



National Honey Show - October

The **86th National Honey Show** Schedule has been finalised. It is published on the website: www.honeyshow.co.uk where **Entry Forms** can also be downloaded and returned to the Entries Secretary **no later than 9th October**.



Three of the main lectures in the **Gold Cup Suite** have been sponsored by local Beekeeping Associations. Three renowned speakers are from the United States: Tom Seeley, Professor in Biology at Cornell University; Kim Flottum, Editor of Bee Culture Magazine; and Heather Mattila, Professor at Wellesley College, Massachusetts. Local speakers include Peter Tomkins from Rothamstead Research; Will Steynor and our own Roger Patterson. All will be giving some compelling lectures! Details on the website: www.honeyshow.co.uk/lectures-and-workshops.php#main.

BeeCraft continues to support the Show with their Friday lectures; young researchers from UK Universities will present updates on their current studies.

Thursday 26th - Saturday 28th October at Sandown Park Racecourse, Esher, Surrey, KT10 9AJ.

The **B Kids** stand in the trade hall will be offering activities for younger beekeepers such as candle rolling, mask making, make a shake-a-bee, label a bee, bee colouring sheets, a 'Find the Queen' raffle and more.



There are a number of interesting lectures and workshops aimed at **Beginners** this year. There will be a Taster Workshop run by Celia and David Rudland (East Surrey Bees) on Saturday for those thinking of becoming beekeepers. The day's programme aimed at beekeepers in the first year or two of beekeeping will help

Inside this issue:

86th National Honey Show	2
BBKA General Husbandry	2
Around the Divisions	3
Dates For Your Diary	3
Melvyn's Missive	4
Sussex Food & Drinks Awards	4
Letter from BBKA Trustees	5
West Sussex BKA website	5

them understand what is going on in the hive, how they can best interpret events and develop their bee-keeping skills. Full details are again on the website: www.honeyshow.co.uk/lectures-and-workshops.php#beginners.

All workshops are open to National Honey Show members. They are popular and must be booked in advance with **booking opening on 1st September**. Booking information is available on the website: www.honeyshow.co.uk/workshop-booking.php. This year's programme includes old favourites plus some new areas of interest including making wax fruit, cooking with honey and labour saving devices.



Many volunteers are needed to help run the Show so if you can offer a couple of hours or half a day stewarding, you would be warmly welcomed (and rewarded!) Chair people are also required for the workshops and lectures so if you can help contact Bill: chiefsteward@honeyshow.co.uk.

BBKA General Husbandry - Assessment Preparation Training

The BBKA Education and Husbandry Committee is very pleased to announce that a successful bid to DEFRA under the Healthy Bees Plan will provide part of the funds for the local support to those who plan to take the General Husbandry assessment in the near future.

The programme of 20 hours will cover both practical and theoretical aspects of the General Husbandry Assessment, aiming to give the participants an understanding of what the Assessment entails and what they need to do in order to be successful.



The training is running between **January and May 2018**, and will be facilitated by a team of 14 Master Beekeepers who are also General Husbandry assessors in the following areas of the country: North West, North East, South Wales, South West, Midlands, East Anglia and the **South East of England**.

The candidates are required to have taken the Basic Certificate and be registered on BeeBase. The enrolment fee is £50.

For more information or to register interest, please contact Marin Anastasov NDB : manastassov@aol.com

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

Saturday 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th September - Apiary meetings and BuZZ Club at Pease Pottage starting at 9:30am.

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

Chichester Division

Tuesday 12th September - 'Autumn & Winter Preparations'.

Fishbourne Centre, Blackboy Lane, Fishbourne, Chichester, PO18 8B 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 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th September - Meetings at the teaching apiary from 1:30pm.

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

Worthing Division

Wednesday 6th September - Meeting at the teaching apiary from 6pm.

Saturday 9th September - Annual Honey Show at the Findon Sheep Fair, Nepcote Green, Findon, BN14 OSD.

Thursday 14th September - Monthly Meeting at Ferring Village Hall 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

Thursday 26th - Saturday 28th October - 86th National Honey Show. Sandown Park Racecourse, Esher, Surrey, KT10 9AJ. See lead article in this newsletter or view the Show's website: www.honeyshow.co.uk/.

Sunday 19th November - BIBBA 'Bee Improvement for All'. Rudgwick Village Hall, Bucks Green, RH12 3JJ. See last month's newsletter for full details.

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



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Melvyn's Missive

Chairman, Melvyn Essen, writes for the County News



This is the time of the year when new members with their first bees find it difficult to prepare and manage them through the winter. They have brought their bees through the swarming cycle, checked they are healthy, and harvested any honey.

To make things more difficult their bees may be trying to supersede, something else difficult to comprehend, leaving queen cells, albeit in a different position, with the queen present.

They will be making sure they have sufficient stores to last until the spring without having to feed during the winter, and of course *Varroa* monitoring and treatment, but with what? Who would want to keep bees?! Did someone say beekeeping was relaxing?, it may be very rewarding though, that you are playing an important part in keeping the honeybee population healthy. They haven't needed our help for millions of years, but they do now.

Beginners don't forget that at the National Honey Show (Sandown Park Race Course, Surrey) 26th – 28th October, some of the Saturday lectures on 28th will be **for you**. Other lectures will of course be for everyone. It's also a good event to pick up a bargain or two. *See the lead article in this newsletter—Ed.*

With the surge in house building, if Horsham is a good example, my house was considered to be on the outskirts, but soon we will be a suburb of Horsham. We must promote the growing of bee-friendly plants even more. You may have noticed, if our neighbourhood is representative, that front gardens are being block paved over at an alarming rate with less plants for our bees.

Melvyn

chairman@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk

Sussex Food & Drink Awards 2018

There is still time to vote for Doug.

This year **Southdowns Honey** from Lancing is amongst the ten finalists in the **Sussex Food Producer of the Year** category. Doug Pearce, a member of Worthing BKA is the proud proprietor and has commented, 'As a hobby I keep bees and I am a finalist in the Sussex Food Awards 2018 for my honey, in the Sussex Food Producers 2018 section as **Southdowns Honey**'.



If you would like to vote for Doug visit: www.sussexfoodawards.biz before 19th September.

...and finally

Letter from BBKA Trustees



John Hendrie, President; Margaret Murdin, Chair; Margaret Wilson, Vice Chair; and Stephen Barnes, Chair of Governance, write to BBKA members.

Six months have passed since the ADM and the BBKA has been busy working hard for the benefit of the membership. So we thought we would let you all know some of the good things that have been achieved whilst we have been Trustees and the things that are still in the development stage for this year .

The full letter is too large to reproduce here but is available on the BBKA website accessed through the restricted Members' Area:

www.bbka.org.uk/files/library/gm_13_2017_august_2017_mw_1502199013.pdf

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.

