



# Annual Convention



**Saturday 25th February** is the date for our Annual Convention at Lodge Hill Centre, Watersfield, Pulborough. It is designed to suit beekeepers of all standards.



As well as the main lectures, the seminars offer a choice of more specialised topics **and there is still time to book.**

We have an impressive list of presenters including Professor Steve Martin, Professor Dave Goulson, Dr Michael Keith-Lucas, Daisy Day, Jo Walden, Tom Moore and Wilma Markellie from Arnia.

Speakers' profiles are available on the WSBKA website as is the full programme for the day and a Booking Form.

[www.westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk/convention.html](http://www.westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk/convention.html)

**Book now** if you have not already done so to ensure the seminars of your choice.

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## Bee Market & Auction - 22nd April

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**Saturday 22nd April** will again see us at the Brinsbury Campus in Pulborough for our annual Bee Market & Auction. This event cannot happen without YOU and if you are available to help with a variety of tasks including assisting in the Auction Ring or serving tea and coffee please contact me or speak to your local division's committee members.

Details are now on the WSBKA website so if you have surplus equipment you wish to sell download the Lot Entry Form and Guidance Notes. Closing date for entries is 12<sup>th</sup> April or when 300 lots have been registered.



Sue Cooper will again be running her very popular plant stall. Your contributions are appreciated as ever so if you can help please contact Sue on e-mail:

[woodbugs23@gmail.com](mailto:woodbugs23@gmail.com) or phone on 01798 870461 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

## BBKA Spring Convention 2017

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This year's BBKA Spring Convention will again be held at Harper Adams University, Newport, Shropshire, TF10 8NB from **Friday 7th April to Sunday 9th April**.



The Convention will include 30 lectures, 50 courses and workshops, and a trade show. It offers on-site accommodation and dinner.

Tickets went on sale from 16th January on the BBKA website:  
[www.bbka.org.uk/shop/beekeepers/spring-convention-2017/](http://www.bbka.org.uk/shop/beekeepers/spring-convention-2017/)

Tickets are £22 to Association members if booked in advance or £25 if purchased on the day.

For all enquiries visit the BBKA website or contact the organisers on the following e-mail addresses:

Workshops & Courses: [workshopconvenor@bbka.org.uk](mailto:workshopconvenor@bbka.org.uk)

Accommodation and meals: [hospitality@bbka.org.uk](mailto:hospitality@bbka.org.uk)

General enquiries: [tim.lovett@bbka.org.uk](mailto:tim.lovett@bbka.org.uk)

# International Meeting of Young Beekeepers

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This year the venue for this prestigious annual event is Marlborough College, Wiltshire, SN8 1PA from 6th to 9th JULY. Could you, or someone you know, be a member of Team England this year?

We will be holding the annual selection day for the IMYB team on **Sunday 5th March** at the BBKA HQ at Stoneleigh Park. To qualify to take part in IMYB you must be aged 12, but no more than 16, on January 1st 2017. You must also have taken and passed the BBKA Basic Assessment and be a member of a BKA affiliated association or an individual member of the BBKA.



**If you want to take part in the selection day or want any further details, contact Ian Homer at the e-mail address below ..... but do it quickly, 5th March will soon be with us!!**

At the moment, it seems likely that some of the assessments of the competition itself will be carried out at the recently completed 'Hive' installation at Kew Gardens with the main activities being completed at Marlborough College itself. Funding is coming in well and planning for the event is well under way with 16 countries having accepted the invitation to take part so far. India and Armenia are first time participants and we may also have a team coming from the USA for the first time though this is yet to be confirmed.

We also have recently received confirmation that the Government will be supporting the event with Lord Gardiner, under Secretary of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs delivering the opening address.

Opportunities like this are rare so do contact me if you want to take part.

***Ian Homer***

[ian.homer@bbka.org.uk](mailto:ian.homer@bbka.org.uk)



International Meeting  
of Young Beekeepers



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## Swarm Collectors 2017

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.

## 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

**Wednesday 8th February** - *'Bee Diseases'*, a talk by David Rudland from East Surrey Bees at the Roffey Millennium Hall, Horsham. 7:30pm.

Details from Melvyn Essen: [chairman@centralsussexbka.org.uk](mailto:chairman@centralsussexbka.org.uk)

or website: [www.centralsussexbka.org.uk](http://www.centralsussexbka.org.uk)

### Chichester Division

**Tuesday 14th February** - *'AGM followed by a beekeeping film'* 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)

### Wisborough Green Division

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 9th 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 18th February 2017** - *Surrey BKA 12th Bee Day*. Cobham Village Hall, Lushington Drive, Cobham KT11 2LU from 9.30am to 5pm. See article in December's newsletter.

**Saturday 25th February 2017** - *WSBKA Annual Convention*, Lodge Hill Centre, Watersfield, Pulborough, RH20 1LZ. Details in this newsletter and on the website.

**Saturday 11th March** - *WGBKA Beginners' & Improvers' Day*. Pulborough Village Hall. Full details on the Division's website: [www.wgbka.org.uk/Beginners\\_Day.html](http://www.wgbka.org.uk/Beginners_Day.html)

**Saturday 22nd April 2017** - *WSBKA Annual Bee Market & Auction*. Chichester College's Brinsbury Campus, Pulborough, RH20 1DL. Details in this newsletter and on the website.

