

Brighton & Lewes Beekeepers



A DIVISION OF THE SUSSEX BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

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EDITORIAL

New members bring new blood and new ideas to any organisation, so I'm delighted that we can welcome a couple of new members this month, both of whom have shared with us their experiences of how they became beekeepers and joined B&L.

The first is Alex Smith, who is featured on [page 7](#), while you'll have to wait a month to hear the intriguing story of our second new member, as we'll be running that in the September issue.

We are, I hope, all too well aware that the bees always have new things to teach us, so under the headline 'I learned about beekeeping from that', on [page 4](#), Jude New offers us her experience of what happens if you try and cram too much into too little time. Got a similar story? Get in touch!

We're also reaching the peak of the beekeeping season—as I'm certain you're well aware—so our Veiled Beekeeper offers sage words of advice on [page 2](#) on how to navigate what becomes a busy time, followed by a period of rest and relaxation (well, sort of).

On our [Noticeboard page](#), you'll find out how to enter the National Bee Supplies Beekeeping Photographer of the Year competition. It's also where announcements and items of general interest will appear, so please make checking this out this a priority.

[Photo Corner](#) is always a joy to lay out as the quality of images today is so high. From long-term member, B&L webmaster and biologist Gerald Legg come three images, one of which is always a welcome sight, and a couple that definitely are not.

And finally as usual, check out the [Events page](#) to find out what's going in and around our area: apiary meetings, auctions, online and live talks, and more.

New Chair & Secretary required

B&L Beekeeping Division is run entirely by volunteers. No-one is in it for money or the glory (ha!).

It takes time and energy to run an organisation such as this: not a huge amount but a commitment to fellow beekeepers is the core driving force. So there comes a time when those volunteers naturally would like to step back and devote their energies in another direction.

So you need to be aware that, at the AGM in February, we'll be needing a new Chairman and Secretary, as both incumbents are stepping down. If you or anyone you know might be interested in standing, please start considering it now.

Check out the [Noticeboard](#) page in this issue for more info.

Manek Dubash, Editor

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2021

EVENTS

- Out-apiary meetings about every two weeks.
- See [back page](#) for details

NEXT MONTH

- Summer tips
- Your contributions
- Apiary reports
- Committee news
- Asian Hornet update
- News updates
- From around the web

CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE?

Do you have interesting photos or video links you'd like to share? Or an insight from your beekeeping that would could enhance the hobby for others? Do you have skills that could be useful to other members? Anything else you'd like to see in this newsletter?

Ideas and contributions welcome: all contact details are on the [back page](#).

ONLINE

brightonlewesbeekeepers.co.uk



QR link to our website

Seasonal tips for August

Hooray! It stopped raining, the sun came out and my bees finally started to lay down stores in late July. I had hoped to get an early harvest at the end of June but any nectar they were able to collect was soon eaten as they were confined to the hive due to bad weather. I was so concerned at one point by the lack of stores in one or two hives, I put on a small rapid feeder with about two litres of 1:1 syrup on in early July. Maybe your colonies are in the same state? But if not, August is when to harvest. And not just harvest but also to think about winter preparations.

Removing frames

There are various methods of removing full super frames ready for harvest the simplest is to shake or brush the bees off of the frame. Once all the bees have been removed, the frame is placed in an empty box and covered to stop the bees repopulating the frame. The drawback is that it takes a while and you end up with a lot of annoyed bees flying around you. Not as annoyed as the bees cleared off honey supers at Sussex Uni a few years back, when the beekeeper used a leaf blower to do the job!

The most convenient option especially if you have several hives to harvest is to use a [clearer board](#).

The most common consists of Porter bee escapes fitted into the purpose-made holes in the crown board (get them the right way round) or any one of several maze-type escapes available from your friendly neighbourhood wholesaler. I tend to use the rhombus escapes fixed onto a crown board.

Make sure that you have enough space for the cleared bees to go into by clearing into a part used super or eke. Do not try and clear the bees out of the



Rhombus bee escape

super/s directly into the brood box, they just won't fit.

Alternatively, you could use a chemical repellent sprinkled over a cloth placed above the supers. Replace the lid and after several minutes the bees have been driven out of the supers and you can remove them.

Taking the honey

Be sure that when you take the harvest, all honey in the frames is sealed or, if not sealed, has a water content below 20%. Above this level, honey is likely to ferment once harvested and stored. It's easy to test the water content with a refractometer.



