

Volume 7, Issue 8

November 2017



MEMBERS' COUNTY NEWSLETTER

West Sussex Beekeepers' Association



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Bee Improvement For All

If you are interested in keeping bees that are docile, easy to handle, healthy and suit your district this day is for you.

As the title implies it is for all beekeepers from beginners to the well experienced.

The day will be packed with information on how to assess your bees, so you can more easily decide which colonies to raise queens from and which queens to replace.

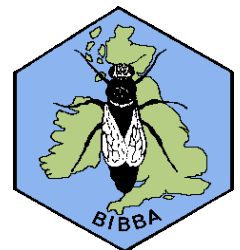
Sunday 19th November

Rudgwick Village Hall,

RH12 3JJ

The keeping of poor stock is a major reason why there are heavy bee losses. This event will help you to reduce your losses by improving the survivability of your own bees. Bookings are close to capacity, so to avoid disappointment book now by completing the online Booking Form on the BIBBA website:

<https://bibba.com/event/bifa-west-sussex/>



Des Res for Honeybees



The owners of a farm near Lindfield are offering their land as a possible Des Res for a number of colonies of honeybees.

The farm has 27 acres of partly wooded and landscaped garden and the owners are very interested in helping to increase the bee population and would like to have beehives in the garden.

If you are seeking appropriate locations for hives please contact me in the first instance to explore the opportunities on the farm.

Graham

secretary@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

Wednesday 1st November - *'Honeybee Pests & Diseases'* with Celia & David Rudland from East Surrey Bees. The Roffey Millennium Hall, Horsham at 7:30pm.

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

Chichester Division

Tuesday 14th November - *'Mead Making'* with Roger Patterson at the Fishbourne Centre, Blackboy Lane, Fishbourne, Chichester, PO18 8BE at 7:30pm. Further details from Nick Brown:

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

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

Wisborough Green Division

Saturday 4th November - Meeting at the teaching apiary from 1:30pm.

Tuesday 7th November - *'Non-standard Medications for the Control of Bee Problems'* with Pam Hunter. North Hall, Loxwood, RH14 0SF at 7:30pm.

Further details from Sue Elliott: secretary@wgbka.org.uk or website: www.wgbka.org.uk

Worthing Division

Thursday 9th November - *AGM and Social*. Speaker is Pam Hunter on *'Oilseed Rape - A Blessing or a Curse?'* Ferring Village Hall, BN12 5JP from 7:30pm.

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

... and Dates for your Diary

Sunday 19th November - BIBBA *'Bee Improvement for All'*. Rudgwick Village Hall, Bucks Green, RH12 3JJ. See the August newsletter for full details or website:

<http://bibba.com/event/bee-improvement-bifa-day/>

Friday 9th - Sunday 11th February 2018 - *'Making Good Use Of Your Beeswax'* with Jim Ryan. Hampers Green Community Centre, North Street, Petworth, GU28 9NL. Hosted by Wisborough Green BKA. See article in this Newsletter.

Saturday 17th - Sunday 18th February 2018 - *BIBBA Conference at The Eden Project*, Bodelva, Cornwall, PL24 2SG. See article in this Newsletter.

Saturday 24th February 2018 - *WSBKA Annual Convention*. Lodge Hill Centre, Watersfield, Pulborough, RH20 1LZ. Details will be available shortly 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.



Making Good Use of Your Beeswax - February 2018

Wisborough Green BKA is again hosting Jim Ryan from Thurles, Co Tipperary early next year.

Jim will be demonstrating several products that can be easily made with small quantities of beeswax, using equipment that is in most kitchens.

Three dates are available, **Friday 9th, Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th February**. 10am start to approximately 5pm. The venue is the Hampers Green Community Centre, North Street, Petworth, GU28 9NL.

These days are expected to be popular and early booking is recommended to avoid disappointment. Booking is by email only using the Booking Form which can be downloaded from the WSBKA website:

www.westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk/events.html . Please ensure your booking is acknowledged.

For further details see the Booking Form or email Roger Patterson: roger-patterson@btconnect.com.



BBKA Update



Margaret Wilson, Vice Chair of the Trustees has again written to members updating on the various projects and initiatives currently being undertaken by the Association. This month, articles included are on what is happening at BBKA HQ, Asian Hornets, Apimondia Convention in Istanbul, the new BBKA schools' scheme and the National Honey Show.

The letter to members is too large to reproduce here but can be viewed in full on the BBKA's website in the Members' Area. www.bbka.org.uk

Melvyn's Missive



Chairman, Melvyn Essen, writes for the County News

Pesticides have been in the news again with neonics, of course, blamed for the reason we have cleaner summer windscreens. When it's mentioned you think, yes, it is right, we don't get so many bugs on our screens. Of course it's not only down to pesticide use—loss of habitat due to farming practices changing, more housing being built on green fields, paving over of front gardens..... This, of course, is all bad for our bees. Oh, and for all other wildlife, including us humans.

Neonics in seed coatings which are not translocated through the crop plants leach into ground water. You don't need much imagination to think where this goes - like a drink of water?

Professor Dave Goulson spelt it out to us at our convention this year about how neonics work and what they can be responsible for. Another farming practice that could be building up to be a great problem is the use of glyphosate. Some crops are sprayed with glyphosate to aid ripening prior to harvesting.

Melvyn

chairman@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk

BeeCraft Award

Bee Craft magazine has won a top international award

Bee Craft, the UK's best-selling popular beekeeping magazine, has been awarded a silver medal at Apimondia 2017, the world beekeeping convention held every two years. This is the third successive Apimondia at which *Bee Craft* has won a top award, having received gold medals in 2013 and 2015, having previously received a gold medal in 2007.

'Despite the broadening of categories at Apimondia in 2017 to include all media scientific, practical and general, it's clear that, in effect, *Bee Craft* has been voted the world's best popular beekeeping magazine' said Andrew Gibb, *Bee Craft*'s CEO.



BIBBA Conference at The Eden Project

Saturday 17th February 2018. *'Sustainable Beekeeping. A Future Without Imports'.*

The morning will have talks by Norman Carreck and Mark Barnett, covering research relevant to the improvement of honeybees in a sustainable manner.

In the afternoon there will be talks on the principles of bee improvement by Jo Widdicombe and some ideas on how sustainability may be achieved from Roger Patterson.



On **Sunday 18th February** a number of events will be organised including visits to apiaries to discuss practical management and a *'Bee Improvement for All'* day for those interested.

<https://bibba.com/event/sustainable-beekeeping-future-without-imports/>

...and finally

December County Newsletter

The December Newsletter may be published slightly later next month. If so it should be available on or shortly after 16th December.

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 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



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