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



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One of the tables published with the ADM papers is the exam board report. West Sussex propped up the bottom of the table for the BBKA Basic, with just 2 entries in 2016, although in fairness we were above those 13 associations who made no entries at all. It wasn't always like this. Roger and Marion Brooks, who have been County Examinations Secretaries for the past 6 years, have sent in a summary of Basic Assessments within the county. They are as follows:

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
County	10	17	6	3	2
BBKA	843	941	695	701	599

In contrast, the BBKA Totals seem to have held up reasonably well over the same period.

Our Module applications follow a similar decline.

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
County March	13	14	2	4	2
County November	15	7	5	4	2
BBKA March		365	347	342	286
BBKA Non-members	287	243	231	204	Not available

Firstly I would like to thank Roger and Marion for all their work over the 6 years and for the professional and friendly way the module exams have been conducted at Storrington Village Hall. They would like to relinquish their role so we are looking for someone to step into their shoes at the end of March. I have asked Roger to write a job description, which I can pass to anyone who is interested.

Secondly, why has our enthusiasm for exams in West Sussex tailed off? or indeed maybe it was always low and it is the flurry of activity in 2012 and 2013 which is the aberration. I sat the Basic in 2011 and I recall I was one of 8 from Chichester who went to the apiary at Wisborough Green for our assessments. Prior to that I think there had been no applicants from Chichester for some time. What caused that surge? Well 2008 was the first year of a series of beginners' training courses organised by John and Christine Stevens and such was the enthusiasm that a group of about a dozen got together in the upstairs room of the Bader Arms in Tangmere (sadly now a Co-op) and were given a grilling on their beekeeping knowledge by Roger Patterson. That was Chichester's peak year and maybe other divisions also had similar peak years.

I recall a group from Worthing coming to our Aldingbourne apiary for Basic practice in 2012. The question is what do we need to do either at a division or County level to re kindle that enthusiasm of 5 years ago?



Exams certainly are not the be all and end all of beekeeping and many people will feel they have done enough exams in their lives and beekeeping after all for most of us is a hobby. Nevertheless, getting together in a group for a bit of study will help improve our knowledge of what is going on in our hives and should make us better beekeepers.

One of the best things about the Basic is that it is an oral and practical assessment and there is no written exam. It gives confidence to those who have recently taken up the craft, that they have a reasonable understanding and ability and who knows may lead to other qualifications in the future. So why not get together in a group, download the syllabus from the BBKA website and ask if someone can come and talk to you about what is involved.

As a complete change of subject, some of you will have come across 'Grow Wild' seeds. These are seeds of native British wild flowers, which can be planted in gardens. The project is funded by the National Lottery and led by The Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. So what is not to like? Their website says they are not intended to be used in the open countryside or other places where wild plants are already established, particularly nature reserves or other areas where rare, species-rich habitats have been identified and protected. The reason for this is that each locality will have slightly different strains of native flowers and the 'Grow Wild' seeds may be different and will hybridise with the local plants and change their characteristics.



The only problem is that I don't think that most of us know where rare wild flowers grow locally and a honeybee foraging over a 3 mile radius won't discriminate between local and introduced flowers and may cross pollinate them. Planting wild flower meadows in gardens is in fashion at the moment but unless the plants are really local, then I can't help feeling synthetic wild flower meadows are not a good idea, if we want to retain our local strains.

'Grow Wild' are not the only ones selling Native seeds. A quick look on the internet, yielded a long list. These seed will be commercially produced in different parts of the country and some even imported. Visit [www.floralocale.org/](http://www.floralocale.org/) for details of where seeds are harvested and buy locally sourced seeds.

**Jim**

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



## Examination Secretary Wanted

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There is an opportunity to coordinate the BBKA learning across the four Divisional Associations in WSBKA.

Responsibilities of the role include communicating with the BBKA Examination Secretary, Divisional Exam Secretaries and Examination candidates; booking Assessors and venues for the practical and written Examinations and Assessments; receiving applications from members to take BBKA Examinations and Assessments and promoting and publicising the examination programme. Attendance at the regular Executive Committee Meetings is not necessary but a brief report for each meeting and at the end of the year is appreciated. This is an honorary position although out-of-pocket expenses will be reimbursed.

If you have the time and are interested in supporting your Association please register your interest with the Chairman or Secretary at [chairman@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:chairman@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk) or [secretary@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:secretary@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk). Further details can also be provided on request.

...and finally

## Annual Delegate Meeting

Our WSBKA delegate this year was Roger Patterson. He attended the 57th Annual Delegate Meeting at the National Beekeeping Centre, Stoneleigh on 14th January.

All nominations for Trustees were successful. Those Propositions that failed to be adopted included Petersfield and Tyneside's applications to become independent members of BBKA; the establishment of a working group to review BBKA structure and goals; annual publication of the reimbursement policy and disclosure of expenses paid to Trustees, the Executive and members; appointment of Trustees by one-member-one-vote; BBKA working with Chemicals Registration Directorate & Trading Standards to address the risk of secondary poisoning of honeybees by pest controllers when destroying feral colonies.

Propositions adopted included one-member-one-vote as a form of member representation to be rejected; BBKA to pay delegates' expenses; and the development of a Course in a Case for talks to schools.

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.



**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.

