

# Brighton & Lewes Beekeepers



A DIVISION OF THE SUSSEX BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

## CONTENTS

### Hints & tips ..... 2

- Seasonal tips for July

### Committee reports ..... 4

- Your Committee at work
- Asian hornet latest
- How I became a beekeeper

### News from the Division ..... 5

- From our apiaries
- From around the web
- B&L visits Richard Markwick
- BBKA Basic course

### Noticeboard ..... 8

- Volunteers required: Librarian, Chairman & Secretary, mentors

- Equipment for sale, apiary site available, sell your honey

### Events ..... 9

- B&L out-apiary meetings in July
- Harnessing the power of wasps
- Pollinators and pollination
- How to monitor wild bee colonies

### Photo Corner ..... 10

- Honey bee on scabious

### Meetings and contacts ..... 11

## EDITORIAL

In the spirit of responding to demand, it's been mentioned to me by a couple of people that the newsletter in its new (ish) format is a bit on the lengthy side.

My experience suggests that if one or two people mention something like this, many more are probably thinking it too but don't want to/won't/can't say so. So maybe it's time to find out more about what you'd like to see in the newsletter.

### What do you think?

I've not had much feedback on the newsletter since I took over, although most of what I have received has been positive, for which I'm grateful. But there's not been much—understandably when you'd rather be getting on with beekeeping than responding to requests for feedback, something which every other website seems to demand these days.

The difference is that they want your feedback for free and you'll see little or no benefit from it. If on the other hand you let me know what you'd like to see more or less of, I shall do what I can to ensure that anything you come up with is actioned—as long as it's within my power of course.

And so you will see the benefit as soon as I can make it happen.

Feedback on this or indeed anything else in the news letter will be welcome.

### New features

This month sees the first in an occasional series: 'How I became a beekeeper'—see [page 4](#). First to share his story is our Meetings Secretary Bob Curtis.

If you'd like to be featured and share your beekeeping journey with the rest of us, please do get in touch.

Additionally, we're introducing a new Q&A section where you can have your beekeeping questions answered by local experts.

Unlike the generic answers you might get in BBKA News etc., or online, answers here will be strictly related to our area, talking about issues that affect us.

Examples might include local climate, foraging, apiaries etc. So if you need an answer, please send your questions to me, contact details are on the back page.

I look forward to hearing from you.

### Manek Dubash, Editor



Propolised entrance block. Seen one before?  
Photo: Tony Birkbeck

## NEWSLETTER JULY 2021

### EVENTS

- Out-apiary meetings about every two weeks.
- Tom Seeley talk
- See [p13](#) for all details

### NEXT MONTH

- More 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](http://brightonlewesbeekeepers.co.uk)



QR link to our website

### Seasonal tips for July

As I write we have had two days of torrential rain, so the bees have been kept indoors and unable to forage. Coupled with the very cold spring you may not be seeing the expected amount of honey stores or brood for this time of year. Everything seems to be delayed this year, even swarming.

If nothing else, these periods teach us to be patient. If you have made sure your bees are as healthy and as well fed as possible, all you can do is leave it up to them. I know from experience this year, it can take six weeks from splitting a colony to finding newly laid eggs.

In more normal conditions, by early June, the queen should be laying to her potential and should be reaching maximum brood capacity by early July to capitalise on the flowering of the summer blooms which will continue until late autumn.

You should still continue with regular weekly inspections and be looking out for.

- A queen laying viable brood in a good close pattern.
- Is there enough room for the brood?
- Do I need to add a/nother super?
- Is there any disease?
- Is there sufficient stores until the next inspection?
- Are there any queen cells present?

I know July is late for colonies to swarm, but they do. Especially as I said earlier, it all a bit late this year and it would be a shame to lose half of your work force just when they're needed.

### Summer supering

Assuming everything is OK and your colony is not preparing to swarm, then you need to think about providing enough space for the bees to store all of nectar.



