



WISBOROUGH GREEN BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

MARCH 2012

Officers and Contact Information:

President Mr Roger Patterson	01403 790637 roger-patterson@btconnect.com
Chairman Mr Tom Moore	01798 343470 stone.house@btinternet.com
Hon. Treasurer Mr Gordon Allan	01798 343470 petworthgordon@btopenworld.com
Hon. Secretary Mr John Glover	01403 751899 glover.flethingshollow@googlemail.com
Membership Mrs Judy Knight	01403 752 169 judyknight@hotmail.co.uk
Newsletter Mr Chris Peach	01798 872302 wgbkanews@cpeach.com
Website:	www.wgbka.org.uk

APIARY MEETINGS - DOUNHURST

SUNDAY - 04th MARCH

VARROA MITE COUNT ONLY - 2:00PM

This is to do a varroa mite count and instruct members on how to do it in their own colonies. Richard Dyer monitors all our colonies at least 5 times a year and we have regular teaching sessions at scheduled meetings. These meetings can be hectic with a lot going on and we don't always have the time to devote to it specifically. This is an ideal opportunity to put that right without the normal distractions.

SATURDAY - 07th APRIL

12.00 noon for Beginners and Intermediate; 2.30 for Advanced only

DIARY OF EVENTS

TUESDAY - 20th MARCH

AGM_- THE CHAPEL, SPY LANE, LOXWOOD - 7:30PM

Details are attached.

The AGM will be followed immediately by:

“The BBKA Basic and Beyond”

Daisy will provide information and encouragement to Members thinking of taking the Basic Assessment in 2012, or moving on to sit Modules.

PATTERSON IN PRINT



The Winter Learning sessions are going well with four down, three to go. The feedback is good with compliments about the easy going interactive format. I hope it has the intended effect of encouraging learning to help members improve their beekeeping.

The Beginners Day was yet again a huge success with very good feedback. I think there have been more people than ever contact us asking for further information or to book on the Preliminary sessions. We are going to be busy this year.

At the Feb 19th meeting all 42 colonies we looked at were still alive. This is a tremendous achievement considering a couple of years ago there were 25%+ winter losses and some of the colonies went into the winter rather weaker than I would have liked. I'm still expecting to lose a few, but most colonies looked very good. I recently gave a lecture to another BKA and said that our non-prolific bees still had quite a lot of food and many probably wouldn't need feeding this spring at all. Many attendees had more prolific bees and had been feeding for some time, despite heavy feeding in the autumn and larger brood boxes. If they realised how much it cost them and the extra effort involved they might change their minds about which bees to keep. Locally I have heard of few colonies dying, but there are several in other parts of the country, mainly through starvation. Be aware from now on that bees can get through stored food at a great rate. It would be a pity to lose a colony now having done the difficult bit. Not only do you lose a colony, but all the food it has already consumed. Until later in March it is not sensible to feed syrup so candy or moving frames of food from those that can afford it to those who need it is probably the best thing to do.

Now is the time to cover up feedholes to help the bees retain heat, but you can leave mouse guards until late March/early April. If you are in your early years of beekeeping you may not know that for beekeepers the spring moves much faster than the other seasons. It will pay to get your kit ready before you need it, not afterwards as many do. Clean all hives ready for the chance to spring clean your colonies, where all the woodwork is replaced. Make sure supers and queen excluders are clean and ready to go.

Make plans for the coming season and here are a few suggestions:-

- Decide how many colonies you want to put into next winter. If it is increase then get any equipment you need now and make it up or repair it. Don't forget you may be able to buy equipment at the WSBKA auction.
- Make assessments of the temper and calmness on the combs of all your colonies. Record it on your record sheet and when the bees present you with an opportunity replace the poorer queens with better ones.
- How about producing a super of comb honey? All you need is some unwired foundation in combs on narrow spacing. If you don't sell it there is no need to worry too much about having perfect combs. If you do decide to try this then contact Tom as we only have a fairly small supply of unwired foundation.
- Use a brood box fitted with foundation as a super. Get it on a strong colony early, preferably before the OSR, then extract the frames. This will give you some good frames of comb to either replace old/poor combs with or for giving to nuclei to help them build up quickly. I find that comb is far better than foundation in the brood box as you have much better combs built.
- As well as your honey producing colonies I suggest you have one or two nuclei. These will help you if you have a problem with the larger colonies and will provide somewhere to put a spare queen in case you need one. The cost of making and maintaining nuclei is very small but they have great value.