Refractometers are available on eBay

To use, put a small sample of honey on the inspection plate, flip the cover over the sample and hold it up to the light. Looking down the eye piece allows you to read off the moisture content. If properly calibrated, this gives a very accurate result.

If you don't want to spend about £60-£80 on a refractometer that you'll only use once or twice a year, try the 'shake method'. Hold a frame of unsealed honey upside down and shake the frame, if honey drips out then it's not ready and you will need to leave it on until it is ripe.

However, if you are keen to take as much as you can and can't wait for it to be ripen, then you can put the frames in a warm, bee-proof room and use a dehumidifier to reduce the water content. After a number of days, the water content should be at the required level.

To feed or not to feed

If you are maximising your harvest, be prepared to feed your bees with syrup in the late summer and early autumn, and supplement it later in the year with fondant.

If you want to leave some honey on, the hive will need about 20-25Kg of stores to see the bees through the winter, which is about a full super and all the stores in the brood box.

Varroa monitoring

Once the honey has been taken off, now is the time to thoroughly check the brood for disease and mite levels in your hives. Only treat your bees if they need it, use the [National Bee Unit guide on Managing Varroa](#) and go to the chapter on Integrated Pest Management to check when to treat.

In round numbers, if your daily average mite drop is above 10, then you need to treat immediately. [Several treatments](#) are available to us but be aware that some treatments need to go on before it gets too cold.

Supersedure

You may also experience queen supersedure at this time of year. Supersedure/emergency queen cells are generally drawn on the face of the brood comb, unlike swarm cells that are usually on the bottom edge.

Do not knock them down.

There is still a chance that the new queen can still be mated before the weather cools and the drones disappear. As the old queen starts to fail the workers develop several replacements but, instead of swarming, the original queen and her daughter may continue share the hive and to lay on the same comb until eventually, at a later inspection, you notice an unmarked queen.

Inspections

The good news, certainly for your close family, is there is no real need to continue with weekly inspections, as there is very little chance of your bees swarming so late in the season. I start to wind down my visits by making them fortnightly, then monthly until March, when the brood starts to expand and the whole circus begins again.

Hope you have a good harvest!

The Veiled Beekeeper



Norman Dickinson
Chairman

Words from the Chair

Not a great amount to say this month except to say that up until a couple of days ago (I am writing this on 25 July, a little later than normal) the weather was looking good but there was torrential rain earlier today and it looks like we are in for some unsettled and cooler weather over the next week heading into August.

It was a shame that we had to cancel the meeting in Piddinghoe recently, due to very unforeseen and unfortunate circumstances, but we are back on track now. We are still waiting on the delivery of chestnut fencing so that we can enclose the hive area at the new apiary site at Waverley House but, as soon as it arrives, we will get the new apiary set up and maybe even fit in a meeting there before the end of the summer season.

Exam results

The members who booked to take the BBKA Basic Assessment will now have completed the assessment and will be waiting with trepidation for the results, so to those members I say: “stay confident that you have passed”.

As can be expected at this time of year we have had very few new or renewing members joining B&L but we have had one new member, so welcome Rachel Graham to B&L.

For those members interested and willing to travel our sister Division Hastings and Rother will be holding a Bee Equipment Auction on 21 August at Netherfield Recreation Ground, Netherfield Road, Battle, TN33 9QA (near to the Netherfield Arm public house) Further details from [Harold Cloutt](#). There are more details about the auction on the [Events page](#).

B&L's future

I would now ask members to think very carefully about our future. At the B&L AGM in February this year I stated that I would only stand as Chairman of B&L for a 12 month period, which will end in February 2022. So over the next six months, my replacement needs to be found, so if there is any B&L member willing to consider taking on the role in 2022 then please [contact me](#), in confidence if felt necessary.



Hilary Osman
Secretary

Your Committee at work

It's sunny, but is it too late for a harvest? That is my question at the moment, and I am sure it will have crossed your minds too.

This past month, the committee have been working and hopefully secured a venue for the Bee Disease Day for 2022, previously cancelled from 2019. Watch this space for further information.

Work is also in progress on a new apiary site. We have a little work to do prior to bees being on the site, but rest assured it is all in hand. More details to follow.

Hilary steps down

As for my position as Secretary, which I mentioned last month, I will not be carrying on. I have been in this role now for seven years. It is not an arduous task, and anyone who might be interested, and who can read and write, could fulfil this role. We are also looking for a Chairman and Librarian.

