



Happy New Year



A **Very Happy New Year** to all our members and readers. Another year of successful beekeeping dawns - or so we hope!

Next month sees one of the main highlights of the Association's year, our Annual Convention at Lodge Hill, Pulborough. Further details of this event can be found in this newsletter.

In April our second major event is the 42nd Bee Market and Auction which will again be held at Chichester College's Brinsbury Campus in Pulborough. It's never too early to start looking out any surplus equipment to sell - we already have our first lots registered!

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WSBKA Annual Convention

The event is designed to suit beekeepers of all standards. As well as the main lectures, the seminars offer a choice of more specialised topics. We hope you will be joining us at Lodge Hill, Pulborough.

Main Lectures

'Honey Bee Anatomy' - Graham Royle
'Varroa Control Without Chemicals' - Bob Smith
'Using the Nuc Box' - David Rudland

Saturday 22nd February
9.30am – 4.30 pm

In addition there is a choice of seminars

Seminar 1 (you can attend one of these)

- 1) 'The Impact of Nutrition on Honey Bee Health' with Ben Jones
- 2) 'If Heath Robinson had been a Beekeeper' with Graham Royle
- 3) 'Record Keeping for Beekeepers' with Tom Moore

Seminar 2 (you can attend one of these)

- 4) 'Managing the Workers' with Bob Smith
- 5) 'Beeswax Candle Making' with Celia Rudland

For all your beekeeping needs **Paynes Southdown Bee Farms** will be present at the Convention.

Advance booking per person, WSBKA members £20
Members of other associations and non-members £25
On the day (if space allows) £25

Full details and the Booking Form are on the WSBKA website:

www.bbka.org.uk/local/westsussex/convention/index.shtml

or contact Gordon Allan on 01798 343470 or email wsbkaconvention@gmail.com

A Booking Form is also attached to this newsletter.

New Regional Bee Inspector for the South East

As reported in last month's newsletter Alan Byham retired as Regional Bee Inspector for the South East Region at the end of December. His successor has been named as Julian Parker, previously a Seasonal Bee Inspector working in the south. Julian can be contacted on 07775 119469 julian.parker@fera.gsi.gov.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

Wednesday 8th January - 'Honey and Wax' Preparation'. A demonstration by Melvyn Essen at the RAFA Club, Horsham from 7:30pm. Further details from Melvyn: chairman@centralsussexbka.org.uk or the Central Sussex website: www.centralsussexbka.org.uk

Chichester Division

Tuesday 14th January - 'How Was Your Year?' at Boxgrove Village Hall, 7:30pm. Further details from Henrietta Currey: secrtary@chichesterbeekeepers.co.uk or the Division's website: www.chichesterbeekeepers.co.uk

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

Wisborough Green Division

Tuesday 28th January - 'Talk & Workshop on Purifying & Maximising Your Wax Crop' with Andy Willis at the division's new meeting venue, North Hall, Loxwood. 7:30pm. Details from Sue Elliott: sj.elliott@ukgateway.net or website: www.wgbka.org.uk

Worthing Division

Obtain details of the month's events from Phil Carter: philange5180@btinternet.com or the WBKA website: www.worthingbeekeepers.org.uk

... and Dates for your Diary

Saturday 22nd February - Annual Convention, Lodge Hill, Watersfield, Pulborough. See the article in this newsletter. Full details of the Convention are now on the West Sussex BKA website.

Saturday 8th March - Wisborough Green 'Beekeeping for Beginners' Day. See the article in last month's newsletter.

Friday 4th - Sunday 6th April - BBKA Spring Convention, Harper Adams University, Newport. www.bbka.org.uk/news_and_events/spring_convention_2014

Saturday 19th April & Saturday 10th May - Central Sussex Beekeeping Course. See the article in this newsletter.

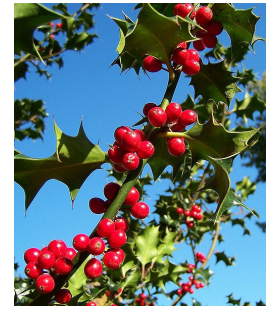
Saturday 26th April - Annual Bee Market & Auction, Brinsbury Campus, Pulborough. Further details from Graham Elliott, Tel: 01403 752493 or email: grahammt@tiscali.co.uk



More from Moore - Holly and the Ivy

Chairman, Tom Moore, shares his thoughts from his apiary in West Sussex.

I am writing this shortly before Christmas. As a non-observer of this ritual I try to minimise involvement in the 'seasonal' activities, but at the same time cannot avoid noticing that, carried forward from many centuries earlier, two valuable native bee plants feature quite strongly at this time of year – holly and ivy. I was having these thoughts the other day as I dug up and transplanted a couple of hundred tiny holly seedlings in our woodland, moving them to form dividing and sheltering hedges in the apiary. What better than to use a free, native plant that has value to bees, even if I may be beyond beekeeping age by the time the hedges reach a useful size. So, though not on active beekeeping, these notes are indeed, as billed by Graham 'thoughts from my apiary in West Sussex'.