Can I remind members that some of the ad hoc meetings are fixed up at short notice and emailed to members and put on the website, so please check your emails and the website regularly. We are no longer prepared to 'phone people so if you don't check you could miss opportunities. If you haven't got email then please ask someone who has to contact you if a message comes round.

I have invited Gordon Allan to be a Demonstrator. This gives us 10 and I think they all do a very good job. I have selected people who are good handlers of bees, willing to learn themselves and to be able to instruct in a good positive manner.

Roger

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE !!

Just a reminder that your 2012 beekeeping subscription is due, and must be returned to BBKA in March.

If you would like to re-join for the coming season, then I attach a form for you to complete.

If you don't want to rejoin - that's fine too, but I would be grateful for a quick note to that effect, as I have to de-register you from the BBKA membership list.

If I don't hear from you by **March 10th**, then I will assume that you don't want to re-join, and your newsletters and BBKA membership will cease.

With thanks to you all in anticipation of an excellent year's beekeeping!!

Best regards,

Judy

POLITE NOTICE

Children and Bees

It is good to see children at Dounhurst, and as an Association, we are keen to provide young people with an insight into beekeeping, and if appropriate, to provide ongoing teaching for them. We must however always be vigilant for possible hazards, not only bee stings, but also dangers associated with playing unattended in the shed area, and surrounding woodland.

The occasional practice of leaving children unsupervised is clearly unwise. Members are respectfully requested to note that visiting children must be supervised by an accompanying adult throughout their visit.

BUMBLEBEES

For those interested, the Bumblebee Conservation Trust have provided details of events they are organising this summer in Kent and East Sussex. Please see the attached leaflet.

WSBKA ANNUAL CONVENTION 2012

The Annual WSBKA Annual Convention was again a spectacular success !!

A full house at the Lodge Hill, Pulborough were given detailed information on a variety of subjects which included:

Swarming and How to Prevent it.

Winter Preparation Begins Now.

Mechanisms of Guarding and Nestmate Recognition in Bees

Additional Workshops available were:

Pollen Examination

Bee Health Upcoming Issues

Taking the General Husbandry Certificate

Risks & Responsibilities - from Hive to Jar

As you can see it was a packed day which I thoroughly enjoyed. The catering this year included a buffet lunch which was excellent.

Many congratulations go to Christine Stevens and her organisers, and of course the lecturers who produced a fantastic event.

For those who missed out, make sure you make a note of next years date for the Convention

SATURDAY 23rd FEBRUARY 2013

NOTICES

Out apiary at Horsham

We have received an offer to use a secure allotment area in Harwood Road to place hives. This a private group of 28 allotments, and the committee have agreed, and are keen to have bees on site. Please contact John Glover in the first instance – glover.fetchingshollow@gmail.com

WISBOROUGH GREEN BEEKEEPING ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP / RENEWAL FORM: 2012

• **Members Details – ONE BBKA Member per form :**

Date:

Title/First name/ Surname:

Address :

..... Post Code :

Home Phone : Mobile:

E-Mail :

• **Data Protection and Posted Newsletters - Options:**

On payment of membership, **your details will be passed to FERA (BeeBase), BBKA and/or BDI for circulars and insurance cover etc. and BeeCraft** as appropriate. They undertake not to sell or otherwise disclose your details to any third party (registered with and in compliance with The Data Protection Act).

