



Bee Market & Auction

The annual Bee Market & Auction is this month. The venue is again Chichester College's Brinsbury Campus in Pulborough on **Saturday 26th April.**

WE NEED YOU! Around 40 members are needed to ensure an organised and enjoyable experience for the 200 or so visitors to one of the Association's main events of the year. So if you can spare some time on the day please contact either Ben Hewson (CS) or me. We have a number of positions still to fill from Lot Stewards outside to administration roles in the Sussex restaurant.



Your Association needs YOU

I am still accepting Lots to come under the hammer and full details can be found on the WSBKA website — Auction page together with an Entry Form to register your Lots for sale.

www.westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk/auction.html

Ben Hewson—ben@benhewson.com

Graham

Secretary & Auction Coordinator

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West Sussex BKA Annual General Meeting



The Association's 52nd AGM was held online on Tuesday 25th March. 10 members came together on 'Zoom' to elect the executives for the year ahead and to review the financial results as presented by the Treasurer and the key events of 2024/5.

Gordon Allan (WG) was subsequently elected to the role of President. Roger Patterson (WG) was elected to Chair, Christine Stevens (C) to Vice Chair, Brian Hose (C) continues as Treasurer and Graham Elliott (C) as Secretary.

Gordon Allan started his beekeeping in 2006 when he attended a Wisborough Green BKA Beginners' course. Although his first bees died during the first winter, he persevered, building up the numbers of colonies. Over the years, along with his partner Tom Moore, he has kept up to 40 colonies, though now the number is more manageable at under 10.

He has been Treasurer, Membership Secretary and a demonstrator at Wisborough Green and is the Membership Secretary for West Sussex BKA. He was an early adopter of the online membership system eR2, helping with its development. He has always been interested in the scientific side of beekeeping, having graduated with a BSc in Biochemistry from the University of Sussex.

Having passed the BBKA Basic Assessment, this was followed by the Certificate in Beekeeping Husbandry in 2012 and the Intermediate Theory Certificate. He is an Assessor for the Junior Certificate, BBKA Basic and Honeybee Health Certificate.

With Tom he has run several revision sessions for prospective candidates for the BBKA Basic and three study groups for the General Certificate in Beekeeping Husbandry for West Sussex BKA. Following his election as President Gordon said, *'I am looking forward to WSBKA continuing to thrive and hope we can attract newer (and younger!) members to the Executive'*.



The Auction's Plant Stall



A regular and very popular addition to the Annual Bee Market & Auction is the **Plant Stall** run for many years by Sue Cooper.

This always makes a significant financial contribution to the Association's coffers as well as being greatly appreciated by all visitors to the Brinsbury Campus.

Sue is seeking donations to the **Stall** this year as she no longer runs her own market garden and is seeking a variety of plants. House and Garden Plants as well as tomato, cucumber, courgette and other vegetables to be grown on during the Spring and Summer would be appreciated.

Sue is also seeking help running the **Stall** during the morning so if you can spare some time or make a donation to the stall, however small, please contact Sue on email or mobile:

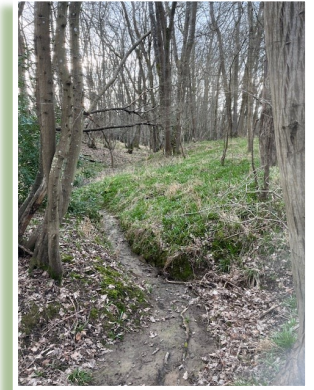
woodbugs23@gmail.com or 01798 870 461

Des Res for Honey Bees

Landowners in Slinfold are offering space on their 32 acre farm for a small number of honey bee colonies. The site on offer includes an orchard in a very quiet and safe rural location close to an ancient woodland full of wild garlic and bluebells in the spring. A wildflower meadow is also planned.

Access to the site is via a public footpath on a private driveway where there is scope to park a few cars in the lane on the verge.

If you would like to know more contact the Estate Manager, Jamie Davis jamie.rowan.davis@gmail.com



Chichester Beekeepers - new teaching apiary opens

Chichester Beekeepers has inaugurated the new teaching apiary at Westerton on the Goodwood Estate.

The 'Class of 25' from the 'Introduction to Beekeeping' course met at the apiary on Saturday 22nd March for their first of three practical training sessions. For many of them this was their first opportunity to see inside a colony of honey bees.

The apiary was moved from the Aldingbourne Country Centre to Westerton during the winter where it has been established for over 15 years. CBKA's president, Norman Dingemans, who was also Apiary Manager at the Country Centre has handed over responsibility of the new apiary to Alan Aldridge. Alan achieved his General Husbandry Certificate in 2023.

The new apiary will open for the season to all Chichester Beekeepers' members in April when the Beginners' course finishes.



An Opportunity

A pub in Midhurst is offering a commercial opportunity to a WSBKA member in the area. The correspondence from the manager follows:

'I'm looking for a local Beekeeper to work with here at the Royal Oak. What I have in mind is to have a few hives in our Garden for our customers to admire and watch, and for the Beekeeper to run a few Beekeeping master classes for people that want to learn and know more about Bees.

The classes would of course be something that we charge for where the Beekeeper would gain the majority of the fee, and it would be great to also sell some of the honey in branded jars where the Beekeeper would get 100% of the sales.

It would be great if anyone that might be interested could reach out to me on Oli@royaloakmidhurst.co.uk.



BBKA Training Update



In December the free Module Study resources for members were launched on BBKA Learning Online. These materials have been developed for use by both groups and individuals who want to self study.

<https://learning.bbka.org.uk/course/index.php?categoryid=2>

Take a look at the YouTube video of a BBKA lecture on running study groups using the Module Study resources. This can also be accessed via the Learning Online platform (Training Resources for Members): <https://learning.bbka.org.uk/course/index.php?categoryid=1>

For those members who would like to study exactly the same materials but submit their work to a tutor for marking and feedback, the BBKA is relaunching their correspondence courses. These will run twice a year as a six month course - from 1st April to 30th September and from 1st October to 31st March and the cost will be £100 per course.

For further information search 'Correspondence Courses' on the BBKA website: www.bbka.org.uk

email: corrscourses@bbka.org.uk with further questions.

The correspondence courses starting 1st April are now available to purchase from the BBKA webshop.

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

Chichester Division



Wednesday 16th April - 'Many Uses of Nucleus Hives' with Christine Coulsting from 7:30pm. Boxgrove Village Hall, The Street, Boxgrove, Chichester, PO18 0EE. 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: Carol Montgomery, 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



Thursday 10th April - 'Monthly Meeting'. The Glebelands Centre, Greystoke Road, Ferring, BN12 5JL from 7:30pm. 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 Dates for your Diary



Friday 4th to Sunday 6th April - 'BBKA Spring Convention'. See article in this newsletter



Saturday 26th April - 'West Sussex Beekeepers' 49th Bee Market & Auction'. From 8:30am at Chichester College's Brinsbury Campus, Pulborough, RH20 1DL. Details in this Newsletter and at www.westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk/auction.html

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



...and finally

BBKA Spring Convention - this month

Harper Adams University, Shropshire, TF10 8NB

Friday 4th – Sunday 6th April 2025

Bumper Trade Show Saturday 5th April*

20+ Lectures & 70+ Workshops/Seminars

Wristband ticket prices held at 2023 prices

Trade Show only tickets just £6 on the day*

Programme, FAQs & Bookings: www.bbka.org.uk/springconvention



MEMBERS' COUNTY NEWSLETTER

Thanks to 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.