A very full super. Photo: The Apiarist

Initially, when nectar is brought into the hive it has a water content of about 80% so needs a lot of space. Eventually the water content is reduced to about 18% and capped ready for use later by the bees or in most cases, the beekeeper.

So, when do you put supers on? If you don't do it soon enough, you risk having it stored in the brood comb, reducing the availability for the queen to lay and possibly inducing the colony to prepare to swarm.

Too early or too many will reduce the bees' ability to maintain the right hive temperature suitable for raising brood or, because the warmest part of the colony is in the centre, only the frames above the brood will get filled with honey (known as chimneying or the chimney effect).

So once the brood box has about 7-8 seams of bees, put on the first super, preferably with drawn comb. Once this super is 80 percent full with nectar put the second one on, again preferably with drawn comb.

Why drawn comb? Because it takes a lot of nectar to make wax and you want to maximise the honey harvest. Sometimes you don't have drawn comb, so either get it drawn early in the season using a rapid feeder or wait until later in the season when there is a full honey flow on and there is spare nectar to go round.

Next, the vexed question of whether you put the new super on top of the original, or under the existing. For me it makes sense to put the new super under the existing one. This gives the bees access to a lot of space and can reduce overcrowding in the brood, it's nearer to the bees storing the nectar and it's warmer, right near the brood.

### Honey harvesting

I think most of us use wired super frames and spin out the honey at harvest time leaving us with that ever so useful drawn comb.

However, there are other ways of harvesting and presenting your honey. The most straightforward method is using un-wired foundation and cutting out sections of capped honey, this is

known as cut comb. Purists say that the mid-rib in this type of comb is too thick and suggest that a thin starter strip is used at the top of the frame allowing the bees to draw out the comb, giving a finer structure.

Or you could forgo the sticky pleasure of cutting up the comb and use preformed sections. Again, this uses unwired foundation mounted into 100mmx100mm frames or 'sections'. These sections are arranged in rows of four five across the specially made super, giving about 50 uniform sections to harvest.

Anecdotally, I understand that the bees are not very accepting of this arrangement and will store honey in anything else unless that is the only place left, so it's not advisable to have a mixture of normal super frames and sections.

### Heather or wildflower?

Most of us have to make do with the forage available, whether it's wild or cultivated flowers and blossoms in the fields and gardens near our apiaries. Having said that, it's very surprising to note the vast differences of these honeys, dependent on the time of harvest and the forage available.

I have seen some early harvests taken from Downland apiaries the colour of white Vinho Verde and a harvest from a more wooded area, the colour of used engine oil. If you are lucky enough to live in the north of our area or are organised enough to move your hives, you may get what some think is the best honey in the world: the fabled heather honey.

Whatever you harvest, I'm sure you will be proud of your achievements and that of your girls and share your bounty with friends and family.

### Asian hornets

And finally, although we have had no sighting of the Asian Hornet (at the time of going to press) in our area, please keep an eye out for the blighters in your wasp traps.

### Another veiled beekeeper production



**Norman Dickinson**  
Chairman

### Words from the Chair

It is always great to be able to start with some good news, namely that we have been able to hold out-apiary meetings. It was good to meet up with new and old members at the Piddinghoe site. Hopefully, the weather will be kind to us for the remaining summer meetings.

I am also pleased to announce that agreement has been reached with the owners of the new B&L apiary site with regards to the siting of the hives and the number that we may keep on site. There is a little work that will need to be done there, including putting up some metre-high chestnut fencing to enclose three sides and some screening on the fourth side, so once we have the materials, I will be asking for volunteers to help do the works.

Part One of our B&L BBKA Assessment Training Course was held on Saturday 5 June at Westdean where I took the first session of the day, with other B&L Committee members following. I am convinced that with the calibre and beekeeping knowledge of the

candidates going forward with the assessment, they will all pass and I hope with distinction. Thanks to Jude New for organising the course and finding a very pleasant venue in Westdean Barn, and to the B&L members who have or will be giving up their time to present the other sessions.

