



# Annual Convention

**A final reminder to book a place at the Convention on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February.**



The Convention has again attracted a renowned group of speakers to cover a wide range of topics with the main lectures being presented by Gerry Collins, Dr Gerry Brierley and Professor Glen Jeffery.

You can also choose to attend two out of the six seminars and in between times it is a great opportunity to catch up with beekeeping friends throughout the County and beyond.

**Please note that there are speaker amendments to the seminar programme. David and Celia Rudland will each run a seminar in place of Jean Mozley. They are well known to us in West Sussex and excellent speakers. Updated details are now available on the WSBKA website.**

Remember, you can also stock up on beekeeping equipment and reading matter from [Paynes Southdown Bee Farms](#). Order in advance and pick up on the day.

Tea and coffee will be served during the breaks and also a simple lunch.

Advance booking per person for WSBKA members, £22. Members of other Associations and non-members, £27. On the day if space allows, £27. Book now to ensure you get a place and can attend your preferred seminars.

*Continues over*

**Inside this issue:**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <i>New BBKA Website</i>                                | 2 |
| <i>BBKA Modules</i>                                    | 2 |
| <i>BBKA Spring Convention</i>                          | 3 |
| <i>Bee Market &amp; Auction</i>                        | 3 |
| <i>Around the Divisions &amp; Dates For Your Diary</i> | 4 |
| <i>Melvyn's Missive</i>                                | 5 |
| <i>beeWatch</i>  | 5 |
| <i>Remembering John Stevens</i>                        | 6 |
| <i>Swarm Collectors 2018</i>                           | 7 |
| <i>Annual Delegate Meeting</i>                         | 7 |
| <i>Beekeeping Opportunity</i>                          | 8 |
| <i>West Sussex BKA website</i>                         | 8 |

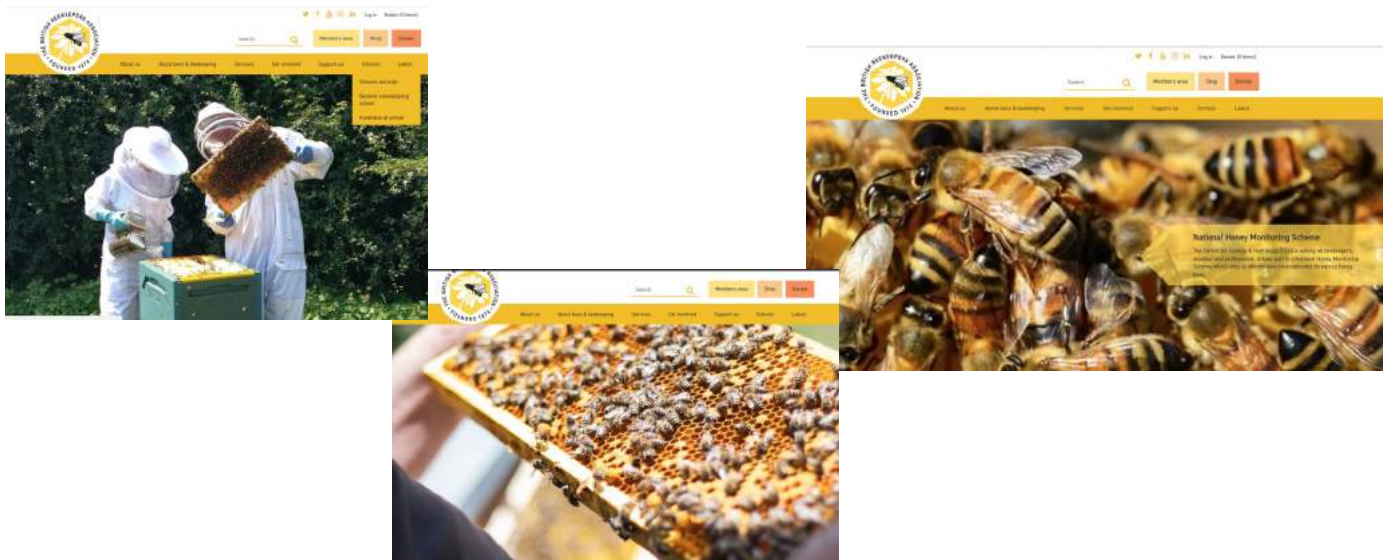
Contact Gordon Allan on 01798 343470 or email [wsbkaconvention@gmail.com](mailto:wsbkaconvention@gmail.com) or see the website [www.westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk/convention.html](http://www.westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk/convention.html)

