



# Asian Hornet Team Coordinator

After nearly 5 years in the role Melvyn Essen (Central Sussex) has decided to step aside from the role of Asian Hornet Team Coordinator for the county.

Melvyn is thanked for his diligence in the role and in establishing the various teams back in 2018. His leaving provides the opportunity for another member to take on the role of developing our action policy, coordinating the activities of the four divisional teams, liaising with the BBKA, and with the surrounding beekeeping associations.



We are in a prime area for the incursion of the Asian hornet and members will know there have been a number of sightings across the South Coast over the last few years. So this is a pivotal role in preparing the Association for what may lie ahead. The toll that the Asian hornet will take on our honey bee population if it becomes established in the UK is very well known.

This role is not a committee position but advises the committee every second month with a brief update on events in West Sussex. If you are interested in knowing more about the role please contact the County Secretary in the first instance:

**Graham Elliott**

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

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# Bee Fayre 400 Celebration

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**CHARLES BUTLER, THE FATHER OF ENGLISH BEE-KEEPING 400<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS AT HIS PASTORAL HOME**

**SATURDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> & SUNDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST**



We invite you to come and join us to celebrate Charles Butler, The Father of English Beekeeping, and his publication of *'The Feminine Monarchie'* in 1623 at his pastoral home of Wootton St Lawrence, Basingstoke, RG23 8PE, over the weekend of Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

For full details, please visit: <https://charles-butler400.co.uk/>

The organisers will be bringing the best of beekeeping speakers, performers and bee craft to these Celebrations with presentations inside the Church and stall holders and specialists outside in the Church Meadows. They include:

**Stile Antico**, the world's leading early music vocal ensemble will be performing on both days Charles Butler Bee Madrigal within his own church.

**Bostjan Noc and Peter Kozmus**, from the Slovenian Beekeepers' Association, who proposed 20<sup>th</sup> May as World Bee Day to the UN assembly and was adopted worldwide.

**Speakers from Europe, UAE, and the UK** will be presenting their expert views from bee sound vibrations to the value of honey.

**'The Hive' Education Centre** designed by beekeepers to tell the bee story to adults & children. Stallholders, BeeCraft, Organisations who want to tell their part of the bee story.

Come and share your love of bees to help communities understand the need to create a sustainable environment for bees to thrive. And that's not all....

Why not book your seat for one of the excellent sessions taking place over the weekend:

[www.charles-butler400.co.uk/get-involved](http://www.charles-butler400.co.uk/get-involved)

Take a little time out and be a volunteer for *'The Hive'* and / or other event activities:

[www.charles-butler400.co.uk/get](http://www.charles-butler400.co.uk/get)

Show your support by making a donation that will directly benefit these Celebrations and nominated causes: [www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/charles-butler400](http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/charles-butler400)

We have a responsibility to uphold and sustain the incredible observations, recordings, and teachings of Charles Butler. Please join us and be part of these incredibly special Celebrations.



**Ken Robson** Bee Fayre 400 Team

An event supported by Basingstoke & District Beekeepers: <https://basingstokebees.co.uk/>

## Chairman's Chat

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*Chairman, Roger Patterson writes for the County News.*

**A**t Wisborough Green BKA we have recently had beekeepers from four other BKAs visit us, as they wanted to see how we operate our teaching apiary. They were individuals from Horley, Eastbourne and Nuneaton BKAs and a group of about a dozen from our neighbours, Petersfield BKA. In my book *'The Teaching Apiary: A Brilliant Resource'*, I mention there are many different ways that BKAs teach their members. These four were quite varied too, resulting in some interesting and hopefully fruitful discussion.

I regularly speak to beekeepers, mainly from outside West Sussex, who are frustrated their BKAs only allow the first year beginners into the teaching apiary, after that, they are on their own. At first glance, this isn't sensible, but very often there are good reasons, such as limited space, small number of colonies or shortage of demonstrators. It's easy to criticise without knowing the situation.

Surprisingly, in 60 years of beekeeping, I have never visited Central Sussex or Worthing apiaries, and Chichester only once. We are all Divisions of WSBKA and there is an open invitation to visit other Divisions in the WSBKA newsletter, so why doesn't it happen? Is it because beekeepers don't see the relevance of WSBKA? Do they think parochially? Don't they read the newsletter? Are they busy? Is it too far? Are they concerned they won't know anyone? Are they waiting for a personal invitation? I don't know the answer, probably because there may be several. All I know is that by visiting others, it is possible to pick up information that may help you understand and care for your bees better, so perhaps we are missing an opportunity or two. I am regularly invited to demonstrate outside West Sussex and I find I am always learning something new.

I started writing this to tell you a little about what has happened at Wisborough Green BKA, but as I got further into it, ideas have developed. I don't wish to push anyone into doing something they would rather not, but I am one of the few members who can remember our County Field Days (How many others can?).

They were run by the County Beekeeping Instructor (CBI), Harry Thompson, at Kingsham Farm Apiary, just off the Chichester by-pass. These were monthly events, held on Saturday afternoons. As a modern version, could we not ask each Division (there are four) to host a 'county field day' as one of their meetings, say, April, May, June, July? There would be many benefits including a learning opportunity, seeing how others handle colonies, learning different management techniques and of course meeting other beekeepers. Rather than always being apiary based perhaps it could be an indoor event, such as honey extraction/processing or the recent WGBKA 'Making things with beeswax day'.



*Kingsham c.1964*

Again, whilst writing this, I have thought a bit further, such as the variation in soil types WSBKA members keep their bees on - clay, gravel, chalk, sand, etc. that can show variations in the way bees are managed only a short distance away. Perhaps this topic could be a discussion point for WSBKA, but if you have any ideas, then chat to your BKA.