Winter meetings

Our winter meetings are a mixture of both live and Zoom meetings. This has been

planned with consideration to allow us to have meetings within the comfort of our homes, but still able to meet up. The Zoom licence has been a godsend, (as all committee meetings have been held using it) so that we have been able to have meetings earlier this year, and it would be possible that after the talks, we could still have some bee chat with a cuppa and slice of cake, taking the pressure off the washer-up on the 3rd Wednesday evening of each month.

Hoping to catch up with you soon...
Hil



Looking forward to seeing plenty of these?
Photo: The Apiarist (David Evans)



Manek Dubash
Asian Hornet
Team Co-ordinator

Asian hornet report

The number of Asian hornets spotted on Jersey has now topped 100. The local group and the public between them have found primary nests and individual hornets, and at least one nest that may have been in the process of transitioning into a secondary nest.

According to researchers, sometimes this happens: rather than the initially small colony decamping from the primary nest to find a site for the much larger secondary nest



Primary nest found on Jersey this year

containing thousands of workers, they simply expand the primary nest.

Meanwhile, there are no reports of Asian hornets here on the UK mainland. But please continue to keep your eyes peeled.



Beer mats from Guernsey. 15,000 mats have been distributed to try to control the invasion. The idea came from noticing how often Asian hornets hovered over a pint of beer or were found drowned in the bottom of a glass.

I learnt about beekeeping from that

A member explains what they could have done differently. This month: Jude New. If you have a story, please get in touch!

I must confess, just now, I would rather do anything than move bees in hives or poly nucs between apiaries. At the moment I feel a bit like a pincushion from *The Sewing Bee*!!

I was offered two hives to give our BBKA Basic exam candidates enough hives to open one each on the days of their assessments. It looked easy when the bees arrived: two poly nucs, one with a super containing some uncapped honey. The bees arrived about a week before the assessments.

I put two mesh floors and brood boxes on stands between the existing hives. We transferred the bees into the apiary brood boxes and walked away. Job done.

The person who loaned the bees didn't mention anything about the process the night before, or transporting the bees, only that the normal rubber band for holding a net curtain in place around the nucs had broken or disappeared, so necessity had intervened and another method of securing it had been used (seems so

long ago, I can't remember what the 'mother of necessity had provided!').

Assessments over, the two hives needed to return to their home apiaries. Thinking and preparations began.

Mistake 1: Didn't check my diary for the day that the bees were to be closed in, so I did the things I had planned in the morning then went to the beach with friends from London in the afternoon. They were saying all day what a lovely time they were having and how good the weather was. I must admit I was kept thinking that it's too



Poly nuc

early to close the bees up, or start the process because it's too hot; this is not lovely weather to be in a bee suit.

Mistake 2: Stopping on the way home for a coffee and chat before leaving our friends to drive themselves home and getting home for our supper.

Mistake 3: Heating up supermarket pizza and eating it around 19.30 still thinking: it's very warm, it won't take long to do the job, it was easy to unpack the bees, so packing them and closing them up will be easy too, right?

Mistake 4: Believing mistake 3!

I packed the car with all the things I thought I would need, drove to the apiary, let myself in and started closing the first hive. It was hot work but the bees were very good tempered, if a little confused. It felt as though I was playing the set-up video backwards and was easy.

What to do with the flying bees which weren't in the nuc? I removed the nuc of bees into the shade, and

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From our apiaries: Barcombe, Grassroots, Hove & Piddinghoe

Barcombe

Due to one thing or another (mainly the weather this June), Barcombe went almost a whole month without an inspection. My records show that on 5 June, only two of the six hives were queen-right. Three showed no sign of a queen and so eggs were donated from my own apiary, while the last was riddled with emergency queen cells. A month later, things were looking up: all colonies were queen-right and it looked like the spring madness was over and I could expect a calmer summer flow!

Then came a call a few days after the 5 July inspection: "Your bees are swarming," she said. Impossible, I thought as there were definitely no queen cells in any of the colonies. It was a massive prime swarm too, about 40ft up in a tree, but impossible to get to and which eventually just moved on.

On re-checking the colonies, there was no sign of swarming so they must have been from elsewhere or the Barcombe swarm from a month or so earlier still seeking a home—I'll keep an eye out.