Remember the special bonus for beginner beekeepers! In conjunction with Paynes, we are pleased to offer a £10 Payne's voucher to the first 10 beekeepers from WSBKA who book a place at the Convention in 2018 and who have attended a Beginners' training course at any Division of the WSBKA in 2017. It is a special opportunity to make a beekeeping purchase with a high discount!

**WSBKA Annual Convention – Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2018**  
**Lodge Hill Centre, Watersfield, Pulborough, RH20 1LZ.**

## New BBKA Website

The new BBKA website went live on 15<sup>th</sup> January so please take a look: [www.bbka.org.uk](http://www.bbka.org.uk). On your first visit, to get into the Members' only area, you will need to register as your old login details will not work on this new website.



## BBKA Modules



A reminder to those wishing to take BBKA Modules this spring, the closing date for entries is **10<sup>th</sup> February**. However, they should be with me by **1<sup>st</sup> February** to allow me time for processing and posting to BBKA.

Thank you.

**Kaz Powell**

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

71 Cuckfield Crescent, Worthing, BN13 2EB



## BBKA Spring Convention 2018

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The 41<sup>st</sup> BBKA Spring Convention will be held on **13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> April** at Harper Adams University, Newport, Shropshire, TF10 8NB.

The Convention offers over 20 Lectures, 40+ Workshops & Courses, food and accommodation. Activities are also available for non-beekeepers.

Saturday's Trade Show will include all the main suppliers from 8:30am to 4:30pm.

Book via the BBKA website and note there is a bookable shuttle service from Stafford station. Tickets are £25 for members if booked in advance and £30 for non-members. If purchased on the day the price goes up to £30 and £35 respectively. Entry to the Trade Show only is £5 on the day.

[www.bbka.org.uk/Event/spring-convention-2018](http://www.bbka.org.uk/Event/spring-convention-2018)

## Bee Market & Auction - 21<sup>st</sup> April

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**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April is the date of our annual Bee Market & Auction** at the Brinsbury Campus in Pulborough - our 43<sup>rd</sup>. If you have some time available on the day to help with the successful running of the event please contact me. Tasks include assisting in the Auction Ring or serving tea and coffee.

Details are now on the county website so if you have surplus equipment you wish to sell download the Entry Form and Guidance Notes. Closing date for entries is 11<sup>th</sup> April or earlier once we reach capacity.



Melvyn Essen will be running the popular plant stall this year and if you can make a contribution to the stall please contact Melvyn on e-mail: [mrandmj@gmail.com](mailto:mrandmj@gmail.com) or 07811 070294 for more details.

Worthing Division will again be running a tombola for the benefit of the WSBKA exchequer and all prize donations will be gratefully received.

As always, your support is greatly appreciated.

**Graham**

[secretary@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:secretary@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk) 07761 349281 or 01403 752493

# 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

Details from Debbie Rowland: [chairman@centralsussexbka.org.uk](mailto:chairman@centralsussexbka.org.uk) or website: [www.centralsussexbka.org.uk](http://www.centralsussexbka.org.uk)

## Chichester Division

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February** - *'Remote hive monitoring & Asian Hornet detection'*, a talk by Arnia at the Fishbourne Centre, Blackboy Lane, Fishbourne, Chichester, PO18 8BE at 7:30pm.

