



## Evening Lecture by Prof. Jamie Ellis

An evening lecture has been arranged with Prof. Jamie Ellis during his UK lecture tour. The date is **Tuesday 4th April** at the Leconfield Hall, Market Square, Petworth, GU28 0AH .

His lecture is entitled '***The amazing honey bee: design and function***'. Jamie Ellis is the Gahan Associate Professor of Entomology in the Department of Entomology and Nematology at the University of Florida, USA. He has a BS degree in Biology from the University of Georgia and a PhD in Entomology from Rhodes University in South Africa. At the University of Florida, Jamie has responsibilities in extension, instruction and research. Regarding his extension work, Jamie created the African Bee Extension and Education Program, the UF, South Florida, and Caribbean Bee Colleges, and the UF Master Beekeeper Program. As an instructor, Jamie supervises PhD and masters students in addition to offering an online beekeeping course. Currently, Jamie and his team have over 30 active research projects in the fields of honeybee husbandry, conservation and ecology, and integrated crop pollination. Jamie is also a trustee of the International Bee Research Association.



**The evening lecture will start at 7:30pm sharp so please be in your seats no later than 7:20pm.** All welcome and entry is free to WSBKA members and just £5 to non-members.

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## Bee Market & Auction - 22nd April

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The Annual Bee Market & Auction this month on **Saturday 22nd April** has again attracted a lot of attention. We are almost at capacity with over 260 lots already registered.

We are still looking for enthusiastic and willing **VOLUNTEERS** to help on the day with a variety of tasks including helping in the Auction Ring and serving refreshments. So if you can spare some time please contact me.

If you have surplus **BEEKEEPING EQUIPMENT** you wish to sell the *Rules & Guidance Notes* and *Entry Form* may be downloaded from the website: [www.westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk/auction.html](http://www.westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk/auction.html) or contact me for copies.



Closing date for entries is **12<sup>th</sup> April**, but please do not delay in registering your lots as we may close early as only the first 300 lots will be accepted.

A regular feature of the Auction is the **PLANT STALL** organised by Sue Cooper. There is usually a wide range of plants available, and these come from a variety of donated sources. So, when you are taking cuttings, dividing plants, or transplanting seedlings, please remember the stall and keep some spares aside. Please contact Sue on 01798 870 461 or [woodbugs23@gmail.com](mailto:woodbugs23@gmail.com) for more details.

And finally... Worthing Division will be running a **TOMBOLA** for the benefit of the WSBKA exchequer. All prize donations are gratefully received, so dig out those unwanted Christmas gifts!

As always, your support is greatly appreciated.

**Graham**

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

01403 752493 Mobile 07761 349281

## BBKA Spring Convention - The BBKA On-Show

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For anyone attending the BBKA Spring Convention this month ensure you visit the BBKA On-Show stand in the Regional Food Academy Foyer - meet the Trustees, talk with the office staff, pose questions to the Exam Board and get enquiries on membership and insurance answered.

There are also savings to be made on various purchases including special show offers and new publications.

**Late Trade Show booking** - The inventors of the Flow Hive will be giving a lecture in the RFA at 5pm on Saturday.

**7th - 9th April** - Harper Adams University, Newport, Shropshire, TF10 8NB.



## 44th Annual General Meeting

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The Association met for its 44th AGM on Tuesday 21st March in Pulborough Village Hall.

Support from members was again poor with just 2 attending in addition to the retiring member from the Executive Committee.

Jim Norfolk had come to the end of his elected term as Chairman and is thanked for his contribution to the work of the Executive Committee and the County Association. Melvyn Essen (Central Sussex) was proposed for Chairman and was duly elected.



Other officers were re-elected unopposed for a further year. Pauline Ford (Worthing) continues as President, Roger Patterson (Wisborough Green) as Vice Chairman, Steve Boyce (WGreen) as Treasurer and Graham Elliott (WGreen) as Secretary.

The Chairman's Annual Report was published in last month's County News and is available on the website. Copies of the Treasurer's Report are available to members from the Secretary.

## Vacancy for BBKA Treasurer

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Following the resignation of our Treasurer, Chris Lake announced at the January ADM due to pressure of his commercial work, the BBKA wishes to appoint a replacement Honorary Treasurer.

We are looking for a suitably qualified and experienced finance person who is willing to support the development of the financial function of the BBKA. A job description is available on request.



If suitable candidates are available, we will organise an interview with members of the Executive Committee to make the initial appointment : such appointment will be ratified at the next ADM as required by the BBKA constitution in a totally transparent and open process.

Applications of interest with a short CV should be e-mailed in the first instance please to Leigh Sidaway at [leighs@britishbeekeepers.com](mailto:leighs@britishbeekeepers.com).

There is no remuneration for this honorary role, but reasonable expenses incurred in fulfilment of the job function will be reimbursed by the BBKA.

For further information on what might be involved please contact me on [howard.pool@bbka.org.uk](mailto:howard.pool@bbka.org.uk).  
Many thanks

**Howard Pool**

BBKA Chair of Finance

## 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

**Saturday 1st, 15th & 29th April** - Apiary meetings at Pease Pottage starting at 9:30am.

**Saturday 8th & 22nd April** - 'Introduction to Beekeeping', Roffey Millennium Hall, Horsham from 9:30am and afterwards at the teaching apiary, Pease Pottage.

