



Celebrate World Bee Day with Bees Abroad

2^{0th} May has been declared 'World Bee Day' by the UN General Assembly to raise awareness on the essential role of bees. As we celebrate how bees benefit both people and the environment, Bees Abroad is inviting all to recognise and support the incredible role of beekeeping, which is successfully alleviating poverty through beekeeping projects across the world.



There are many ways you can join Bees Abroad in celebrating!

- Quiz Night & Lecture Series: 17th - 20th May
- Sponsor a Project



<http://beesabroad.org.uk/worldbeeday/>

www.worldbeeday.org/en/



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WSBKA Bee Market & Auction



The 46th Bee Market & Auction held at Brinsbury on 23rd April - our first for 3 years - was a resounding success. Not my words but those of the many who have e-mailed to congratulate the Association on the event.

It takes a small army of volunteers from across the four Divisions to organise and manage the day. I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all of those who so willingly volunteered and gave up their time on Saturday to support the buyers and sellers in the Ring, administer the sales, serve the

refreshments and provide help with the many other tasks that ensure the event runs as smoothly and as enjoyably as possible.

351 Lots had been registered by nearly 40 vendors. With the exception of a very small number, all sold under the hammer-wielding of Angus Farquhar and Roger Patterson with prices being achieved for the majority of the Lots that made both buyers and vendors happy. The bees were particularly sought-after and raised a good price for their vendors.

Chichester College's Brinsbury Campus in Pulborough is an excellent venue, although with the added cost of parking this year it is expensive. Nonetheless, the Association had taken the decision to pay the parking charges for all those visiting or volunteering at the event.

A pair of Reading Glasses were found in the Brinsbury field. Contact me if they may be yours.

First and foremost the Auction is run as a service to members, although making a small profit from the day, amongst other things, enables us to subsidise the cost of our annual Convention to the membership. No

Convention this year, but we are hopeful of its return in 2023.

Central Sussex Division were unable to offer their usual array of baked goods and they were sorely missed! Who doesn't like a slice of chocolate cake with their coffee? But the Brinsbury Campus is a great place for a picnic and despite the wind the weather was kind to us throughout the day.

Worthing made a great contribution with their Tombola as did Sue and Sally who's plant stall almost sold out before it opened!

Thanks to all who supported the event and thanks again to all who made the day so successful. Hopefully we will all be back to do it all again next year.

See you there!

Graham

secretary@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk



BBKA News Editor Vacancy



A REMINDER that the BBKA is seeking a new editor for BBKA News. Full details were in last month's Newsletter.

The position is on a self-employed contract basis, terms of which will be negotiated. If you think you can take on the role and are interested in receiving further details on the job description and remuneration package or wish to

apply, please contact Leigh Sidaway the General Manager at gen.manager@bbka.org.uk or by phone 02476 696679 ext 2005.

Closing date 20th May 2022. Interviews 8th June 2022.

BBKA Winter Survival Survey

BBKA is again seeking information from us on the winter survival of our honey bee colonies.

Please use the link below to the Google Form and complete as soon as possible.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeQdE2IZWKvGLJVASLeeyC0NtZo0EWOufnP2bzVkcDovJTadw/viewform>

Thank you in anticipation.



WSBKA General Husbandry Study Group



Photograph courtesy of BBKA

The Study Group set up and facilitated by Gordon Allan and Tom Moore has just completed its last theory session.

Details were in the November and December Newsletters last year and members from three Divisions have been meeting up regularly on Sunday mornings in Petworth to work through the syllabus - fuelled by coffee and cake!

Mel Roberson, Martina Hendry and Richard Gibby from Wisborough Green; Fin Mcbratney from Worthing; and Alan Aldridge and Graham Elliott from Chichester were joined by Susan Kimber from Guildford. The group is now planning its practical beekeeping sessions, although only Mel is brave enough to consider taking the Assessment this year; the rest of us have cold feet!

But it's been an excellent inter-Association gathering and all have benefitted enormously from the time enjoyed together - and Mel's cakes were a great incentive!

Thanks to Gordon and Tom for devoting so much of their time to the Group.

Chairman's Chat

Chairman, Roger Patterson writes for the County News.



The WSBKA auction was held after a couple of years break and it was almost as if there was no break at all. Similar kit for sale, similar people buying it and similar price variations.

I have inspected the bees every year we have had them since the first auction in 1975. In the early days, there was a competition, where they were all judged, with the winner (only one prize) being sold first. The most I inspected and judged was 34 nucs, this around the time of the self – sufficiency boom of the late 1970s/early 1980s. The introduction of *Varroa* put paid to that, when there were no bees for sale for several years. In recent years the quality has been good, with this year's nucs being exceptional, which was reflected in the price. 'Two of the five nucs were bought by a Kent beekeeper.

When selling in the ring I don't know what is happening elsewhere, unless there is a problem, but apart from one issue everything seemed to run smoothly. My thanks go to all those who volunteered help, with a huge thankyou to Graham Elliott for organising the auction. He had less time than normal, with even stricter controls by the venue. Well done Graham.

Roger

chairman@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk

National Honey Monitoring Scheme

Working in partnership with UK beekeepers, the National Honey Monitoring Scheme aims to use honey bees to monitor long-term changes in the condition and health of the UK countryside. However, it needs the help of beekeepers if this scheme is to work.

With the help of beekeepers the scheme will collect honey samples from across the UK and continue to do this for many years.

These samples will be analysed using advanced DNA barcoding techniques to identify the species of plant pollen present. This will tell what bees are feeding on in different parts of the country and at different times of year. This information will help to identify possible threats to the floral resources of pollinating insects.



The results of the samplings will be shared with the beekeeper so to request your sampling pack visit the NHMS website: <https://honey-monitoring.ac.uk>

Around the Divisions

All Members are welcome to attend any Divisional meeting, but please advise the organiser if you plan to attend.

Central Sussex Division

Full details of the Division's activities from: chairman@centralsussexbka.org.uk or the Division's website: www.centralsussexbka.org.uk

Chichester Division

Wednesday 18th May - 'CBKA May Meeting' at 7:30pm. at the Boxgrove Village Hall, The Street, Boxgrove, PO18 0EE. Also available on Zoom.



Further details of the Division's activities from: Ray Green, secretary@chichesterbeekeepers.co.uk or the Division's website: www.chichesterbeekeepers.co.uk.

Wisborough Green Division

Details of the Division's activities 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

Thursday 12th May - 'WBKA May Meeting' at the Glebelands Centre, Greystoke Road, Ferring, BN12 5JL at 7:45pm.

Further details from: Debra Edwards, dmcd.edwards@gmail.com or the Division's website: www.worthing-beekeepers.org



'Share your Division's activities with readers of the County News'

...and a Date for your Diary

Friday 20th May - 'World Bee Day'. See the lead article in this Newsletter.



We are on facebook so if you would like your events featured please send details to the Editor.



...and finally

National Honey Show

This year's Show, the 91st, will be on 27th - 29th October at Sandown Park Race-course, Esher. Full details on the website: www.honeyshow.co.uk/.

Videos of the 2021 lectures are released on the first Friday of each month:
www.youtube.com/c/NationalHoneyShowUK/videos

The NHS has a long association with the *Brotherhood of Ukrainian Beekeepers* and has set up a *Just Giving* page to show support. Just under £15,000 has already been donated.

To donate: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/National-Honey-Show



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

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



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

