

# Brighton & Lewes Beekeepers



A DIVISION OF THE SUSSEX BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

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## EDITORIAL



Mid-May swarm. Photo: Joy Garnsey

It's been a season of fruitfulness so far, I believe, with lots of talk of full supers, and of swarms seen and swarms collected, though I have not seen any so far—despite the nice, hot days we enjoyed in mid-May.

But it's also been rather enjoyable meeting up with people again at events such as the Bee Market, which took place once more, after a gap of a couple of years, at the Heathfield Community College.

Despite the very patchy WiFi which made the remote talk about Buckfast bees more than a bit disjointed and which rather spoilt it, there were people and

chats a-plenty, some bargains at the auction, and lots of tea and cake—for which deep gratitude is due to the tireless volunteers led by super-organiser Hilary Osman.

Roll on 2023!

### Bee Disease Day

None of us wants to see diseases in our hives. Yet diseases exist and, of course, they are spread by bees, by beekeepers and by *Varroa destructor*.

Spotting them can be difficult, especially if you're not sure what you're looking for. There's a lot of symptoms to be aware of, and most would struggle to retain that much information. Despite having studied it for my BBKA Basic Assessment last year, I couldn't promise to identify all the infections our charges experience.

So I'm looking forward to our Bee Disease Day on 31 May. It's going to be a great way of examining live bees with diseases, with of course all precautions being taken to prevent further distribution of the bacteria and viruses.

If you'd like to come along and haven't already booked, please talk to Membership Secretary Norman Dickinson, whose details are [on the back page](#).

Costing just a tenner, the event promises to be a great learning experience.

**Manek Dubash, Editor**

## NEWSLETTER JUNE 2022

### EVENTS

- Meetings and more
- See [back page](#) for details

### NEXT MONTH

- Tips for summer
- Your contributions
- News updates
- New events
- Asian hornet update

### SHARE YOUR PHOTOS AND STORIES

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

 [B&L website](#)  
 [Facebook](#)



QR link to our website

### June

It was a very dry start to the season, again this year but unlike last year it has not turned cold and wet (yet).

And now I'm going to remind you of a possible starvation event: the June gap. This is a period normally around June when the last of the spring flowers (not just flowers but trees as well) have gone over and it's too early for the early summer trees and flowers to bloom. Because of climate change we may not get one this year—there wasn't a discernible one last year—but the weather can be changeable so the bees might be confined to the hive for some time.

#### How much to feed?

Remember, with the colony rapidly expanding, it can get through about 5kg of stores in a week, so count how much is in your hive/s. A brood frame filled on both sides weigh about 2.5kg. Check what percentage of each frame is covered by stores to calculate whether the colony will survive a prolonged period of confinement.

If in doubt, feed them. Use either commercial, invert sugar syrup or make your own. I make mine in a ratio of one litre of water to one kg of sugar. You don't have to heat it but it helps to dissolve the sugar. Don't feed the colony with supers on or you'll end up with syrup in your supers.

#### Colony splitting

Last month, I talked about swarm control and splitting your strong colonies. Unless you have a source of mated or virgin queens, it will take at least three weeks before you see any sign of new brood being laid in the queenless hive. About four or five days after splitting the colony, knock out all but one or two of the queen cells, and then leave them alone. You will only end up trying to inspect a very defensive colony and that's no fun for any of us. However, you will still need to continue with weekly inspections to ensure that new queen cells have not developed in your unsplit colonies.

Once the new queen has hatched and is laying, you will have to find and mark her. If you're really keen on selling on

your queens, you'll use the internationally recognised colour for the year:

- White: years ending 1 & 6 (eg 2021)
- Yellow: years ending 2 & 7
- Red: years ending 3 & 8
- Green: years ending 4 & 9
- Blue: years ending 0 & 5

*[Try the mnemonic: Will You Rear Good Bees. Works for me. Ed.]*

Or if like me and you are not as young as you were *[who is? Ed.]*, then use colours you can easily see: yellow or white.

#### Finding the queen

On a warm, still day when all the foragers are out doing their job, open the hive and work as smoothly as you can.

Picture what the queen looks like. Take out the first frame, if it has few bees on it, and place it on the ground near the entrance.

As you lift each successive frame, scan each face in a zig-zag pattern from top to bottom and then around the sides. The queen will usually move to the darker side of the frame so you might see her as she goes over the top.