Membership of B&L is still rising with five new and one renewing member joining between 14 May and 12 June. Membership now stands at 157, which is 21 more than at the end of 2020. So here's a very big welcome to the new members.

### Resignation

Now for the future—and I would like to ask you to think carefully about it: at the B&L AGM in February I stated that I would only stand as Chairman for a year. That means that my replacement need to be found for the next AGM in February 2022.

So if you might be willing to consider taking on the role from 2022 onwards then please [contact me](#), in confidence if necessary.



**Hilary Osman**  
Secretary

### Your Committee at work

There's a seven year hitch—more later.

At long last, some good weather which the bees are enjoying, and long may it last.

The committee is working on a new apiary site, and you'll find more about that on the news pages in this newsletter. Jude has been teaching nine members, and good luck to those taking their BBKA Basic Assessment. I don't think that we have ever had nine entrants in one year before, so well done. She is also working on a bee improvement group, which sounds really exciting. Put my name down for that one.

We believe we've sourced a venue for the Bee Disease Day 2022 but we now need to change the date with the Bee Inspectors. We expect to know more next month.

One member asked us if we could help with holiday cover. Truthfully, beekeepers probably shouldn't be going away for a stretch during the summer months. Having said that, we had a long discussion on this topic. We would probably need guidelines: where would members keep their equipment, number combinations of sheds, what if there was no equipment, what if they found disease, what if any disease spread to your apiaries etc, etc. It might be worth

thinking, could you split your bees and unite them later on your return, give an extra super well in advance. But most importantly, give your neighbours the swarm co-ordinator's number or that of a local beekeeper who could sort out problems.

### Resignation

And now for that hitch. I have been the B&L Secretary for some seven years now. It is not an arduous task, but I do feel that I have done my time and that someone else should take over the reins.

Emails and enquiries come to you and you filter them to the correct person on committee, you take the minutes and then send out a written record to the committee members, and basically that is it. Anyone who can read and write could do the job!

You can do more, as I have done, and I have enjoyed my time, but I now want to spend more time raising and improving my bees.

So anyone who might be interested please contact me, and we can discuss further. I will be here until the AGM, but that is only six months away. My phone number and email on [the back page](#) as normal. Thanks, Hil.



**Manek Dubash**  
**Asian Hornet**  
**Team Co-ordinator**

## Asian hornet report

The Asian hornet season has started—in the media at least. As many of the stories are the same or similar, it's clear they're drawing on the same source of information.

I've seen identical stories popping up in a variety of local newspapers around the country. Many of them just regurgitate the press release, which is fine: it's factual and unemotional. Many though decided to prefix 'Asian hornet' with the word 'killer', for obvious reasons: it sounds more scary.

We know though that the Asian hornet (*Vespa velutina*) is no more aggressive to humans than our native European hornet (*V. crabro*). That's true, at least, until you approach a nest, at which point they will vigorously defend it; some people have died from multiple stings as a consequence of stumbling into such a nest. Since nests can be anywhere—at ground level in a hedge as well as up a tall tree—this is unfortunately all too easy to happen to someone strimming a lawn, for example.

That's been the experience of people in Galicia and in France. On Jersey, as far as I'm aware, no deaths have been reported, largely I would suspect because the Asian hornet team there has been outstanding in its diligence in disseminating information, and in trapping hornet queens blown over from the mainland, resulting in few large secondary nests which constitute the main threat.

This is a scenario we could face if we don't maintain the vigilance that, so far, has kept this invasive pest from our shores.

To the extent that the publicity is helping to keep Asian hornets in the news, this is a good thing. I just wish that editors would learn the difference between the Giant Asian hornet, which is invading North America, from the smaller, somewhat less terrifying insect that threatens us. Were they to do so, they might print the correct picture and help people identify *V. velutina* when/if it does arrive.