Your details will also be used for our **local 2012 Members List** which will be **sent to all Wisborough Green BKA members unless you tick** the box here..... []

Adding your E-mail address will enable quick contact for *ad hoc* apiary meetings, and help to keep postage costs down. If you would **prefer to receive your newsletter by post**, then please tick the box here. []

• **Wisborough Green BKA Membership subscriptions:**

- | | | |
|--|--------|---------|
| 1. BBKA Registered (previously called 'Full') Member..... | £25.00 | £.....' |
| 2. BBKA Partner Member (eg. partner also has own apiary) | £20.00 | £.....' |
| 3. BBKA Country Member (keen for info, but no bees – yet!)..... | £15.50 | £.....' |
| 4. Associate Member (if you are also a member of another association) : | £7.00 | £.....' |
| 5. Junior Member | £2.50 | £.....' |
| 6. Family Member - Name(s) | £0.50 | £.....' |
| 7. Social Member (no BBKA, no bees, gets newsletter and welcomed to meetings!): | £7.00 | £.....' |

• **Extra Bee Diseases Insurance (BDI) : 'I anticipate having a total ofcolonies in 2012'.**

'BBKA Registered' or 'BBKA Partner' membership already includes 3 colonies BDI.

Extra BDI is payable: for 4 - 5 colonies £2.00; for 6 - 10 £5.25; for 11 - 15 £7.75; for 16 - 20 £9.50; for 21 – 25 £11.10; for more than 25 please ask. **Insurance is invalid unless ALL colonies are insured.**

(EXAMPLE: For 7 colonies, you pay an extra £5.25, to add to the £2.00 BDI already paid with your subscription). £

• **BEECRAFT :** For full year Dec-Dec subscription **renewals, please RESPOND BY RETURN** for the **END NOV publishers DEADLINE!** With 10% bulk discount, subscription **for 12 copies is £21.60.**

For part -year subscriptions – please ask for price.

See www.bee-craft.com for BeeCraft info and shop.

£.....'

Donation to Association Funds at your discretion

£ _____

Cheques payable to 'WSBKA Wisborough Green' and send to:

TOTAL: £.....'

Judy Knight, 11 Plaistow Road, Loxwood, West Sussex, RH14 0SX

Bank transfer.: Account name: West Sussex Beekeepers Association-Wisborough Green Div

Sort code: 20-42-58: Account number: 90086460

BBKA (British BeeKeepers Association) Membership Classes Explained:

- 'BBKA Registered Members' are entitled to £5,000,000 third party public liability insurance, BBKA News magazine and access to members' website: BBKA charges £15.00 for this. Added to this is £2 for minimum 1-3 hive Bee Diseases Insurance.
- 'BBKA Partner Members' live at the same address as a Registered Member, and receive the same benefits as the Registered Member eg separate 3rd party insurance and website access but share mailed BBKA News and correspondence. BBKA fee is 66% of the full rate - ie £10.00. Added to this is £2 for minimum 1-3 hive Bee Diseases Insurance.
- 'BBKA Country Members' have no bees or 3rd party insurance, but get website access and magazine. Charge is half full rate: ie £7.50.

Wisborough Green Membership Fees

- are made up from the appropriate BBKA fee (above) as well as the following, as appropriate for those with / without bees:

- West Sussex BeeKeepers Association (WSBKA) levy of £ 1.00
- Wisborough Green Division levy of £ 7.00

Minutes

Of the 2011 Annual General Meeting of Wisborough Green Beekeepers Association, held on 31st March 2011 at the Emmanuel Fellowship Chapel, Loxwood, at 7.30pm.

Members present – Roger Patterson, Judy Knight, John Glover, Tom Moore, Gordon Allan, Karen Clemens, Lesley Day, Ray Noakes, Derek Ready, Mike Bunyan, Maggie Turner, Graham Elliott and 28 others.

Apologies for absence from Astri Sharp

Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting had been previously circulated and they were passed and signed by the President.

Treasurer's Report – Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2010 together with a Financial Report had been previously circulated, and these form an attachment to the Minutes.
Ray Noakes proposed and Judy Knight seconded the adoption of the report and all were in favour.