Then on 15 July and the first five hives looking OK with newly laid eggs the last hive let me down, riddled with supersedure cells on a new queen!

I do wonder if it's a mixture of the weather and varroa, as despite vapping Barcombe relentlessly throughout the winter, the mite count remains quite high—I think I'll return to using strips this autumn.

In contrast, my own apiary in Maresfield is very well behaved...

Tony Birkbeck, Apiary Manager



The newly-marked queen. Photo: TB.

Grassroots

The OSB—or Rose One Size Box—which was left at the apiary currently appears to have a drone-laying queen. At the last inspection there was a queen-laying worker and drone brood just beginning to build up. The site seems to have less forage than I had thought, so she could have 'gone off lay' because there wasn't enough forage about.

We were given a couple of queens and attendant workers, which we hope to build from in the National hives.

All the queen rearing energy has been at Hove with the intention of placing any surplus at Grassroots. That remains the aim, but it'll happen later than intended or expected.

Jude New, Apiary Manager

Hove

Hove apiary hosted an out-apiary meeting this month, and we recorded of a newly mated queen walking around a hive with purpose; it made me feel proud. This week she was marked with the crown of thorns seeing use for the first time this year. Some very protective workers also had their wings



Bees at Hove (actually).

marked—that's not happened before, wonder how long it will take for them to lose that marking. The queen should be easy to see now!

Hove apiary was used for part of the training for the BBKA Basic certificate, Hilary came over and suggested strategies for how to approach the practical side of the assessment. The 'take home' was as soon as you open the hive, keep up a running commentary, of what you and see happening on the comb and in the hive, so the examiner knows you know about bees! She also demonstrated taking a sample of bees in a matchbox to send off for disease recognition.

The assessor will come to Hove apiary to complete the assessments for our candidates, usually we would say 'weather permitting' but our assessor has said that golfing umbrellas will be used so that the assessments can take place. We wish everyone good luck and hope that our next group will be inspired to follow in your footsteps next year.

Stage one of queen rearing at Hove apiary did not work as well as I would have liked, a split worked better than the natural queen cells in poly nucs. Stage two of queen rearing has begun. I have made up some apideae with queen cells and a 300ml of bees from a calm hive. Now we wait while the virgin queen emerges and flies out for mating. Fingers crossed for some warmer weather to ensure this happens and then some eggs, worker brood and drone. The Nicot system looks a likely way to raise queen cells, then putting the queen cells in an apideae or into a

(Continued on page 6)



Queen-rearing apideae at Hove. Photo: JN.

From our apiaries: Barcombe, Grassroots, Hove & Piddinghoe



Hilary teaches bee inspection at Hove.
Photo: Graham Bubloz

(Continued from page 5)

six-frame poly nuc. We hope to get the system working before the end of the month. Watch this space. If anyone out there has experience with Nicot please let us know.

Jude New, Apiary Manager

Piddinghoe

The sole nuc is doing well. In mid-July, I was able to transfer it into a full-sized National hive. At the last inspection there were enough bees to put on a super.

I don't think there will be enough honey for a harvest but what they have should get them through most of the winter. I will monitor the daily mite drop and treat if required.

Once the varroa treatment is completed I will start fortnightly visits, reducing to monthly from November to March. The later ones will only check if the hive is still upright and there is still enough stores.

Now is the time to take stock and plan for next season. Perhaps start that queen breeding programme I always promise myself.

Ian White, Apiary Manager

I learnt about beekeeping from that (cont.)

(Continued from page 4)

lightly sprayed the travelling lid with water. Then I put a brood box containing drawn comb on the original stand, added the super with some honey collected in the last week over the top, then the lid. The bees seemed confused but moved, without their queen, into the brood box.

It was starting to get dark and I had arranged for both colonies to be collected in the morning, so I had to work quickly before it became too dark to see. This was the point I should have left the bees alone so that I could finish up when it was lighter, on another day. I told myself that all the equipment I needed was by the hives, so all I had to do was work faster.

The bees attack

As I moved frames of bees into a prepared travelling brood box (ie one that had an entrance block filled with foam and gaffer-taped to an open mesh floor) the bees were at first compliant but then started stinging my gloves. I started taping the mesh-ventilated crown board over the box.