---

## How I became a beekeeper: Bob Curtis

*This is the first in an occasional series in which we ask a B&L member: how did you become a beekeeper? This month we ask B&L Meetings Secretary, Bob Curtis.*

**Q:** How and when did you get into beekeeping?

**A:** My grandfather had kept bees in the 1930s and it just sparked an interest, especially as he used to pass out for a couple of hours every time he was stung (today everyone would be ringing an ambulance) but he survived without apparent harm. I have always had an interest in insects and their behaviour, and as a child I collected insects, but as an adult I did not have time to follow that interest until about ten years ago when I joined B&L. I finally acquired a colony from Lionel Reuben to start my first National hive; amazingly the queen survived productively for about four years! From my initial hive I eventually got to about 16 hives in a fairly short period.

**Q:** What kinds of hives do you use, and why?

**A:** I mostly use National size hives, but I have wood and polystyrene boxes, and some are on normal brood whilst I also

have a couple of deep frame brood boxes. I like to try different combinations so I also have a WBC, because it looks pretty.

**Q:** What's been your best experience as a beekeeper?

**A:** Opening hives in spring to find they have survived the winter and are in good shape.

**Q:** What's been your worst experience as a beekeeper?

**A:** Collecting a swarm on a very hot afternoon and hiving them into a poly nuc, which I had done many times before. On this occasion the hive was in full sun and it was a prime swarm. I left them until evening and moved them to



Bob's grandfather Charrington Curtis with his dog watching bees in the 1930s.

the apiary. The next day on inspection they were all dead; I had cooked the swarm. Lesson learned: always shade the box and make sure there is plenty of ventilation.

**Q:** What are the most and the least satisfying experiences you have as a beekeeper?

**A:** It is most satisfying to collect your own honey, as it just tastes so good. The least satisfying experience is arriving at the apiary to split a hive, only to see them swarming already.

**Q:** How do you think someone considering beekeeping should start?

**A:** Read as much as possible, watch videos, go to lectures (Zoom or in person), but most importantly go to an apiary meeting and handle some bees. Some people just can't cope with the idea of bees crawling over their hands and veil.

**Q:** Any other thoughts for your fellow beekeepers?

**A:** Enjoy your hobby, learn as much as possible about the honey bee and all the other insects in your garden, and do your bit to increase biodiversity in your garden and apiary.



## From our apiaries: Barcombe, Grassroots, Hove & Piddinghoe

### Barcombe



Bearding at Barcombe in May. Photo: Tony Birkbeck

Let me moan about the weather again: freezing cold April and soaking wet May meant few inspections could take place.

The weather finally brightened up just before June started and, as at many other apiaries, the bees seemed to have predicted this and had been secretly preparing to swarm at their earliest convenience.

Being unable to get to Barcombe until weekends meant two colonies had swarmed as soon as the nice weather started, and that was before I could get to them to manage them properly, which is a real shame.

The others all seem to be in a state of pre/post superseding—I do wish bees would read the books!

So now it's fingers crossed that they've all finished having their fun and they settle down for the main event.

As I type this in mid June I've noticed the very first blackberry flowers are just beginning to emerge so I'm hoping now they will be too busy to start playing around making queen cells (who am I kidding!!?).

**Tony Birkbeck, Apiary Manager**

### Grassroots & Hove

No reports this month.

### Piddinghoe



B&L apiary at Piddinghoe

At last, the weather is fine and sunny and we managed to hold an apiary meeting as programmed.

As of Tuesday 15 June there are two colonies at Piddinghoe. As stated in my last report, one of these is terminally sick with a serious case of sac brood and finally succumbed. The two remaining colonies are doing well.

### Slow queen

The colony that was transferred from Grassroots was split on 27 April with the aim of raising a new queen. I have inspected every week since then without seeing any results. I even put in a couple of 'seed' frames to see if they would make a queen.

On the 8 June I finally saw eggs and young larvae but was unsure if it was a new queen or a worker laying. It wasn't until w/c 15 June that I saw and marked the queen, a full seven weeks since the split.

Just goes to show that sometimes it takes time.

