



National Honey Show

This year's National Honey Show, the 87th, will be held between **Thursday 25th and Saturday 27th October.**

The venue is again **Sandown Park Racecourse, Esher, Surrey, KT10 9AJ.**



The 2018 programme includes lectures by Kirsty Stainton, Michael Smith, Mike Williams, Roger Patterson and Clarence Collison.

Friday's programme includes BeeCraft Lectures and Saturday has a great programme for those in the early years of their beekeeping hobby presented by Lynfa Davies, Anne Rowberry, Roger Patterson and Bob Smith.

There will be the usual spectacular display of entries as well as Workshops, Honey Sales and a large Trade Hall.



For full details visit the Show's website at www.honeyshow.co.uk

Photograph courtesy of the NHS

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A Change of Examination Secretary

I have recently taken over the role of Examination Secretary from Kaz Powell. I am looking forward to the role and hope to encourage you to review the training opportunities offered by the BBKA.

There is a lot of information available online describing the Basic Assessment, the two new practical assessments - Honeybee Health and Honeybee Breeding, the General Husbandry Certificate and Modules (written exams giving you a chance to test your knowledge on all aspects of apiculture): www.bbka.org.uk/exams.

I hope we can work together with your divisional exam committee members to improve the training participation within West Sussex and build on the beekeeping knowledge we already have.



Sue Elliott

examsecretary@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk

Tiptree Foods Competition

Bees for Development has been supporting bees and beekeepers world-wide for 25 years. To celebrate they are offering **Birthday Giveaways** every month throughout 2018.

This month's prize is a hamper - perfect for summer picnics! This is a beautiful hamper, filled with the most delicious selection of luxury preserves, chutneys and treats, all presented in a smart wicker picnic basket. The hamper has been kindly donated by Wilkin & Sons Ltd.

For a chance to win, simply enter your details at: www.beesfordevelopment.org/giveaway/index.html

Bees for development 

Protecting British Pollinators

Preventing the Decline of Bees in Britain. The bee population in Britain is declining at an alarming rate, posing a significant threat to British agriculture. Data from Friends of the Earth revealed that wild honeybees are nearing extinction whereas managed bee colonies have declined by 53% between 1985 and 2005 (April 2012).

Modern farming and the use of pesticides has destroyed much of the plant diversity and hedges needed for thriving bee populations, with intensive farming practices linked to 50% of the decline in population numbers (Centre for Ecology and Hydrology 2016).

The Government has supported a series of measures to combat this decline. For example, the updated 2013 Common Agricultural Policy attached ecological conditionality to the granting of subsidies.

Wednesday 17th October

10:15am - 4:30pm

Central London

The UK has also committed towards implementing substantial restrictions on neonicotinoids after Brexit. The UK has since 2014 been implementing the National Pollinator Strategy to support and encourage bee preservation and positive progress has been made.

Despite this, there is concern that the Government needs to demonstrate a firmer commitment to restricting farmers from using bee-killing pesticides. For example without a nationwide regulatory body to replace the European Chemicals and Health Agency after Brexit, the UK risks agri-chemical companies flaunting regulations related to pesticide production. There is also a significant knowledge gap to be filled, as the UK will no longer have access to REACH, the EU's programme which informs policy making on pesticides. The Government must also decide how to incentivize bee-friendly farming without EU support grants.



As the UK negotiates its position post-Brexit, the country will have to deal with these challenges in order to protect its bee population. This symposium is an opportunity to discuss measures of reversing declining bee populations.

Full details on the website: www.publicpolicyexchange.co.uk/events/IJ17-PPE

Melvyn's Missive



Chairman, Melvyn Essen, writes for the County News

Are we going to get a second round of swarming or will the flow dry up as a result of this hot weather? The clover I have seen is being worked by the bees as it needs high temperatures to yield its nectar but will probably dry up soon. Close to Central Sussex's training apiary there are yellow fields of oilseed rape, normally it's maize everywhere. Not sure if our bees are visiting the OSR as I think some varieties aren't so useful to honeybees. They are bringing back yellow pollen but not sure if it's from the lime trees nearby or the OSR.

Some beekeepers have noticed queen cells being produced for the second time this year, so do we carry out weekly checks, lifting the supers on and off or take a chance? I have been called out to quite a few swarms, mostly average size or smaller and some have tried to move on. One I saw, the bees were trying to go but the queen couldn't leave due to the queen excluder, we could see her through the plastic crown board, the other bees were outside waiting.

Looking on the BBKA swarm collectors' map there are no collectors in Crawley so I think surrounding collectors like myself have been called - three times in fact. The first is now in a member's Top Bar Hive doing well and the last one is going great guns ready for passing on now.

I'm sure this year Central Sussex has had the best take-up with members from our introductory course and people joining us after the course wanting to keep bees. Now that it's very easy to order bees and equipment on line, we are faced with helping people as they have little experience handling bees. I must admit many of them are coming to our apiary sessions although there are some I think that don't come to learn and we will hear from them soon!