Chairman's Report - had been previously circulated and forms an attachment to the Minutes.
Derek Ready proposed and Lesley Day seconded the adoption of the report and all were in favour.
Tom Moore expressed thanks to the committee and all members who had supported the activities of the association during the preceding year and in particular to the president and secretary.

Election of Officers

The present holders were prepared to stand for re-election and there were no other nominations.

	Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
President	Roger Patterson	John Murray	Alan Waters
Chairman	Tom Moore	Lesley Day	Mel Robertson
Vice Chairman	Lesley Day	Murray West	Richard Flenley
Treasurer	Gordon Allan	John Glover	John Murray
Secretary	John Glover	Maggie Turner	John Murray

Committee

Roger Patterson expressed thanks to Derek Ready and Karen Clemens for their past support as committee members and expressed the hope that they may return in the future. Tom Moore stated nominations for Richard Flenley and Murray West as replacement members.

All other members were prepared to stand for re-election as follows: -

Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
Mike Bunyan	Derek Ready	Murray West
Richard Flenley	Tom Moore	Derek Ready
Judy Knight	John Murray	Chris Edwards
Ray Noakes	Judy Knight	Gordon Allan
Chris Peach	Susanna Nicholls	Judy Knight
Murray West	Tom Moore	Judy Knight
Graham Elliott	Mike Bunyan	Derek Ready
Maggie Turner	Mike Bunyan	Caroline Drewett

All were in favour.

Appointment of Accounts Scrutineer – Andrew Riley had agreed to continue to act and was proposed by Gordon Allan and seconded by Caroline Drewett. All were in favour. There were no other nominations.

Any Other Business – John Murray asked that appreciation be recorded to Chris Peach for his valued work in producing the newsletter and Tom Moore agreed to pass this on and was pleased to be able to report that Chris was making a very good recovery following his recent operation and treatment.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.55pm

President..... Date.....

jg

WEST SUSSEX BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION



WISBOROUGH GREEN DIVISION

President: Mr Roger Patterson. Chairman: Mr Tom Moore
Honorary Secretary: Mr John Glover Honorary Treasurer: Mr Gordon Allan

NOTICE is given to all members of the **Wisborough Green Division** of West Sussex Beekeepers' Association that the Annual General Meeting is to be held in the meeting room of the Emmanuel Fellowship Chapel, Spy Lane, Loxwood on Tuesday 20th March 2012, commencing at 7.30pm.

It is hoped that as many Members as possible will attend to support the Association.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the AGM, held at Loxwood on 31st March 2011
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Chairman's Report
5. Election of Officers

Present Holders:

President – Roger Patterson
Chairman – Tom Moore
Vice Chairman – Lesley Day
Treasurer – Gordon Allan
Secretary – John Glover

Committee Members:

Graham Elliott	Ray Noakes
Mike Bunyan	Murray West
Judy Knight	Richard Flenley
Chris Peach	Maggie Turner

The present officers are prepared to stand for re-election, with the exception of the Treasurer who will succeed Judy Knight as Membership Secretary, subject to the agreement of The Committee. The Committee has proposed Murray West as Treasurer. Any further nominations for officers or committee members should be made to the secretary glover.flethingshollow@gmail.com by 23rd March at the latest.

6. To appoint the Accounts Scrutineer for 2012
7. Any Other Business

jg

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2011-12

The last twelve months have been busy ones for us all, and WGBKA has, I believe, built on its strengths and refined procedures to give as good a service as we can to our members and to beekeeping in general. Our membership has grown to a record level, with a high proportion of the members involved in the activities of the Division.

Apiary meetings and the training given there remain at the heart of what we do, and the system started in 2009, with ability bands and with separate sessions for newcomers (Preliminary sessions) continued to work well, with the number put through Preliminaries exceeding a hundred. This takes a lot of time and dedication from Roger and the demonstrators, but we believe the results are worth the effort. A good attendance at our Beginners Day on 18th February, with numbers a little higher than in 2011, suggests we will have another busy summer in 2012.