The nuc split from the strong hive is doing well but not building up as fast as I would have hoped. It's still on three super frames and three brood frames. The bees are building drone cell comb on the bottom of the super frames but not all of the brood frames are fully drawn. Hopefully, by next week, I will be able to transfer them into a full-sized, National hive.

**Ian White, Apiary Manager**

---

### FROM AROUND THE WEB

*We search the web for bee-related news and views, so you don't have to.*

- [How to photograph bees](#)



- [Can Bees Really Work Together To Open A Soda Bottle?](#)

#### Science

- [Detoxifying Enzymes Encased in Microparticles Could Protect Bees From Pesticides](#)

- [Honeybee 'Trojan horse' virus relies on bees' habit of cannibalizing their young](#)
- [Four nutrients in flower pollens improve honey bee gut health](#)
- [Scientists evolve a fungus to battle deadly honey bee parasite](#)



- [Why do bees make honey?](#)

#### Public policy

- [Government responds to Small Hive Beetle Petition](#) (BBKA)

## B&L visits Richard Markwick's honey farm at Ansty

On 12 June 2021, a glorious summer's day, Brighton and Lewes Beekeepers Division paid a visit to one of Richard Markwick's apiaries.

We divided into two groups and set off through the woods to visit the first apiary. I was with his daughter Leah's group. She has been around bees all her life and has learnt everything with the help and support of her father. She has her own (20?) hives that she takes care of along with her full-time day job.

She kindly demonstrated two of her colonies and added a dedicated clearer board to one of them to remove a super of honey. The clearer board had been made by Richard and was of a fairly straightforward design. It made me think that I might be capable of making

a few dedicated clearer boards myself. Both colonies were very calm and productive. They breed all their own queens on-site.

We had a short walk through the woods and across an open wildflower meadow (spotting a buzzard being mobbed by a crow) to another of Richard's apiaries where he keeps his nucs most of which housed freshly mated queens.

He then invited us to figure out what was happening in a colony that he had brought back from one of his other apiaries and had set a short distance from the other colonies in isolation. It was clear that it contained just drone brood. I am still unsure whether it was a drone laying queen or drone laying

workers as I couldn't see any eggs. At any rate Richard was going to shake it out at a distance for them to beg their way into the other colonies.

We then made our way back across the meadow, where we were lucky enough to see a deer on the edge of the woods, to Richard's house where he provided us with a welcome mug of tea and kindly gave each of us a box of cut comb heather honey which smelled and tasted amazing. He also showed us his prize-winning frame of honey.

No matter how long I have been beekeeping I always learn something from visits to other beekeepers' apiaries.

**Ben Castle. Photos: Bob Curtis**



Esther manipulating hive no 138 with Richard Markwick looking on.



Looking for eggs in a frame. L-R: Visitor, David Droscher, Thelda Bryant and Esther, one of Richard Markwick's helpers.



Observation. L-R: Visitor, Thelda and Esther. All Richard's hives are Nationals.



Just a lovely frame of bees on a hot summer's day



L-R: Visitor, David Droscher, Thelda Bryant, Richard Markwick and Esther



Outside the equipment barn. L-R: Graham Bubloz, Leah, visitor from Eastbourne, Esther, Ben Castle, David Droscher, Thelda Bryant, Richard Markwick

### Richard Markwick

Richard Markwick owns 65 acres of woodland in Ansty, W Sussex, and has retired from the forestry aspect of his work, which he has handed over to his son. Richard now focuses on supplying honey to local outlets, restaurants and hotels. Richard has made most of the hives and equipment himself over the last 40 years. He has several apiaries in the area and also takes his bees to the heather each year, having an arrangement with the Beaulieu Estate located on the edge of the New Forest National Park.



## Nine B&L members plan for their BBKA Basic Assessment exams

Nine B&L members will be taking their [BBKA Basic Assessment exam](#) this month, or will have done so last month.

They were guided by ex-teacher Jude New, who organised a two-day course, held on 6 and 19 June, to ensure that all nine were ready for the examination, to be conducted by Mike Cullen.