**Roger**

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

## BIBBA Conference 2023

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The 2023 BIBBA conference will be held in Carmarthen on **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September** at University of Wales, Trinity Saint David, Carmarthen, Wales, SA31 3EP.

There will be a wide variety of topics to suit all beekeepers with two streams:-

- **'Early Years'** for beekeepers who are developing their knowledge and skills and want to move on from what they may have been taught as beginners.
- **'Later Years'** is aimed at beekeepers who wish to move on from the knowledge and skill they have acquired by keeping bees for several years.

The topics have been selected to help attendees increase their knowledge with some thought-provoking ideas and information.

Full details are on the BIBBA website: <https://bibba.com/conference-2023/> where you can book your tickets and enjoy an early booking discount, but note -

**Early Bird Offer Ends 10<sup>th</sup> July!**



# Bee Health Day

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Wisborough Green BKA in association with NBU South East Region



National  
Bee Unit

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July from 9:30 am - 4:30 pm approx.**  
**Kelsey Hall, Chalk Road, Ifold, West Sussex, RH14 0UD**

[www.kelseyhall.org.uk/](http://www.kelseyhall.org.uk/)

**Varroa control options:** A talk and discussion regarding authorised varroacides and biotechnical methods for the management of *Varroa* infestation.

**The Asian hornet, *Vespa velutina*:** The current situation and best advice on detection, trapping and reporting.

**Specimen brood frames:** A chance to see and handle brood frames exhibiting the signs of the notifiable diseases, American Foul Brood (AFB) & European Foul Brood (EFB). Also, frames with minor brood disorders such as chalkbrood and sacbrood that may be confused with AFB and EFB.

**Pest and disease inspection techniques:** This session, in the WG teaching apiary, will demonstrate the methods used by Bee Inspectors in their work, looking for notifiable exotic pests, notifiable honey bee disease and minor brood disorders.

**Please bring clean protective clothing for the session at the apiary.**

**The two notifiable Foul Brood diseases are uncommon and the vast majority of beekeepers will never see them in a colony. That is the danger, because beekeepers are not looking for them and may not recognise them. This event gives the opportunity of seeing notifiable diseases in the comb, therefore we encourage attendance.**

Drinks available during the day. Please bring a packed lunch. There is only one small, local shop in Ifold.

There is limited parking at the hall. If possible please share transport.

**The cost of the day is £10. Booking is essential. The total number will be restricted to 60 participants allocated on a first come, first served basis. Because of the low cost no refunds will be given.**

**All enquiries to: [honeybee@wgbka.org.uk](mailto:honeybee@wgbka.org.uk).**

To book your place please use: <https://wgbka-beehealth-2023.eventbrite.co.uk>

The event will be posted on the Wisborough Green BKA website:

[www.wgbka.org.uk/Events\\_Diary.html](http://www.wgbka.org.uk/Events_Diary.html)



## Around the Divisions

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

### Central Sussex Division



**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July** - 'Honey Pitch', at the Fulking Fair, Longclay's Field, Fulking, BN5 9LN. Full details of the Division's activities from: [secretary@centralsussexbeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:secretary@centralsussexbeekeepers.org.uk) or the Division's website: <https://centralsussexbeekeepers.org.uk/>

### Chichester Division



**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July** - 'Bees for Development', with Janet Owore, from 7:30pm at Boxgrove Village Hall, The Street, Boxgrove, PO18 OEE. Further details of the Division's activities from: Cheryl Barton, [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

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July** - 'Bee Health Day', in association with the NBU, South East Region. Kelsey Hall, Chalk Road, Ifold, RH14 0UD from 9:30am. See article in this Newsletter. Further details of the Division's activities from: Martina Hendry, [secretary@wgbka.org.uk](mailto:secretary@wgbka.org.uk) or the Division's website: [www.wgbka.org.uk](http://www.wgbka.org.uk). Newsletters may be viewed here: [www.wgbka.org.uk/Newsletters.html](http://www.wgbka.org.uk/Newsletters.html)

### Worthing Division



Full details of the Division's activities from: Debra Edwards, [dmcd.edwards@gmail.com](mailto:dmcd.edwards@gmail.com) or the Division's website: [www.worthing-beekeepers.org](http://www.worthing-beekeepers.org)

## ...and Dates for your Diary

**10<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> July** - 'BBKA Bees Needs Week'. An annual event coordinated by Defra to raise awareness of bees and other pollinators. [www.bbka.org.uk/news/bees-needs-week](http://www.bbka.org.uk/news/bees-needs-week)

**19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> August** - 'Bee Fayre 400 Celebration'. See article in this Newsletter

**2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> September** - 'BIBBA Conference'. See article in this Newsletter

**23<sup>rd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> September** - 'South of England Honey Show'. Details in the [May Newsletter](#) or on the website: [www.seas.org.uk/competing-autumn-show-horse-trials/](http://www.seas.org.uk/competing-autumn-show-horse-trials/)

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

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



...and finally

## Asian hornet Update

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The NBU has reported two further sightings of the Asian hornet in the South East of England during May.

The first was on 18<sup>th</sup> near Ashford in Kent. This has been identified as a single hornet incursion.

The second was on 28<sup>th</sup> in Canterbury and this is being investigated.

Remember to report sightings of *Vespa velutina* using the 'Asian hornet Watch' app or the online reporting form.

[https://risc.brc.ac.uk/alert.php?species=asian\\_hornet](https://risc.brc.ac.uk/alert.php?species=asian_hornet)

### 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 20<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.  
[secretary@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:secretary@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk)

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



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