Our bees had a very good start to the season, with superb spring weather. Despite the drought period in early summer when some emergency feeding was needed, we ended the season with a high number of strong colonies, and a reasonable honey crop. The honey is an important element in covering our apiary costs and balancing the books. We were also able to re-start our Beginners Pack programme, with several nuclei started and built up, despite difficulties with queen introduction in the drought period. At the time of writing the bees appear to be wintering well, though the highest risk period is still ahead of us. The queen-rearing group increased activity, and in 2012 we plan to develop this section further with improved record-keeping to monitor fully the results of the programme. We will also have some interesting experimental work going on at the apiary in 2012; more on that when it starts.

It has been a busy year outside the apiary too. We have held regular winter lecture meetings at Loxwood, where we are grateful to have continued use of the Chapel. In addition we have held bee health days and carried out honey extraction at the chapel. With the help of many members we put on displays at Brinsbury, Old Barn Nursery (as part of a national BBKA-sponsored pollinators weekend), at Loxwood Fete and at Cranleigh Show where we were awarded a cup for the best educational exhibit in our category. We had an excellent Honey Show in August, and rounded the year off with a really good Bee Supper (including the welcome return of the Bee Babes). Many thanks to all who helped to make these events so successful; they demonstrate that along with our shared interest in beekeeping comes a whole range of other benefits, from training and support to education, outreach and socialising.

On education, a record number of members took and passed the BBKA Basic Assessment, and we now have a Qualified Beekeeper among us, with Daisy having passed all the BBKA Modules and the General Husbandry. Congratulations! While exams are not for everyone, there is great value to all of us from studying a syllabus and discovering where there are gaps in our knowledge. To this end Roger is devoting a lot of time this winter to learning days at three levels. This is of great benefit to those taking part, and the increased level of knowledge and awareness will benefit all our members.

We have played our part in the activities of our 'parent' Association, West Sussex BKA, of which I became Chairman in 2011. I believe it is important that all three West Sussex Divisions, Chichester, Worthing and Wisborough Green, work closely together to the benefit of us all. The main visible West Sussex events are the Auction and the Convention, and in the year under review both reached record levels. They are an important part of our local beekeeping scene, along with other training and outreach activities carried out at County level.

In conclusion I would like to thank all the members who contribute so much to make WGBKA the thriving, friendly, successful organisation that it is. I look forward to another rewarding beekeeping season ahead.

Tom Moore
27th February 2012

WEST SUSSEX BEEKEEPING ASSOCIATION – WISBOROUGH GREEN DIVISION

Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2011

	2011		2010	
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Sales of Stock		3,921.25		3,245.55
Opening Stock	6,159.00		3,637.98	
Add: purchases	3,141.75		5,450.96	
	9,300.75		9,088.94	
Less: closing stock	5,535.70		6,159.00	
		<u>3,765.05</u>		<u>2,929.94</u>
Gross Deficit / Surplus		156.20		315.61
Subscriptions		3,216.80		3,119.40
BDI		523.60		471.15
BeeCraft		1,009.80		927.00
Surplus from Beginners' Day		2,217.39		4,799.28
Donations		531.60		371.75
Surplus/deficit from Bee Supper		0.04		-21.90
Auction Proceeds		0.00		39.60
Bank Interest		3.59		3.43
Surplus from Cranleigh Show (Honey sales £642)		572.00		341.00
Honey sales (Brinsbury, Loxwood, apiary, Old Barn))		551.91		567.04
Wisborough Honey Show net (Honey Sales £165)		36.80		59.10
Beginners Packs		345.00		250.00
Total Income		9,164.73		11,242.46
Expenditure				
Donation to Emmanuel Fellowship		-200.00		-112.50
Internet Hosting Expenses		0.00		0.00
Other Meeting Expenses		-90.42		-5.00
Speakers' Fees		-80.00		-75.00
Equipment Purchases		-247.18		0.00
BDI Charge for members		-523.60		-471.15
Charge for Apiary		-45.20		-27.10
BeeCraft Subscriptions		-1,031.40		-927.00
Postage, stationery and photocopying		-353.99		-206.58
Insurance		-143.10		-133.73
Secretary's Expenses		-20.00		0.00
Apiary Expenses		-1,044.61		-1,181.53
WSBKA Capitation Fee (Members Subs to WSBKA and BBKA)		-2,061.72		-1,906.48
Books		0.00		-13.99
Misc		-37.38		0.00
Depreciation		-145.00		-145.00
Total Expenditure		-6,023.60		-5,205.06
Surplus for the year		3,141.13		6,037.40