The atmosphere on the first day was quiet with fierce concentration on note-taking. On the second day however, the relaxed atmosphere was

palpable as class members soaked up Jude's expert lecture about bee diseases. As student Suzie Brock pointed out, everyone got a bit 'lippy'.

### Practical

After lunch, Hilary Osman led the practical session at B&L's Hove apiary, where she demonstrated the basics of colony inspection, and how to grab a sample of bees with a matchbox for disease analysis purposes.

Luckily, the bees were calm and co-operated fully while the hive lay open for an extended period.

At the end, we parted with everyone harbouring hopes for passing the exam—which since most of us had been beekeepers for around five years or so, seemed reasonable. I hope that's not a hostage to fortune: we'll report back next month.

**Manek Dubash**



**Top row:** Hilary demonstrates how to scoop up a sample of bees with a matchbox for disease analysis.

**Bottom row:** bee wrangling, and relaxing afterwards. L-R: Jude New, Suzie Brock, Ben Castle, Manek Dubash, Barbara Moira, Hilary Osman.

**Photos:** Graham Bubloz

### 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 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 you would like to know more about what the jobs entail, see [Hilary's column](#) this month (p4).

#### 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](#)).

### Equipment for sale

Lionel Reuben has some kit that he no longer needs. First come, first served.

- Three mesh floors
- Queen excluders, two metal, two plastic
- Roofs, one deep, two shallow
- Three brood boxes
- Nine supers
- Seven white 30lb plastic buckets
- Several bucket feeders
- Loads of used frames, brood and super and some to be made up
- One home made nuc, wooden

To find out more, please [contact Lionel on email](#) or on 01825 723453.

### Have you got honey for sale?

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.

accre

### Apiary site available

A site at Chalvington needs bees. In short, we've been offered a field where one member can set up an apiary—first come, first served.

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

Terms: usual agreement of 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: great discussions, interesting posts



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. The group membership is now up to

80, which is now over half the membership.

Over the last month, there's been a variety of topics under discussion—which you'll find by [going there](#).

Recent discussions have included a question about what to do after a swarm, the BBKA Assessment exam—both the course attended by nine members and the exam results—an intrepid cut-out of a colony in a chimney, the correct use of oxalic acid, and an unusual photo of a propolised entrance block.

So now the beekeeping season has started, we're seeing more posts

relating to practical beekeeping issues, courses and events, and also a request for your thoughts on the newsletter and other B&L-related activity.

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.



### B&L out-apiary meetings

We are getting back to normal. The July out-apiary meetings will be conducted in line with government advice, which allows up to 30 members who want to attend to do so.

We'll be running two out-apiary meetings in July, two in August, and three in September

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 ensure we don't bust the guidelines. To book, please contact [Graham Bubloz](#) (+44 7758 866278).



### Harnessing the predatory power of wasps

**Thursday 1 July 19:00**

Hosted by Somerset BKA, with Prof. Seirian Sumner, a Professor of Behavioural Ecology at University College London. Her research focuses on the ecology, evolution and behaviour of insects, especially social wasps.

Social wasps are stigmatised by their seemingly aggressive behaviour and propensity to sting. "What's the point of wasps?" people ask.

Wasps are nature's pest controllers: they eat the other insects/arthropods that you may hate even more than wasps. The importance of wasps as regulators of insect populations (and beyond) is largely un-appreciated, despite the fact that their ecosystem service should be valued at least as much as the pollination services of bees.

Prof. Sumner will give an overview of the ecosystem services provided by these much-maligned insects. She will also unveil new insights into how agriculture can benefit from harnessing the predator power of wasps as natural enemies, as a form of biocontrol for some of the world's most economically important crop pests.



### BBKA summer courses

The following training courses will be available for summer 2021.

- Advanced Queen Rearing: 3 & 4 July (two day course)
- Basic Queen Rearing: 11 July (one day course)
- Advanced Husbandry Training 30 July to 1 August (three day course)
- 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](#).