Berries of common holly



Female flowers

We have almost no ivy in our wood. Rabbits see to that. Any tiny leaf that emerges is eaten, so no ivy gets a chance to establish itself. The same can happen with holly, but over the years I have protected several plants and nurtured some in the rabbit-fenced areas that are now a decent size. In the last year we have also had a mass of seedlings 'delivered' by birds, and it is some of these that I am using to form the new hedges.

Our native holly, *Ilex aquifolium*, is a fascinating plant. Although there are named selections that are hermaphrodite (i.e. flowers contain both male and female parts), the wild bushes are generally either male or female. Consequently their value to bees varies, with both sexes providing nectar, to attract the pollinator, but only the males giving pollen. To balance this, it is the females that bear the berries, so become noticeable, and valuable to birds, at this time of year.

How can you tell what gender your hollies are? Well, if they have berries now they are obviously female (or one of the rarer hermaphrodites), but if they have no berries does that mean they are male, or just that they failed to flower or lacked pollination? The way to check is to look at flowering time and see what parts the flowers contain, which is really easy. If you have hollies without berries and want berries there is no point buying extra hollies to try to achieve this if you don't know what you already have, as you may just add more non-berrying plants to what you have.



Male flowers

In my horticultural career I have set student projects on hollies, and one such contained a statement that was new to me. This was that you can tell the gender of wild hollies because the females grow neat and tidy, while the males are unkempt and straggly, just like in humans! Well, this made me stop and think. Was it pure sexism, or was there a real genetic trait to be seen. My conclusion was that there is a grain of truth in the statement, and I understood why. I offer a prize (of no great value) to the first reader to email me at stone.house@btinternet.com with an explanation of what I consider to be the correct answer. For those who are mystified, I will explain all next month.

Tom

Central Sussex BKA - Beekeeping Course

Join Central Sussex BKA's 2-day 'Introduction to Beekeeping' course on Saturday 19th April & Saturday 10th May from 9:30 am to 4pm. The morning will be at the Roffey Millennium Hall, Horsham and afternoon at the association's training apiary, hopefully looking at bees (protective clothing will be provided).

The cost of the 2-day course is £50 per person which includes a year's membership (Ambrosian) to Central Sussex BKA.

For more details on the course, bees or CSBKA, please go to [www.centralsussexbka.org.uk](http://www centralsussexbka.org.uk) or contact Melvyn Essen at chairman@centralsussexbka.org.uk.

Registered Charity No. 1051548

And Finally ...

Appeal for Stamps - see last month's County News

This is an ongoing appeal so keep **Tearing & Sharing**. For more details visit www.caninepartners.org.uk

If you can help with Pat's training please send your stamps to: Canine Partners Stamp Appeal, PO Box 638, Fareham, Hampshire, PO14 9JJ. Please ensure the correct postage is paid.

For more details visit www.caninepartners.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.

grahammt@tiscali.co.uk

We're on the web:

www.bbka.org.uk/local/westsussex

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



West Sussex Beekeeper's Association Annual Convention – 22nd February 2014

To: Gordon Allan, Stone House, High Street, Petworth, West Sussex GU28 0AU

Please book me places for the WSBKA Convention to be held on Saturday 22nd February 2014 at a cost of £.....
(Ticket price is £20 each for WSBKA members and £25 each for non-WSBKA members.)

You can either enclose a cheque made payable to 'WSBKA' along with this form

Or:

You can make payment by Bank transfer and return this registration form by email (no SAE required). For Bank transfer, Account name is 'West Sussex Beekeepers Association', Sort code: 402823, Account number: 11457721 - please put the first delegate's surname in the Reference field.

In both cases, you will receive your confirmation number(s) and a map by email. If you do not have email, or require a physical ticket/map, **a stamped addressed envelope should be enclosed.**

DELEGATE 1

Name..... (please print) Telephone No.

Address

.....

Post Code Email

I am a member ofBeekeepers' Association (if any).

Seminars - In case your first choice is over-subscribed, please indicate your order of preference

Seminar 1 (you can attend one of these)

- 1) The impact of Nutrition on Honey Bee Health - Ben Jones
- 2) If Heath Robinson had been a Beekeeper - Graham Royle
- 3) Record Keeping for Beekeepers - Tom Moore

Preference

First / Second / Third
First / Second / Third
First / Second / Third

Seminar 2 (you can attend one of these)

- 4) Managing the Workers - Bob Smith
- 5) Beeswax Candle Making - Celia Rudland

Preference

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First / Second

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