



Asian Hornet Action Team

Asian hornet queens have again been trapped in Kent and East Sussex this Spring. Our own Asian hornet team has met recently in preparation for what might be an incursion of the Asian hornet into West Sussex this year.

All Divisions were represented at the meeting led by Ben Hewson, our County Coordinator, and the following actions were proposed:

- The BBKA Guidance for Asian Hornet Monitoring & Trapping will be adopted. Full details from your AHAT team.
- A WhatsApp group will be established for the Divisions' AHAT Coordinators and deputies.
- Divisional AHAT team members will be registered with their agreed involvement and availability. A second WhatsApp group will then be formed.
- Hosts for bait stations and traps will be identified and sites mapped.
- A new Asian hornet poster will be designed and agreed.



In phase two of the strategy liaison will be established with neighbouring counties for planning and deployment of resources.

Relationships will continue to be built with other interested parties including WSCC, farming groups, schools, colleges and similar organisations.

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Asian Hornet Update



On 10th May, a further hornet was found near Four Oaks, East Sussex, in traps that the NBU has been monitoring in the area. This makes a total of five queens caught in this area.

Two further hornets have been captured and killed in Kent. On 15th May, a hornet was found in a monitoring trap set by a beekeeper in Denton. On 16th May, a hornet was found by a member of the public in Etchinghill.

The specimens have been collected and sent to the lab for official confirmation and analysis.

On 21st May, the NBU responded to a report of an Asian hornet in Canterbury, Kent. A primary nest was found at the location which was removed and has been sent to the lab for official confirmation and analysis. The NBU will continue to monitor the area for any hornet activity.

Hampshire Beekeepers' Bee Health Day

Hampshire Beekeepers are organising a Bee Health Day on Saturday 15th June in association with the local NBU team.

This team will be headed by Senior Bee Inspector, Dan Etheridge and will be hosted by [Sparsholt College](#) in their Sainsbury Building, Westley Lane, Sparsholt Hampshire, SO21 2NF.

Reception is from 9am with delegates then splitting into three workshops: **Varroa Management and Veterinary Medicines, Diseased Comb Practical Workshop and Apiary Hygiene & Barrier Management.**

Lunch may be purchased from the venues on campus.

At the conclusion of the workshops there will be a central briefing on the Yellow Legged Asian Hornet before the event closes around 5pm.

Directions - [Sparsholt College Directions](#), [What3Words Navigation](#)

Download an enquiry form - [Enquiry Form](#) (or call 01962 797259)

The cost of attendance is £10 for the whole day.

[Purchase Tickets](#)

With thanks to Hampshire Beekeepers' Association for extending the invitation to West Sussex BKA members.



Harry's Herald

Harry Boxall writes for the County News.

In the early 1990s I was in Barbados and took the opportunity to visit a local beekeeper. It transpired he was the only beekeeper on the island. He was a tailor by profession but kept 24 hives on a small plot of land behind his shop.

The hives were lined up in 6 rows of 4 with hardly enough space to walk between each. I was provided with a pith helmet and veil which barely covered my shoulders and with my shorts and T-shirt I must have presented a strange sight. The beekeeper whose name I have forgotten wore no bee protection and he proceeded to open 4 or more hives at the same time to demonstrate the bee characteristics and temperament. The bees didn't seem to mind the inspection and just ignored us.



Each season he took off a large amount of honey witnessed by the fact that each hive had 2 supers and he showed me a large rain butt that was full of honey. He was interested to hear that honey in the UK crystallised after a time compared to Barbados where it remained liquid despite the length of time it was stored. The honey was sold by the bottle – usually an empty rum bottle brought by the customer. It was filled from the tap on the rain butt and I believe the charge then was a Barbadian dollar (*about 39p now!*). He said the locals would think there was something wrong with the honey if they were ever offered a set version.

He recounted a story about a nasty colony that he was asked to remove from someone's property and they were so aggressive they chased him in large numbers for a long distance and he had to shelter in a nearby house. Every time he emerged from the house the bees were waiting for him which caused him to stay in the house until it was dark and he could make good his escape.

On another occasion he was required to move a swarm from a tower in a building. For some reason access was via a parallel tower from which he had to cross by putting out a ladder horizontally and crawling over. Having reached the bees the ladder then fell away leaving him no exit route. He remained close to the bees for 4 hours before someone heard his cries for help.

I was thinking about this in comparison to the beekeeping we perform nowadays. Health and safety is paramount, honey is extracted in sterile conditions then jarred and correctly labelled and records kept. Varroa, CCD, the arrival of the Asian hornet, the threat of Small hive beetle and cold wet weather makes beekeeping in Barbados at that time seem idyllic in comparison. However, we do what we do because we like beekeeping and we care about the bees no matter what nature may throw at us.