The queen has a very characteristic way of walking close to the comb, almost scraping her abdomen along the wax. She will also be trying, determinedly, to reach the darker side, so look for a bee that is on the march. Look for the longer abdomen and the longer brown legs. If you're lucky you'll see a 'court' of bees around her. If you



The queen and her court

haven't found her on your second pass through the hive, your next step is to pair up the frames.

Put two pairs of frames (four) in a spare nuc with a space between them. Space the remaining frames in the main hive so there is at least a frames gap between each pair. We know the queen will prefer the darker side of a frame, so take a pair of frames out of the hive and open them like a book. Do this with each pair of frames until you find the queen.

The last resort is to sift the bees through a queen excluder. As the name implies, all but the queen will pass through the excluder.

#### Next steps

In the event the weather improves, you will need to put supers on your hive. The first super will need to go on when the hive has about nine seams of bees in it. Shuffle the position of frames as they fill to get evenly drawn combs and a full super. The next super should go on (above or below the existing) when the first super is nearly full.

If you have hives near oilseed rape (OSR) then you will need to extract the honey before it sets like concrete.

Do not wait until the honey is capped: that's too late. Do the shake test before it is capped. Hold the frame upside down and shake vigorously. If nectar drips out, leave it for a few more days. If no nectar drips out, it's time to extract.

#### Varroa counting

Continue to monitor the varroa mite count. An average of more than ten a day indicate that treatment is required urgently. If you have honey supers on use MAQS or another type of treatment that can be used when the supers are on. Otherwise treat with your preferred agent.

In the event you haven't been able to split your hive/s, always have a bait hive set up nearby; you never know, you might even catch someone else's bees. For more bees, don't forget to put your name on the swarm list.

#### Another Veiled Beekeeper



**Graham Bubloz**  
Chairman

### Words from the Chair

We've had a spell of good weather during May. In fact, on the 14th of the month I saw someone had renamed it 'swarm day.' Indeed, I know that some members have already either suffered a loss or have gained a swarm during the month. Looking forward, the month of June can be a difficult foraging period for our bees. The June gap is well publicised so keep an eye on the nectar flow and consider feeding for a short period.

During the summer months, we are still holding our monthly summer meetings at various out-apiaries. I have met many new members, and I'd like to meet more and to meet some of our more established members too, so please keep an eye on the [B&L website](#) for the programme and come along to say 'hello'.

We're also trying to hold monthly Bee Chat meet-ups at a pub in our area. These are advertised in the newsletter and on our Facebook page, and the next one will be held at The Cock Inn, Ringmer on 29 June.

We have set up a Bee Improvement Group, (see page xx for the latest report) established to try and gain a better understand of the practicalities of producing our own queens with specific traits. Those on the Facebook Group will have seen the photos and videos showing their activities. If you are interested in being involved in future seasons, please contact our Training Coordinator [Jude New](#).

Our Education Programme has several courses underway, with Novice Beekeeping and the Basic Bee Examinations in progress throughout the summer months.

Finally: a plea. I wonder whether anyone would consider helping out on the committee? We do very much need someone to help with taking down any actions from the monthly meetings. It won't take much – and I'd really appreciate the offer of help. Please call or send me an [email](#).

*[PS: And you get to hear first-hand what the Committee is up to! Ed.]*



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

### Asian hornet latest

Climate and topography are not natural barriers to the Asian hornet, according to [recent research](#). The report's authors said that effective controls should be combined, such as chemical control, nest removal and bait-trapping to prevent further spread.

#### Hornet controls

Despite this, looking back on the Asian hornet report in the June 2021 edition, I'm struck by the fact that the invasive insect, *Vespa velutina*, has not—as far as we know—established a permanent foothold on the British mainland, despite a number of [sightings, captures and nest destructions](#).

The last sighting and capture was of a single hornet in Felixstowe on 29 April (see picture, left). Either it made it over on or in a vehicle, or there's an established nest there that we have yet to find.

Guesswork of course, but most of the finds have been at or in the vicinity of ports, suggesting that if the creature ever does establish itself here—and that's by no means certain as there as it faces several obstacles and hindrances—across the sea with human

help is the route it will probably take to the mainland.