Details from: [secretary@chichesterbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:secretary@chichesterbeekeepers.co.uk) or website: [www.chichesterbeekeepers.co.uk](http://www.chichesterbeekeepers.co.uk)

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

## Wisborough Green Division

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February** - Workshops with Jim Ryan *'Making good use of your beeswax'*, Hampers Green Community Centre, North Street, Petworth, GU28 9NL. Details in previous newsletters or from Sue Elliott: [secretary@wgbka.org.uk](mailto:secretary@wgbka.org.uk) or website: [www.wgbka.org.uk](http://www.wgbka.org.uk)

## Worthing Division

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February** - Monthly Meeting at the Ferring Village Hall, Ferring Street, Ferring, BN12 5JP at 7:30pm.

Further details from Len Lewis: [secretary@worthingbeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:secretary@worthingbeekeepers.org.uk) or the Division's website: [www.worthingbeekeepers.org.uk](http://www.worthingbeekeepers.org.uk)

## ... and Dates for your Diary

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February** - *BIBBA Conference at The Eden Project*, Bodelva, Cornwall, PL24 2SG. See article in the November Newsletter.

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February** - *WSBKA Annual Convention*. Lodge Hill Centre, Watersfield, Pulborough, RH20 1LZ. Full details in this and previous Newsletters and on the county website.

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April** - *BBKA Spring Convention 2018*. Harper Adams University, Newport, Shropshire, TF10 8NB. Tickets now on sale. Visit [www.bbka.org.uk](http://www.bbka.org.uk).

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April** - *Annual Bee Market & Auction*, now in its 43rd year. Chichester College's Brinsbury Campus, North Heath, Pulborough, RH20 1DL. Full details are now on the website together with an Entry Form to download.



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



## Melvyn's Missive

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*Chairman, Melvyn Essen, writes for the County News*

I hope to see many of you at our Convention on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February. If the last few years are anything to go by it should be an excellent day.

It's a day that should appeal to beginners and to more experienced beekeepers. It's also a chance to speak to other members of other groups and if you haven't been to the Convention before give it a go. I'm sure you won't be disappointed and you may be inspired to try something new with your own bees this year.

*Varroa* control seems to create more and more problems - should we or shouldn't we treat? And if so, with what? And when? When you think you have a happy medium you find your preferred treatment could be more harmful to bees (and to you) than you thought! I'm referring to the use of vaporized Oxalic acid - something I was reluctant to do. Is it safe for the bees and for us? However, it seems to work and perhaps it's better than using a pesticide like Apitraz. Let's hope research like the ReViVe project will come up with a new understanding and a new way of managing *Varroa*.

### **Melvyn**

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

## beeWatch

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A commercial company called **uWatch** has developed an app. to advise beekeepers when crops are being sprayed in their area. From their marketing it is understood that this app. will be available to download '*at a nominal cost*' to an iPhone, Android device or accessed from a PC via the web.

Details at [www.bee.watch](http://www.bee.watch).



*Please note your Association does not endorse this product which is being offered by a commercial company. The information is passed on for your information only and you must satisfy yourself that it is of value. Ed.*

## Remembering John Stevens

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*John Stevens, Life Member and Past President  
of Chichester Beekeepers*

In the last newsletter we reported the sad passing of John Stevens, in early December.

John spent his working life organising exhibitions and major events in the UK and overseas, including managing Earls Court and Olympia and for 12 years running exhibitions in Dubai. He and Christine met in 1984 when they were both attending a residential course with the Institute of Marketing. They shared a love of cars and aeroplanes and also of travel.

John moved to West Sussex, from his long time home in Chelmsford, in 1994 whilst Christine was house-sitting Molecomb House, on the Goodwood Estate. He had always had an interest in keeping bees and when a member of Chichester Beekeepers, Michael Horne, asked if he could put a hive of bees on the Molecomb lawn, John immediately agreed on the basis that he could 'look over Michael's shoulder' and learn something about beekeeping.

At the end of that summer Michael offered to give John the bees if he bought himself a hive, and suggested he attend classes to learn about beekeeping. John had caught the beekeeping bug and although the original colony did not survive the winter, and they moved from Molecomb to Tangmere, he quickly acquired some more bees and he and Christine attended classes to learn how to care for them.