Assets on 1st January 2011

Cash in hand and at banks	11,476.88	6,244.00
Opening Stock	6,159.00	3,638.00
Payments in advance (BeeCraft)	993.60	799.00
2011 Beginners Day income received in 2010	-785.00	-2,255.00
Subscriptions and BeeCraft payments received in advance	-3,235.20	0.00
Bond	100.00	100.00
Fixed assets	435.00	580.00
Total	15,144.28	9,106.00

Assets on 31st December 2011

Cash in hand and at banks	12,964.66	11,476.88
Closing Stock	5,535.70	6,159.00
Payments in advance (BeeCraft)	972.00	993.60
2012 Beginners Day payments	-1,180.00	-785.00
2012 Subscriptions and BeeCraft payments received in advance	-396.95	-3,235.20
Bond	100.00	100.00
Fixed Assets	290.00	435.00
Total	18,285.41	15,144.28

Surplus for the Year

	3,141.13	6,037.40
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Fixed Assets

Original value	2011	2010
	725.00	725.00
Accumulated Depreciation (20% per year)	-435.00	-290.00
End of year value	290.00	435.00

Gordon Allan, Hon Treasurer

February 2012



I have examined the records and vouchers of the WSBKA, Wisborough Green Division, and the accounts for the year to 31st December 2011 and find them in accordance therewith. I have not conducted an audit.



Steve Boyle, Scrutineer

February 2012

	2011	2010
Total Divisional Apiary Honey Sales	£1,328.91	£1,173.04

Financial Report – Wisborough Green Beekeepers – year end 31 December 2011

2011 was a successful year, not only in terms of membership and training, but also financially. We had a surplus of just over £3,000 (compared with just over £6,000 in 2010).

Looking at our income: Out profit on sales of equipment was £146 (2010: £315), in line with our policy to provide a service in stocking essential items for members at little more than cost. We have slightly decreased the amount of stock we hold. Of the £3,216 in subscriptions we collect, we only keep around £1,155 – the rest is passed on to West Sussex and National Beekeeping Associations. Income from BDI and Beecraft is also passed on to the appropriate organisations. Members have been generous and we have received £531 (2010: £371) in donations. Honey Sales from the Divisional apiary amounted to £1,328 (2010: £1,173) - sold at the apiary, and at events in which the Division participates – Cranleigh Show, Wisborough Green Honey Show, Beginners Day, Loxwood, Old Barn). Other items are self explanatory.

The surplus from the Beginners Day contributed £2,217 (2010: £4,800) to our overall profit. 2010 was an exceptional year and the surplus this year is about the same as in 2009. Beginners Day surplus equates to about two thirds of our overall surplus.

Looking at our expenditure: Our major expenditure is on the apiary (£1,044). This covers a wide range of things including jars for honey, candy and sugar for feeding, foundation, gas for cooker (to make teas), frames and health products (Apiguard, Fumidil and oxalic acid), fire extinguisher, polynucs, buckets and strainers and new hive parts.

Overall, we are in a very sound financial situation with assets in excess of £18K. We are deliberately building up our reserves in anticipation of future expenditure on fitting out a new apiary site.

APIARY/BEEKEEPING REPORT for 2011

Our teaching apiary continues to be the main area where beekeeping is taught. I visit many other BKAs and there are many different ways of teaching on display. The amount that can be achieved is relevant to the resources available and can be reliant on personnel, finances or availability of a site for an apiary. We are extremely lucky that we have been at Dounhurst for over 45 years and have most of the facilities we need.

