest.

An advantage to having *Zoom* meetings, is that there is less air pollution from our vehicles, as we are not driving to and from Stoneleigh, we save on travelling time also. Another positive advantage is that there are no expenses to claim for travel or accommodation, which is already showing favourably in the accounts.

When all things '*Covid*' have settled down and the apiary is back on form, it is the intention to invite schools and other groups to visit and learn about bees. Personally, I cannot wait to go and see the building works that have been completed, along with all the planting which has been done in the gardens.

You may be aware of the Queen's 70<sup>th</sup> Jubilee and the tree planting which is being done to commemorate the occasion. It was decided to plant a bee-friendly tree in the Stoneleigh apiary to mark this and we will seek advice on the best specimen ensuring it all happens. So, if your division has an apiary, why not give it some thought?

At the 2022 Annual Delegates' Meeting there will be five vacancies for trustees. Hopefully, the trustees who can apply again for a further three years will do so. However, some will have served their full term, including 'yours truly' so there will be some vacancies available. Howard Poole, our present Chair of Finance, has an accountancy background and has only one year to go. Ideally, we would like to recruit someone with a similar sort of background and who would be willing to stand as a trustee. Howard would be able to show them the ropes and the systems that the BBKA uses. It's not complicated, but background knowledge is always good.

As well as Accountancy, we would welcome someone with a legal background. It has been surprising how many times we have needed legal advice in the past year.



So, if you, or anyone you know would be willing to serve as a BBKA Trustee, please let us know and we will do our best to help with the applications and bring them on board.

Over the years, I have praised the staff and management of the BBKA. Leigh Sidaway, our General Manager, throughout the pandemic, has maintained services to all members and kept the 'show on the road', so another big thank you from me.

However, we have other people who work tirelessly for the BBKA. One I would like to mention is our Press Officer, Diane Roberts. Diane's background is working in the television production industry and, if you remember, she persuaded the TV crews to come and film the International Meeting of Young Beekeepers when it was held in this country.

Diane answers her phone and emails 24-7, arranges speakers if they are needed for radio and TV, she maintains our Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn pages. She keeps our own website up to date with news items and press releases and she attends many BBKA functions to mix and speak with our members. She works with our Chair of Communications, Diane Drinkwater and they make a great team, working together for the huge benefit of our members. Her work is certainly appreciated by the BBKA Management team as it saves many enquiries coming into the office, which is reflected by all the information on our website.

So, looking forward, let's hope we have a less rainy and cold June.

Keep safe.

## ***Margaret Wilson***

BBKA President

## **Des Res for Honey Bees**

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A landowner south of Arundel is offering a 5 acre site for honey bees. The area comprises three adjacent fields which are being put back to nature with areas of wild flowers planned.

The site has good access, and the surrounding area is grass, combinable crops and salad.

If you would like to know more about the site please contact me in the first instance.

## ***Graham***

[secretary@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:secretary@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk)



*Artist's impression only*

## Chairman's Chat

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Chairman, Roger Patterson, writes for the County News.

Easing of COVID restrictions means that divisions will soon be in a position to have face-to-face meetings, although I get the impression we are being prepared for restriction tightening towards the autumn.

Outdoor meetings might have to be carefully managed to reduce the number of people around a hive. At Wisborough Green we have chosen to have a booking system, but I am unaware of what other divisions will do. I think that beekeeping worldwide will be spasmodic, much depending on the local situation. Today (25<sup>th</sup> May) I had notification that the Apimondia Congress in Ufa, Russia in August 2022 will go ahead, though I guess there is a possibility of cancellation.



The cool spring has extended the flowering season of flowers, with bluebells, cowslips and primroses still seen. I know that many beekeepers are feeding bees, although it is mainly those with prolific queens who are doing it. I have heard of several cases of starvation. The answer is simple, keep locally adapted bees that look after what they have.

### **Roger**

[chairman@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:chairman@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk)

## Honey Without Bees!

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**MeliBio**

**MeliBio Inc** is an American company based in California. In a recent press release it said that it would shortly be launching a new product, a type of honey, identical to the natural kind in every molecule, **but produced without involving any bees at all!**

The company's CEO, Mr Darko Mandich said *'When you look at honey and how it's made, it starts with bees collecting pollen and nectar from the flowers and then converting that into the building blocks of honey, which are fructose and glucose. We are simulating that in the lab, using micro-organisms which do the work of building the initial blocks of honey.'*

The process essentially uses the process of fermentation whereby micro-organisms digest a food supply and excrete a useful product. By tailoring the micro-organism carefully and choosing the right feed stocks, MeliBio claim that it is possible to create anything from honey, to egg whites or milk.

*'Around two-thirds of the honey sold in the markets is honey as an ingredient for other products - industries like food, beverages, cosmetics and pharmaceutical. So we as a company are starting with a business-to-business model first,'* says Mr Mandich. *'We already have 15 companies in the US who have signed letters of intent.'*

MeliBio expects to start its first deliveries at the end of this year.

*With thanks to Lune Valley Community Beekeepers for sharing this article via ebees*

## Around the Divisions

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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](mailto:chairman@centralsussexbka.org.uk)  
or the Division's website: [www.centralsussexbka.org.uk](http://www.centralsussexbka.org.uk)

### Chichester Division

Details from: Ray Green, [secretary@chichesterbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:secretary@chichesterbeekeepers.co.uk)  
or the Division's website: [www.chichesterbeekeepers.co.uk](http://www.chichesterbeekeepers.co.uk)



### Wisborough Green Division

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

### Worthing Division

Details from: Debra Edwards, [dmcd.edwards@gmail.com](mailto:dmcd.edwards@gmail.com)  
or website: [www.worthing-beekeepers.org](http://www.worthing-beekeepers.org)



## Date for your Diary

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### Meon Valley Beekeepers

**41<sup>st</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> June** to submit your items for inclusion or to obtain a catalogue, available after 29<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:divadthompson@hotmail.com)

There will also be a used book sale in aid of the Hampshire Beekeepers' library.

...and finally

## WSBKA e -*MARKET*

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Over 30 items have sold online since the middle of April raising nearly £500 for members. The last vendor has had a number of calls for the same lots so if you have items to sell register them NOW.



Remember to check out the latest items being offered for sale on the WSBKA e-*MARKET*.

[www.westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk/e-market.html](http://www.westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk/e-market.html)

**We're on the web:**  
[www.westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk](http://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](mailto:secretary@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk)



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

