

West Sussex Beekeepers' Association Annual Convention – 24th February 2018

Speakers' Profiles

The West Sussex Beekeepers' Annual Convention has again attracted top speakers to cover a wide range of topics throughout the day. As well as the main lectures, you can attend two additional seminars on different subjects. Please indicate your choices in order of preference as spaces on some seminars will be limited. We will, of course, do our very best to meet your individual wishes. **Please apply as soon as possible to have the best chance of attending your preferred seminars.** We hope there will be plenty to interest you.

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Gerry Collins

Gerry first became interested in honey bees as a child after seeing the observation hive at Dudley Zoo. He joined his school beekeeping club and his parents gave him his first hive as a reward for passing the 11+ exam. He has since clocked up 59 years of beekeeping experience, become a Master beekeeper and member of the BBKA Examinations Board and is still active today as a BBKA examiner at all levels.

Graduating in Zoology from the University of London (Royal Holloway College) he spent most of his working life in Yorkshire lecturing in Biology at Doncaster College, retiring in 2007 to spend more time with his 25+ colonies and extending the collection of photographs he uses to illustrate articles in the BBKA News and presentations delivered at beekeeping Conventions and Association meetings throughout the UK. His main talk is entitled 'What's going on in my Hive' and he will also be running a seminar on 'The Curse of the Wax Moth'.

Dr Gerry Brierley

Gerry is an 'accidental apitherapist' and beekeeper, who, after an encounter with blood sucking ticks in the Surrey Hills contracted near fatal forms of tick-borne infections. Gerry opens up the natural pharmacy at the bottom of your garden to discuss the diversity of premium hive produce for general health and healing - in particular, bringing the therapeutic benefits of bee venom therapy into modern day applications for chronic illness. Gerry will share her personal survival story along with supporting scientific evidence of how using bee venom has saved her life and many thousands of others including man's best friend.

Gerry has a diverse background in business entrepreneurship and academia and was Specially Recognised British Female and Inventor and Innovator 2005. Her PhD researched subconscious communication techniques with a multidisciplinary fusion of psychology, law and neuroscience. Gerry's interests include research into tick-borne infections and bee hive design for apitherapists. Her aim is to increase awareness of bee venom therapy and create a matchmaking bee supply service between beekeepers and individuals in need of bee venom therapy and other hive products such as propolis. Gerry also enjoys sculling, archaeology, wild foraging, bee portraiture, wildlife, behavioural economics and dowsing, she is also a qualified pilot and a Druid.

Professor Glen Jeffrey

Glen is a Professor of Neuroscience and leads a team of researchers at a world class research centre based at University College London's Institute of Ophthalmology. He has been there since 1990. His background is in understanding vision, and recently how this declines with age. The slow mechanisms of visual decline in us are similar to the rapid changes that occur when pesticides are used to kill insects including bees. This produces reduced mobility and leads them to die of starvation as they are unable to go out and forage to feed themselves.

His team are studying near-infrared light therapy because of its benefits not only for bees, but also for other animals including humans, particularly to counteract effects of ageing and a range of neurological diseases.

Glen will be speaking on the 'Use of Light to reverse effects of Neonicotinoids on Bees'. His research team has discovered that treating bees with light therapy can counteract the harmful effects of neonicotinoid pesticides and improve the survival rates of poisoned bees.

Jean Mozley

Jean has kept bees for over 38 years, 10 years as a hobby beekeeper then from 1990 as a commercial bee farmer running 200 hives. For a woman this was rare! A member of the Dover and District Beekeepers Association and until recently their Vice-Chair, she is also a DASH scheme member - Fera's 'Disease Accreditation Scheme for Honeybees', which is supported by the Bee Farmers Association and the National Bee Unit.

Jean is a hugely experienced beekeeper in a practical sense and having taken bee exams. She runs the commercial beekeeping business 'Bees4u' and breeds and sells British queens and nucs in Newington, Kent. Jean's queens are open mated, tested to make sure they have good hygienic behaviour and have a reputation for being gentle and productive. Jean will be running two seminars, both offering much needed practical help on 'Requeening & Queen Introduction' and 'Swarm Control, My Way'.

Claire Waring

Claire Waring and her husband, Adrian, have kept bees for over eighty years between them and throughout that time she has been involved in and made a significant contribution to the work of both local and national beekeeping associations such as the BBKA and the Bee Improvement and Bee Breeders' Association (BIBBA).

She is a founding trustee of the UK charity Bees Abroad, which seeks to relieve poverty in developing countries through beekeeping and also co-author of beekeeping books 'The Haynes Bee Manual' and 'Keeping Bees'. Both books offer practical advice for anyone planning to take up beekeeping and are enhanced by her interest in photography.

Perhaps one of the most important contributions Claire continues to make to us as beekeepers is as current Editor of the monthly magazine Bee Craft. Claire's influence has made it one of the leading beekeeping magazines, achieving international acclaim. Claire will be leading two seminars - 'Up Close and Dangerous' (photographing bees and other insects) and 'Big Bees, Little Bees & Bees that don't Sting'.

Sandra Gray

Sandra has been a beekeeper since 2003. She joined the National Bee Unit in 2010 as a Seasonal Bee Inspector for the Eastern Region, working across Suffolk, north Essex and south Norfolk. She has experience as a Stansted Imports Inspector while working as a Plant Health Seeds Inspector over the past three winter seasons and in March 2017 was appointed Regional Bee Inspector for South East England, covering East Sussex, Greater London, Kent, Surrey and, of course, West Sussex.

When not involved with bees Sandra is an enthusiastic supporter of Ipswich Town Football Club.

Sandra will be running a seminar entitled 'Bee Diseases – Identification & Control'. Hugely important in keeping our bees productive and healthy.