I knew better than to shine a torch so that I could see what I was doing (*why's that?—Ed.*); rather, I relied on memory and what I could see in the dimming light to close up the travelling box and to close up the original hive for the flying bees to return to. The original box had been filled with frames of foundation. The plan now was that I could make a return journey to put them in another container so the rest of the colony could be reunited with the queen and their sisters.

As I worked to get the bees into the travelling box for the night, a full-blown attack started. It must have been between 21.30 and before 22.00, but was very dark with no house or street lights to help me to see what was going on. I think a bee got into my suit from the front neck opening. She stung me on the forehead, then her sisters joined in, I don't know how many were inside my suit. I was hearing bees whining in my ears, and I could feel more stings to my neck and throat. This is the stuff of nightmares; I just wanted to get away.

Bees in my suit

I walked back to the car, grabbing at flying bees with my hands, and squashing the fabric, to try to stop the stinging. When I arrived at my car, I removed my suit, gauntlets, and gloves, shaking them to get rid of any bees. I had also been stung on the leg and possibly on the back of my head.

I swallowed two ibuprofen and drove home by the quickest route. Driving home, I wondered what the symptoms of anaphylactic shock were. My lips had started to tingle, my head and throat were feeling very hot.

What else could I have done?

All the way home, I was thinking, with the benefit of hindsight, what I should have done. On entering the front door, I heard the usual question 'How were the bees?' 'The bees are OK but I'm not' was my reply.

I couldn't have asked for more attention. I was handed a bag of frozen peas and ice to put on the skin of my throat. When the ice had melted, I put liberal amounts of hand gel over the skin on my forehead and throat. During the night, I had short naps and alternately used ice or hand gel on the hot stings.

Thankfully, I was still alive next day allowing me to meet another beekeeping colleague who was to take the bees back to their original apiary.

I have had time to think through what went wrong and what went right. Basically, I don't think I should have started there and then.

Jude New



The bees in question at a quieter moment.
Photo: Graham Bubloz

How I became a beekeeper

My name is Alex and I'm 22 years old. Over the past few years I've developed from a grumpy teenager into a completely different person.

I think it's called growing up! I'm so much more interested in the world these days, with my main interests lying within wildlife, nature and just being outdoors. My favourite hobby is walking; it's a simple, therapeutic activity which allows you to explore the world.

Fascinated by bees

During a spring walk, a few years ago now, I came across some bees in a hive. I watched them for a minute then continued on. That brief interaction started my interest in these fascinating creatures.

After watching countless YouTube videos, and reading some books, I became more and more fascinated. I decided that one day I'd like to try keeping bees. In an attempt to learn more, I joined the B&L Beekeepers Association and tuned in to a couple of Zoom meetings.

The more you learn about something (this goes for pretty much everything), the more you realise how much you don't know. Beekeeping is no exception. It's beyond extraordinary.

An old school friend of mine lives on a farm. I noticed they had put up a couple of hives in the spring, just to see if any bees would find a home there. They did, and not long ago they swarmed to fill both hives. I mentioned to my friend that I'd try to find a

beekeeper to come over and look inside the hives and advise on how best to manage them. Thankfully Tony Birkbeck was kind enough to lend a hand.

First time hands-on

I met up with Tony at the farm on a cloudy midsummer day; the clouds were trying their best to hold it in. "I take it you have the equipment - bee suit, smoker, etc.," Tony commented. "Umm, I have nothing, I've never even looked inside a hive before!"

I think Tony was expecting that I'd have a little more experience... I wondered how far back I would need to stand whilst he opened the hives. I'd never been stung before, so today might be a first.

Tony proceeded to open up the first hive. We were met with some very calm bees that had only swarmed a few days earlier.

"Hmm," Tony said, looking into the hive. "This is a lovely way of keeping bees, but you won't get any honey from them."

The hive was without frames and foundation so currently the bees were all just hanging from the wooden bars. Tony was also concerned about the survival of these colonies over the coming winter. I was unsure what to do. Tony explained that it depends on what you want out of the hives.

Next Tony opened the second hive (the original colony). It had been occupied since early spring and this was the first time I'd had a look inside.

It was incredibly messy but the comb that the bees had built was quite impressive. I imagine that if bees had their own version of 'Grand Designs' this hive would be featured. These bees sounded a little more angry. One of them somehow found its way into my hoodie and I took a sting to the head. Luckily the sharp pain eased over the next few hours.

Tony closed the hive and we walked back to his van (it was more of a beemobile) full of beekeeping equipment.