Harry

chairman@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk

BBKA Update



Kerstin Lilley has been appointed as the Exam Secretary, based in the BBKA Office at Stoneleigh, where she is also working with the Education & Husbandry committee on training.

Nicky Campbell has very kindly agreed to work in the background with Kerstin over the next few months to make the transition as seamless as possible and the BBKA has expressed thanks to Nicky for doing this and for all her hard work over the past 4 years.

You can contact Kerstin on sec.exams@bbka.org.uk or her telephone number is 02476 696679 ext 2003. Her working hours are Monday – Friday 8:30-4:30 and during any periods of absence either Erica Challis or Leigh Sidaway will be available to assist.

There's a lot for Kerstin to learn so please be patient and supportive as she gets up to speed.

BBKA Zoom Talk – *'Food Safety for Beekeepers'*

The next in the BBKA series of Zoom talks will be *'Food Safety for Beekeepers'* with Andy Pedley on **Tuesday 18th June at 7pm.**

Andy has been keeping bees for 30 years and, as an EHO, developed an interest in the law on food safety as it applies to beekeepers and honey production. He realised that there was a fair amount of misinformation and traditional, but not always good, practice among beekeepers. In 2009, he authored a series in BeeCraft on the Food Safety Legislation and has authored other relevant articles for them too on the Honey Regulations and Recycling jars. He has recently worked more on the nuts and bolts of food safety for beekeepers and has presented talks on this and the Food Safety law as it applies to beekeepers at the National Honey Show and to local associations. Northern Bee Books asked him to produce a book and this is now in print www.northernbeebooks.co.uk/products/food-safety-for-beekeeper-pedley/. Andy is currently the Training Apiary Manager for Oxfordshire BKA; this gives him responsibility for 10 colonies there as well as his own 7 in various apiaries around Oxfordshire.

Join the Zoom meeting -

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89112458024?pwd=A6mjvQkdlaJyHxasvB8ZaKRMvJBUI.1>

Meeting ID - 891 1245 8024 Passcode - 933716

This talk will also be streamed to YouTube for those unavailable to watch live and the link will be available on our website: www.bbka.org.uk/bbka-zoom-talks

Ocado search for the best local honey

The BBKA is working in partnership with online supermarket Ocado and the celebrity cook Nigella Lawson in a competition to champion honeys produced by small-scale beekeepers and to discover an outstanding British honey. The beekeeper with the best honey will win £2,000 and the BBKA will receive a £1,000 donation. Online applications close at **14.00 on 28th June 2024** but if the maximum number of 100 entries is reached before this date, then the competition will close earlier.

Entrants will be sent labels and given full details of where and how to submit four matching jars of liquid honey (min weight 227g) for judging. Honey entries must be received by **5th July**. The winner will be announced during the week commencing **22nd July**.

For details and to enter visit: www.ocado.com/honeyheroes

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



Details of the Division's activities from: secretary@centralsussexbeekeepers.org.uk or the Division's website: <https://centralsussexbeekeepers.org.uk/>

Chichester Division



Saturday 22nd June - Special members' event at Lordington House. Further details of the Division's activities from: Cheryl Barton, secretary@chichesterbeekeepers.co.uk or the Division's website: www.chichesterbeekeepers.co.uk.

Wisborough Green Division

Full details of the Division's activities from: Martina Hendry, secretary@wgbka.org.uk or the Division's website: www.wgbka.org.uk.

Newsletters may be viewed here: www.wgbka.org.uk/Newsletters.html

Worthing Division



Full details of the Division's activities on 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



7th to 9th June - 'South of England Show'. Ardingly Showground, Selsfield Road, RH17 6TL
See article in last month's newsletter.

www.seas.org.uk/south-of-england-show/

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



...and finally

Examination Success



In March this year two WSBKA members sat BBKA Modules on-line. Congratulations to Alan Aldridge (Chichester) who achieved Distinction in **Module 6 - Honey Bee Behaviour**, and Martina Hendry (Wisborough Green) achieved Credit in **Module 2 - Honey Bee Products and Forage**.

Congratulations also to Tammy Vernon, Tony Cairncross and Andrew Bellamy from Worthing who passed the **Basic Assessment Certificate** in May. Tammy with Distinction, Tony with Credit and Andrew with a Pass.

Many thanks to our assessors Tom Moore and Gordon Allan for giving so freely and willingly of their time despite the unpredictable weather conditions, and for the use of their apiary for the assessments.

Sue Elliott

examinationsecretary@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

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



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