### Pollinators and pollination

**Thursday 15 July, 19:00**

Hosted by Somerset BKA, with Jeff Ollerton. This talk provides an introduction to the natural history of the main groups of pollinators and how they interact with flowers.



### How to monitor wild honey bee colonies and what they teach us

**Wednesday 28 July, 19:00**

Following on from his articles in the Natural Bee Husbandry journal and [BBKA News](#), **Daniel du Gard** will be explaining about the wild bees living on the nature reserve he manages; about how wild colony sites can be discovered and a description of the cavities in which they live, comparing this with a managed beehive. We will also explore why wild colonies might be able to thrive independently whilst managed colonies often require regular intervention and miticide treatment in order to survive. .

Hosted by Cambridgeshire BKA. Registration link [here](#).

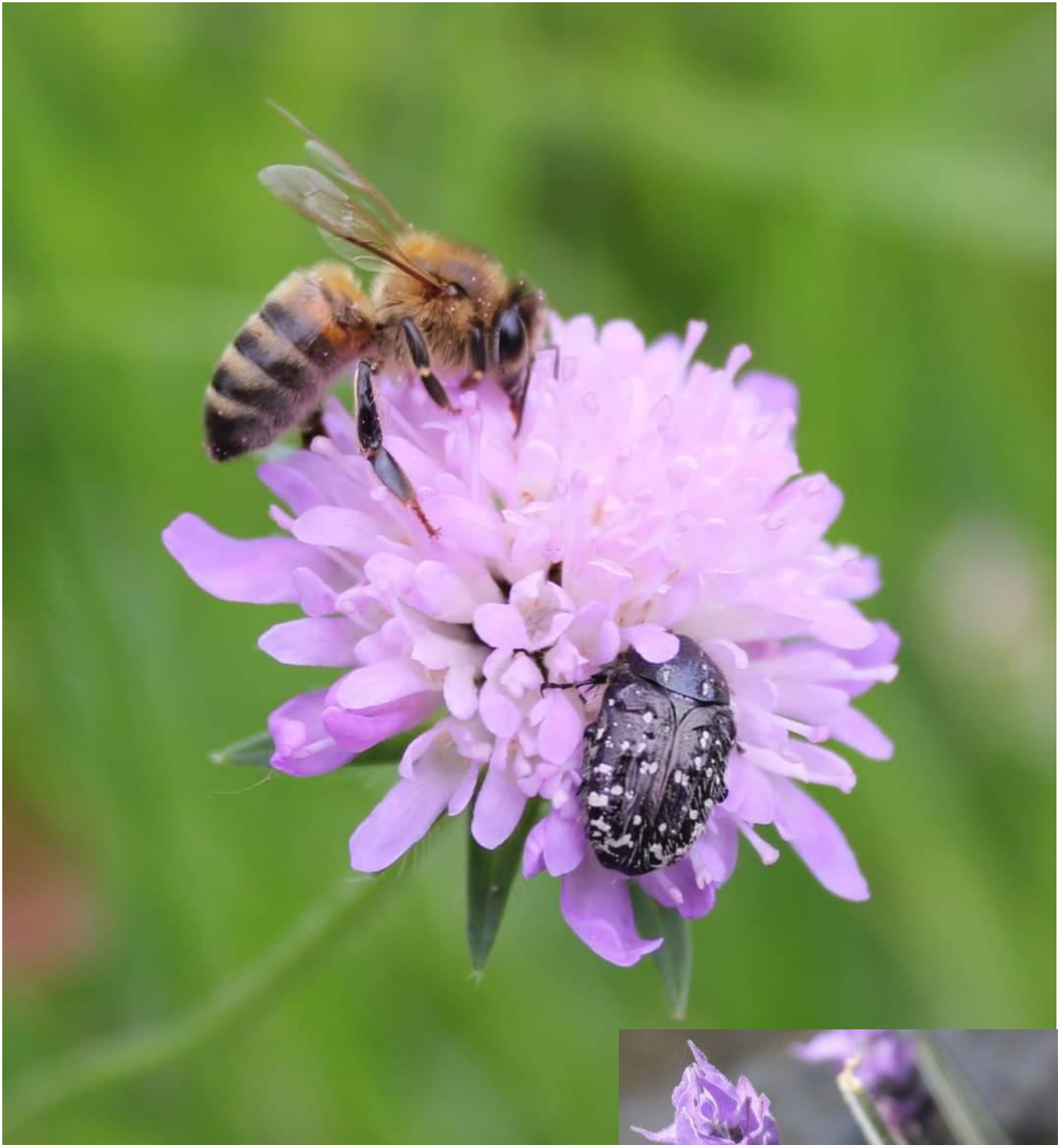


### BIBBA webinars

**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**



Top: Honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) together with a White Spotted Rose Beetle (*Oxythyrea funesta*) enjoying the plentiful nectar available from a scabious (*Scabiosa*).

Bottom: Honey bee on its way to a succulent lavender flower.

Both images captured in the Aveyron department, France, in June 2021.

Photos: Julian Silver.





### B&L Divisional Diary, July 2021

#### Outdoor apiary meetings

We will be conducting meetings at our out-apiaries as follows:

Date	Location	Topic
Saturday 3 July	Piddinghoe	Disease checking and varroa counting
Sunday 18 July	Hove	Honey management and winter prep

Meetings will be conducted in accordance with official social distancing guidelines in force at the time, so if you want to attend, please book your slot with [Graham Bubloz](mailto:Graham.Bubloz@outlook.com) (+44 7758 866278).

#### Indoor winter meetings

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

---