"They are some nice hives but it's far from ideal if you want to learn beekeeping and one day be able to harvest honey."

Beekeeper's dilemma

I spoke to the owner of the farm who is currently content to simply leave the bees to do their own thing and is not fussed about surplus honey production. It's a more natural way of beekeeping as Tony put it. The future of these colonies is uncertain.

This experience once again drew me further into the world of beekeeping. The more I learn, the more interesting it becomes. I'm not sure exactly where my beekeeping journey will take me but I'm looking forward to the B&L apiary meeting on the 22nd August. I'm excited and fascinated.

Cheers Tony, and the others at B&L Beekeepers Association. I look forward to meeting more of you in the future.

Alex Smith



Grand Designs



Bees doing their own thing



A cosy nook

B&L vacancies: volunteers required

Two key members of our Committee will be resigning as of the next AGM in February 2022. Volunteers required.

Chairman

Norman Dickinson, who took over the Chair last year and has steered us smoothly through troubled waters, said he would only do so for a year.

Secretary

Hilary Osman, a Committee stalwart has done a sterling job as Secretary, managing correspondence, assembling the

minutes and agenda, and lots besides for the last seven years, but she now wants and deserves to spend more time with her bees.

Librarian (vacant)

Dominic Zapito resigned as librarian at the February 2021 AGM and has yet to be replaced.

The job entails looking after the Division's library and managing loans and returns. You're unlikely to be swamped, it seems safe to say.

If you are prepared to take on the role or want to know more, please let us know.

So B&L will be looking for two key officers from February 2022, and needs a librarian now. If would like know more about what the jobs entail, see Hilary's column in the July issue.

Mentors

Helping new beekeepers is what we're all about. And we still have about six members who need mentoring. It can be done over the phone and if you've more than a couple of years' experience, that's probably enough.

Please let Hilary know if you can help (details on [back page](#)).

Beek photography competition goes live



Equipment supplier [National Bee Supplies](#) has announced its 2021 Photographer of the Year competition, with a deadline for entries of 31 August 2021.

The link for your entries is [here](#).

The first prize is a fully assembled National hive with NBS's Starter Kit Bundle which includes a beekeeping suit, gloves, smoker & fuel, and more.

You can enter as many categories, as many times, as you like. All runners up win a Beekeeping Mug Duo.

Categories:

- One of a kind
- Beekeepers
- Drinking
- Friends
- Funny
- Flowers
- In flight
- Macro
- NBS at home
- Wax and comb
- Queen
- Harvest

Adam wants your honey

If you have a honey surplus, Adam Strawson of Acre Honey will buy it from you at 'above market price'.

Adam has helped B&L in the past, for example by supplying syrup at a bulk discount which we have then passed on to members.

If you're interested, please contact Adam either [by email](#) or on 01273 974120.

acrecr

Apiary site available

We've been offered a field at Chalvington where one member can set up an apiary—first come, first served.

The postcode is BN27 3TD and the space is over the road from the owner's house, surrounded by farmland and is the size of about three tennis courts.

Terms: payment in honey of 2lbs per year once hives are productive, and easy access.

If you're interested, please contact Hilary (details on [back page](#)).

B&L Facebook group: Come and join us!



More members have once again joined the B&L Facebook Group this month and the forum is getting quite lively, so please join us if you haven't already. Group membership is now over 80-strong—over half the membership.

Now the beekeeping season is in full swing, there's lots of practical advice, all of it related to our area and its unique micro-climate. It's a great way of getting to know people too.

So if you have thoughts about any topic, you'd like to help and to offer advice or you need advice, please jump in! The water's warm and the atmosphere friendly.

To join, log into Facebook and search for **B&L Beekeeping Division**, or follow [this link](#).

Please note that we won't be admitting anyone whose name has not first been checked against the membership list.

EVENTS

B&L out-apiary meetings

Our August out-apiary meetings will be conducted in line with government advice.

We'll be running three out-apiary meetings in August, two of them concurrently:

- 7 August at Barcombe
- 7 August at Piddinghoe
- 22 August at Hove

Three events will be held in September, details to follow in the next newsletter.

All out-apiary meetings will, unless otherwise advised, start at 13:30 for new members, with the more experienced invited to attend from 14:00.

Please see the back page for dates.

Booking is advised. To book, please contact [Graham Bubloz](#) (+44 7758 866278).