We have a very good group of demonstrators who have been instrumental in helping our members develop good sound colony handling and management techniques. I thank them all for the amount of effort they put in on behalf of members.

At one stage in 2011 we managed to have 68 colonies at the apiary. About 20 were queen mating nucs, with the rest being used for teaching at scheduled and Preliminary meetings. It is not possible to inspect every colony at every inspection because there are situations such as queens possibly going on mating flights to be taken into account. The colonies vary in size from nucs for beginners to handle up to full honey producing colonies. We must get talked about a bit because I had someone from Lancashire tell me that was too many colonies! Of course they haven't been to our apiary and seen the incredible amount of work put in by a large number of people or the high level instruction we give, but it does show how views can be formed without any knowledge, unfortunately a perennial beekeeping problem.

The structured meetings are still working well and have allowed us to deal with the large number of new beekeepers. As I have mentioned elsewhere some BKAs have chosen to shut their doors to new members or reduced their activities. On occasions we may be seen to be a bit strict, but I don't think we will have been able to do what we have without it. We dealt with 100 new people in 2011 and I think that is a tremendous achievement. Some walked away from beekeeping at an early stage, but others stayed and moved into the beginners group, allowing us to maintain a progression of ability.

There was a nectar dearth in June that delayed some operations such as getting good brood combs built above queen excluders. This will have to wait until 2012.

There is a lot of work done between meetings including feeding that was done by Graham and Sue Elliott, who not only made the syrup and fed it, but collected the sugar in large sacks.

Richard Dyer has monitored five times for varroa and where possible we have taught members what we are doing and how to count varroa, not an easy task. Thanks to Richard for performing this necessary work.

The apiary was used for several "outside" events:-

- Filming a queen rearing DVD for the BBKA. Unfortunately there were two days of howling gales and rain during filming that ruined 3 weeks of careful preparation. This will be repeated in 2012, without the gales and rain and I hope we have more success this time.
- The BBKA Basic assessments on three separate days
- A training day for those who are looking to take the "BBKA General Husbandry" certificate. Candidates came from as far away as Deal in Kent and Minehead in Somerset. Only WG tutors were used – Daisy, Tom Moore, Derek Ready and myself. Feedback to the BBKA organiser was very good and I think we gave a good account of ourselves.

Teaching at the apiary is quite restrictive and mainly concentrates on practical beekeeping. To provide the theory we had the Bee Health Day with Alan Byham and have now introduced Winter Learning in three ability groups. Early signs are they are working well and are well received.

I think our members are very good compared to some and it extends to generosity as well. As well as time freely given we have had bees, hives and a projector screen recently donated. Thank you all very much.

Roger Patterson.

Bumblebee Kent/ Sussex Events 2012

- 15th April RSPB Dungeness Bumblebee ID course- FULLY BOOKED
- 6th June RSPB Dungeness walk and talk 2-4pm
- 9th June RSPB Dungeness walk and talk 2-4pm
- 21st June High Wealds AONB event to be arranged
- 24th June Maidstone Mote Park, stall 12-4pm
- 30th June Great Dixter Gardens Insect day, talk
- 7th July Folkestone Green Fair, stall
- 7th July Tunbridge Wells walk and talk event to be arranged
- 8th July Maidstone Mote Park walk and talk 2-4pm
- 21st July Kent Wildlife Trust, Tyland Barn bumblebee ID course
- 28th July RSPB Dungeness walk and talk 2-4pm
- 1st August RSPB Dungeness walk and talk 2-4pm
- 5th August Rye Harbour Nature Reserve walk and talk 2-4pm
- 11-12th August RSPB Dungeness kids fun weekend, stall and walks
- 18-19th August Kent Wildlife Trust Sevenoaks wildlife festival, stall
- 26-21st August Sandwich Bay wildlife festival, stall

Please contact the venue for further information on car parking, bookings and times were not listed



Hymettus