#### Contribution 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).

**Publication date:** 25th of the month.

---

#### National Bee Unit inspectors

**Regional Bee Inspector:** Sandra Gray

**M:** 07775 119430

**E:** [sandra.gray@apha.gov.uk](mailto:sandra.gray@apha.gov.uk)

**Seasonal Bee Inspector:** Diane Steele

**M:** 07775 119452

**E:** [diane.steele@apha.gov.uk](mailto:diane.steele@apha.gov.uk)

---

#### 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

### Officers & contacts

**President:** Vacant

**Chairman:** Norman Dickinson

**E:** [chair.blbees@outlook.com](mailto:chair.blbees@outlook.com)

**M:** 07792 296422

**Hon Secretary:** Hilary Osman

Holly Tree Cottage, Norlington Lane, Ringmer BN8 5SH

**E:** [secretary@brightonlewesbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:secretary@brightonlewesbeekeepers.co.uk)

**T:** 01273 813045

**Treasurer:** Norman Dickinson

34 Abergavenny Road, Lewes BN7 1SN

**E:** [memsec.blbees@outlook.com](mailto:memsec.blbees@outlook.com)

**M:** 07792 296422

**Membership Secretary:** Norman Dickinson

(Details above)

**Meetings Secretary:** Bob Curtis

**Swarm Coordinator:** Eric Prior

**E:** [swarms@brightonlewesbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:swarms@brightonlewesbeekeepers.co.uk)

**M:** 07999 987097

**Webmaster:** Gerald Legg

**E:** [gerald@chelifer.com](mailto:gerald@chelifer.com)

**Newsletter Editor:** Manek Dubash

**E:** [editor@mailforce.net](mailto:editor@mailforce.net)

**M:** 07788 923557

**Asian Hornet Team Co-ordinator:** Manek Dubash

**E:** [blbka.ahat@gmail.com](mailto:blbka.ahat@gmail.com)

**M:** 07762 312592

#### Apiary Managers

- **Barcombe:** Tony Birkbeck

- **Grassroots:** Jude New

- **Hove:** Jude New

- **Piddinghoe:** Ian White

#### B&L Facebook Group

Group Administrator: Graham Bubloz

**E:** [graham@bubloz.plus.com](mailto:graham@bubloz.plus.com)

**M:** 07758 866278

**Librarian:** Vacant

**Education Co-ordinator:** Vacant

**Sussex BKA County Representative:** Vacant

**National Honey Show Representative:** Norman Dickinson