Gardening for wildlife

Thursday 5 August, 1830-1930

A talk by ecologist and author Ken Thompson.

This event is run jointly with the Ecology and Conservation Studies Society with a focus on best practice and good applied science.

This comparative study, the outcome of a major research project, examining and analysing the wildlife of a range of Sheffield gardens helps us to answer the question: what makes a good wildlife garden?

Registration link is [here](#).



Tales from the Decant: the weird world of Ireland's stinging wasps

Thursday 19 August, 1315-1345

Aidan O'Hanlon, curator of the Museum of Ireland, gives a whistle-stop tour of the diverse world of Ireland's stinging wasps. The 100+ species have diverse and fascinating survival strategies: stealthy killing machines, sneaky thieves, important pollinators.

Registration link is [here](#).



BBKA summer courses

The following training course will be available for summer 2021.

- General Husbandry: 8 August, 14 & 15 August (three day course)

Please go to the [BBKA webshop](#) for more details and to book a place. Please direct any queries to [Sarah Snelson](#).



Equipment auction

Saturday 21 August 2021

Hastings and Rother Division is holding an equipment auction at Netherfield Recreation Ground.

If you have surplus equipment for sale or want to pick up a bargain, please come along on the day.

H&R Division is facilitating this event for the County Association and is calling for volunteers to help on the day —please let Hilary know if you can help.

Hilary's contact details are on the [back page](#).



Sussex BKA Autumn Convention

30 October 2021

Hastings and Rother Division will be hosting this year's event, which will be held at [Robertsbridge Village Hall](#).

There will be a hybrid event with both live and remote speakers. You will be able to attend the meeting in person or connect remotely via Zoom.

R&H said the Division is still in the early stages of planning and will provide further details once the speakers and booking arrangements are known.

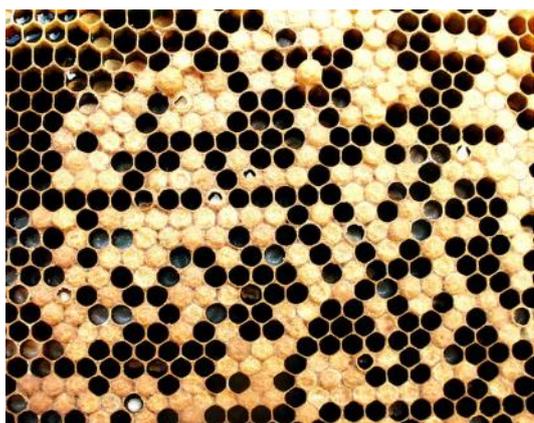


BIBBA webinars

BIBBA conducts webinars on bee improvement.

The spring events were all recorded. The events covered topics suited to beginners as well as the more experienced. The full list is [here](#), events from other organisers, [here](#).

BIBBA



Main image: Nasonov glands on display, offering come-hither messages.

Images on left: European foulbrood. What you don't want to see in your hives.

Photos: Gerald Legg

MEETINGS AND CONTACTS

B&L Divisional Diary, August 2021

Outdoor apiary meetings

Date	Location	Topic
Saturday 7 August	Barcombe	General beekeeping
Saturday 7 August	Piddinghoe	General beekeeping
Sunday 22 August	Hove	General beekeeping/ queen rearing

We will be conducting meetings at our out-apiaries with respect for social distancing.

If you would like to attend, please book your slot with [Graham Bubloz](mailto:Graham.Bubloz) (+44 7758 866278).

Indoor winter meetings

First one will be in November, date to be advised.

Deadlines

Please send all contributions for the newsletter, **including photos**, to the Editor (details on right).
Max. length: 700 words.

Copy deadline: 18th of the month before the publication date. Email photos etc. for the website to Webmaster Gerald Legg (details on right).

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Seasonal Bee Inspector: Diane Steele

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Disclaimer

The Brighton and Lewes Division of the SBKA cannot accept any responsibility for loss, injury or damage sustained by persons in consequence of their participation in activities arranged by the Division.



The **co-operative membership** Community Fund

Managed by the Community Development Foundation
Funded by the Office of the Third Sector

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- **Grassroots:** Jude New

- **Hove:** Jude New

- **Piddinghoe:** Ian White

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Librarian: Vacant

Education Co-ordinator: Vacant

Sussex BKA County Representative: Vacant

National Honey Show Representative: Norman Dickinson