Further 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 11th April** - 'Gardening for Bees' - at the Fishbourne Centre, Blackboy Lane, Fishbourne, Chichester, PO18 8BE at 7:30pm.

Further 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

**Saturday 1st, 15th, 29th & Sunday 23rd April** - First meetings of the season at the teaching apiary from 1:30pm. Further details 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 13th April** - 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

**Tuesday 4th April** - Evening lecture by Prof. Jamie Ellis at the Leconfield Hall, Petworth, 7:30pm. See article in this newsletter.

**Friday 7th - Sunday 9th April** - *BBKA Spring Convention*. Harper Adams University, Newport, Shropshire, TF10 8NB. See article in this and the February newsletters.

**Saturday 22nd April** - *WSBKA Annual Bee Market & Auction*. Chichester College's Brinsbury Campus, Pulborough, RH20 1DL. Details in this newsletter and on the website.

**Thursday 8th - Saturday 10th June** - *South of England Show*, including the very popular Bees & Honey Show. Ardingly Show-ground near Haywards Heath. See article in last month's newsletter.



# 86th National Honey Show - 26th - 28th October

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As you'll all know by now, we're delighted to be returning to Sandown Park for the 2017 National Honey Show. The new venue means there's plenty of space to enjoy the fantastic display of all the classes including honey, wax, mead, photography and many others in the main Surrey hall, with the Traders next door in the same hall. The atmosphere is fantastic so we encourage you all to attend.

Our brilliant main lecture programme for this year includes lectures by Tom Seeley, Heather Mattila, Kim Flottum, Will Steynor and Peter Tomkins. There will be the usual series of Bee Craft Lectures on the Friday.

On Saturday there will be a special focus to help those starting out think about been carefully chosen as being relevant to many of the things covered that beginners are often confronted with in their early years, and will be delivered by experienced beekeepers. It is strongly recommended that beginners attend all presentations and that local beekeeping associations or groups encourage their members to attend.

Follow this link to see the main lectures and Beginners programme and the NHS flyer:

[www.honeyshow.co.uk/lectures-and-workshops.php#main](http://www.honeyshow.co.uk/lectures-and-workshops.php#main)

[www.honeyshow.co.uk/files/2017/nhs-leaflet-2017.pdf](http://www.honeyshow.co.uk/files/2017/nhs-leaflet-2017.pdf)

It's a fantastic day out. In fact many come along for more than just one day. There's always lots to do, to see, people to talk to, friends to meet up with, endless coffee to be lingered over, the staggering exhibition of honey, hive products and crafts; the vibrant trade hall and of course the lectures and workshops.

This year's workshop programme includes the popular favourites plus – new for 2017 – *'Setting up a Bee Breeding Group'*, *'Labour Saving Devices'* and *'Making Wax Models'*. There will also be a Taster session on Saturday *'All you every wanted to know about beekeeping but were afraid to ask'* for complete novices. NHS Members will be able to book workshop places via our website from 1st September.

We look forward to a successful season and to seeing you and your entries at this year's Show: **Thursday 26th to Saturday 28th October 2017 at Sandown Park Race Course, Esher, Surrey.**

## Fiona and Helen

National Honey Show





# Melvyn's Missive

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*Our new Chairman, Melvyn Essen introduces himself to County News readers*

I would like to introduce myself. For the last six years I have been Chairman of Central Sussex and also Apiary Coordinator - now I am only the latter, apart from organising our introductory course in the spring.

It all started by reporting a swarm in 2005 to a beekeeper, Leslie Brooks, who was on the local council's list of swarm collectors. The swarm was in the garden where I work, I still work there now but part time. It was interesting watching the way the bees arrived and decided to cluster in a crab apple tree. It was a large swarm and I supplied Leslie with a pair of steps which I helped to steady. Leslie saw I was interested and asked if I would like to come along to the training apiary one Saturday morning, I said yes and that was it!

In the spring of 2006 I ordered a nuc which cost me £70. At the same time I was invited to join two beekeepers, Syd Weller and his son-in-law, John Hubbard. They had about 10 – 12 colonies in two apiaries and using the Snelgrove system had some large colonies. It was quite daunting to start with working with double brood boxes but my confidence grew with Syd and John's help. The Snelgrove system was very interesting to witness and took some time to understand which entrance to open and which to close after queen cells had been found and the two brood boxes were separated. The honey was divided into three so I had a lot of honey to store and jar. I had some great experiences for a few years.

I took the BBKA Basic Assessment in 2007 and General Husbandry in 2011.

I hope to see you at the Jamie Ellis lecture on the 4th April in Petworth.



*Fin and friend*

**Melvyn**

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

...and finally

## ReViVe Update

Members will be aware that along with 60 other beekeeping associations and divisions your County Association is co-funding the ReViVe research project into expanding the mechanism by which some honeybee colonies are able to live in conjunction with high levels of *Varroa*.

£40,000 of funding is being provided over three years into this work led by Dr Declan Schroeder of Plymouth MBA and Prof. Stephen Martin of the University of Salford. You'll recall that Steve spoke to us at our Convention in February.



An update on the project progress is now available from the team. However, we have been asked not to post this information on the internet as it is part of their submission for peer review at the moment. It is however available to members on request.

Please let me know if you would like a copy.

**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 or our facebook page please send articles and photographs to:

Graham Elliott, Editor & County Secretary, *no later than the 20th 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.