They were persuaded to join the committee of Chichester Beekeepers and towards the end of 2000 John took over the Chairmanship and continued in that role the following year. By this time they were running 12 or more hives. John and Christine gave up paid employment in 2002 and became almost full time beekeepers producing and selling large amounts of honey.

They were also the Chichester representatives on the Executive of West Sussex Beekeepers and in an effort to increase public interest in honey and to raise the standards of honey production by local beekeepers, John created and organised the West Sussex Honey Festival which took place at Manor Nursery at Runcton. The association took over a whole section of the nursery, members of the different divisions manned displays of beekeeping related information and activities, there was a honey show with conventional classes and also more 'accessible' ones aimed at achieving high levels of presentation and taste – this was judged by a commercial food buyer. In addition they made and sold freshly made pancakes with honey as well as fresh raspberries with local honey and organic cream. The Festival attracted entries from more than 80 beekeepers, sold large amounts of honey to the 2000 or more visitors it attracted over the two days it ran in each of the years 2003, 2004 and 2005. The amount of work involved in organising the event was enormous and when John stepped down from organising it the event ceased.

In 2006 the Chichester Division was struggling with numbers and a sense of direction, and beekeeping was declining nationally. John was persuaded to take on the role of President, which he did on condition that he could address the need for good communications, regular meetings and a training function. He started to produce a regular newsletter and he and Christine were persuaded that they were the most appropriate people to run some training courses. Accordingly he wrote the training course notes, from which Christine produced power point presentations and they ran their first course in 2008.

The timing coincided with the increased publicity about beekeeping and over the years of his Presidency the membership increased from less than 50 to over 150. At the same time they were running around 40 colonies including a dedicated training apiary. Sadly they had both become allergic to bee venom. They spent three years on a desensitisation programme at Southampton Hospital, but the positive effects of this wore off and anaphylaxis again became a problem, so after rather too many visits to A&E they reluctantly gave up active beekeeping at the end of 2009. They continued the classroom part of the training course until the end of the 2012 course with Norman Dingemans providing the training apiary, originally at his own apiary and then at Aldingbourne.

In recognition of his enormous contribution to the Division, John was made a Life member of Chichester Beekeepers in 2015.

*John will be sadly missed by his many beekeeping friends in the county.*

## Swarm Collectors 2018

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The BBKA will shortly be collating its Swarm Collectors' List for the coming season. So if you believe you have the necessary experience, are able to take swarms within a 10 mile radius of your postcode and are prepared to remain on the list for the season please speak to your Division's committee members. Your Division must endorse your application and will provide a list of its approved members to the BBKA. Your details will then be entered onto the Association's website for the swarm collecting season.



Please note that you may not accept payment for this service other than out-of-pocket expenses or sell on the swarm to a third party. To do so will invalidate your BBKA insurance.

A copy of the BBKA Swarm Collectors' Protocol is available to download from the BBKA website. Alternatively contact me or one of your division's committee members for a copy.

## Annual Delegate Meeting

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Our WSBKA delegate this year was again Roger Patterson. He attended the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Delegate Meeting at the National Beekeeping Centre, Stoneleigh on 14<sup>th</sup> January.



The Propositions to suspend Trustee, Ian Homer for alleged non professional behaviour were both lost. Ian has since resigned. Full details of the Trustee elections and voting on the numerous Propositions will appear in the BBKA News in due course so there is no intention to go into further detail here. However, if you have any questions in respect of the decisions taken on the day your committee will be only too pleased to provide further details. So please get in touch.

...and finally

## Beekeeping Opportunity

A company in Fernhurst is seeking an experienced beekeeper to help set up and manage a small apiary in the grounds of their head office. The fee is negotiable and there may be an opportunity to have a small number of your own colonies on the site.

If you are interested, please contact me in the first instance.

**Graham**

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



**We're on the web:**  
[www.westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk](http://www.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 20<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.  
[secretary@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:secretary@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk)



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