When I started beekeeping in 2006 there were only two of us new members that year. This slowly increased over the next few years, most of them wanted to take the BBKA basic assessment as soon as possible, but now despite one or two very keen members most just want to be able to keep one or two colonies and not progress. I must say when we do persuade them to take the assessment they are glad they have taken it and it seems to give them a confidence boost.

Melvyn

chairman@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk

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

Saturdays in July - Regular morning meetings at the Pease Pottage teaching apiary from 9:30 am.

Further details from Debbie Rowland: chairman@centralsussexbka.org.uk or website: www.centralsussexbka.org.uk

Chichester Division

July - Details of the Division's activities from Nick Brown:

secretary@chichesterbeekeepers.co.uk or website: www.chichesterbeekeepers.co.uk

Wisborough Green Division

Saturdays in July - Regular meetings at the teaching apiary from 1:50pm.

Further details from Tess Clarke: secretary@wgbka.org.uk or website: www.wgbka.org.uk

Worthing Division

Sunday 1st, Saturday 14th and Sunday 29th July at 2pm. - Meetings at the teaching apiary.

Further details from Len Lewis: secretary@worthingbeekeepers.org.uk or the Division's website: www.worthingbeekeepers.org.uk

... and Dates for your Diary

Saturday 28th July - LASI Workshop - *'Plants for Bees'*. Laboratory of Apiculture & Social Insects, University of Sussex, BN1 9QG. 11:15am - 3pm.

www.sussex.ac.uk/lasi/newsandevents/events/plantsforbees

Friday 7th & Saturday 8th September - LASI Workshop - *'Integrated Varroa Management'*. Venue as above. 11:15am - 3pm. www.sussex.ac.uk/lasi/newsandevents/events/ivmworkshop

Friday 7th - Sunday 9th September - *BIBBA Conference*, Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 6JS. <https://bibba.com/event/bibba-conference-2018/>

Thursday 25th - Saturday 27th October - *National Honey Show*, Sandown Park Racecourse, Esher, Surrey, KT10 9RT. www.honeyshow.co.uk. See article in April's newsletter.

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



Manuka Honey Fraud Uncovered

New Zealand's NZ\$120-million Manuka honey sector is in crisis as tests around the world find the product often has nothing but price to set it apart from other honey. All Manuka honey comes from New Zealand and Unique Manuka Factor Honey Association research shows 1,700 tonnes produced each year. However, 1,800 tonnes of 'Manuka' honey is sold in Britain alone each year with as much as 10,000 tonnes sold worldwide!

Of the 73 samples of honey tested by the Association, 41 failed to show the nonperoxide activity (NPA) claimed for Manuka honey. Hong Kong authorities found 14 of 55 Manuka honey samples tested were adulterated with syrup. Other tests found some of the honey was not even Manuka.

The 'New Zealand Herald' reports that the UK's Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA) tested a small sample of five brands of Manuka honey from shop shelves. Only one, made by the biggest Manuka honey producer, was up to standard. The other four showed no detectable non-peroxide activity, the anti-bacterial properties special to Manuka honey. FERA then issued a nationwide warning about misleading claims on the labels of Manuka honey jars.

Manuka honey can command prices many times higher than other types of honey because of its enhanced anti-bacterial properties and the New Zealand Food Safety Minister warned that honey industry need to move quickly to standard. A spokesperson for the NZ Honey Association said 'There is a huge fraud with ever-increasing volumes of honey labelled as Manuka which are not Manuka. We knew we sold more "Manuka" overseas than has ever been produced . . . we've been spending everything we've got to work out how to stop this fraud. We should have done it sooner.'



the NZ Government and the set an international labelling

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) has now released a scientific definition to authenticate New Zealand Manuka honey, which is the first step leading to a standard. It follows damaging claims that consumers are being misled over what they are buying and at vastly inflated prices.

The UK trade magazine 'The Grocer' recently said unscrupulous operators were making millions from the sale of jars of fake Manuka honey.

The New Zealand honey industry currently earns \$242 million in exports a year, of which Manuka makes up about 80 per cent. A target has been set of \$1.2 billion export revenue for Manuka honey alone by 2028.

The chief executive of the UMF Honey Association, John Rawcliffe, said it was 'very positive' that at an official level a standard was being developed.

MPI has spent three years arriving at the definition. 'The proposed definition and export requirements are important for the continued growth of our important export honey industry,' deputy director-general, Bryan Wilson, said.

Article courtesy of Lune Valley Community Beekeepers via ebees

...and finally

For Sale

Used 12 oz. hexagonal jars for sale. There are approximately 90 jars in a box at £10 each.
Mobile 07852509172.

Email: lucianoscandian@gmail.com

Many thanks

Luciano



We're on the web:
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 20th of the preceding month.
secretary@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk



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