So that implies that we, as beekeepers, need to continue to recruit our friends and neighbours in our efforts to help people identify *V. velutina*. Maybe it helps that the press seemingly can't stop itself being sensationalist, confusing the Giant Asian hornet—*V. mandarinia*, which really can be a killer—with *V. velutina*.

What doesn't help is when they get the pictures wrong, but at least people are on the lookout for something unusual.

Even on Jersey—now up to 50+ Asian hornets sighted in 2022 alone—where the public seems to be highly alerted to presence of the hornet, European hornets are sometimes mistaken for Asian hornets.

#### Hornet app

All you need to remember is to install and use the Asian hornet app on your phone. It helps with identification, and with what to do should you spot or think you've spotted one. Please also commend it to your friends and neighbours.





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

### Barcombe



Beeks at Barcombe. Photo Graham Bubloz

Finally, after numerous cancellations last year due to Covid and the awful weather in 2021, Barcombe hosted two very well-attended apiary meetings in April and May.

Early April saw the first gathering. I think I counted about a dozen people at the site at one point and thankfully the bees were on their best behaviour.

We started the session discussing a frame of chalkbrood from a colony in my own apiary that I had bought along. I had wrapped the frame in clingfilm to prevent any contamination at Barcombe and it was great to demonstrate what chalkbrood actually looks like and some preventative measures if you find it in your hives.

A number of attendees were still waiting for their first bees so, after demonstrating how to carefully remove frames and what to look for, I then let two new beekeepers each go through a hive each.

I really hope they found this a great experience and will go some way to helping them when they get their first bees. Loads of great questions were asked and afterwards we retired to the barn where other attendees had laid out tea, cake and biscuits (I particularly liked the nut cake!)

April so far has had excellent weather and the bees have been out most days and I was surprised to see drones hatched out so early in the year. All five hives were given supers to give them space at the start of the month.

By the time the second meeting was upon us, the colonies were plotting against us: most of them showed signs of early swarm preparation. This

### A new beekeeper's experience

On 7 May, a cheery group of bee/would-be beekeepers met at Barcombe apiary, where Tony opened a hive whose occupants he suspected of planning to swarm.

In hopes of thwarting this, Tony demonstrated the Pagden method of splitting a colony. First he administered a good smoking and, a few frames in, we were able to see the queen, apparently healthy and surrounded by eggs and brood. There were, however, a number of queen cells, both along the bottom of the frames and in the body of the frames.

Tony explained that queen cells along the top of a frame are a response to an emergency situation, such as the sudden death of the queen. The next excitement was to catch Queenie, and this he did in a plastic clip which looked like—to me at least—a rather clunky hair accessory. Queenie was then transferred deftly into a plastic tube-like device with an oh-so-gentle sort of syringe, which persuaded her to move downwards until she was trapped at the bottom by a mesh. Tony then dabbed her through this mesh with a blob of white paint, and we waited until that dried so that the bees, horrified at the unfamiliar smell, wouldn't kill her. All clever stuff! After that he examined all the queen cells carefully and destroyed all but the one he felt was the most viable.

session was again very well attended and the group was taken through a Pagden split of hive number 5.

As a reminder this involved me searching through the colony for the



The captured queen. Photo: Graham Bubloz

The next step was to move this “old” hive a short distance away and replace it with one he had prepared earlier, comprising floor, brood box with drawn comb, inner cover and roof. He then removed two or three frames from this new hive (I'm not entirely sure how many because, at this point, a bee had discovered a hole in my veil, announcing this triumph by stinging me).

This gap was then filled with the same number of frames from the original hive (minus queen cells) and Queenie returned to her original frame. In this manner, Tony had separated the queen from most of the brood and the house bees, while the flying bees, currently out foraging, would naturally return home and find they, and their queen, had their work cut out to raise more brood. As “they” say: a woman's work is never done.

The original hive, containing the brood and the favoured queen, in its new position and with a full set of frames, was closed up and Tony will move it in a few days to the other side of the original location. It will be facing in a different direction so that recently hatched bees, returning from foraging and finding that hive gone, will settle for second best and move next door which, as we all know, is where they came from in the first place!

**Dorcas Kalani**

queen first and luckily I found her on the third frame. After I put her in a clip, I moved the original hive with all the brood frames to a new location to the right of the original site. A new hive with new foundation (and one frame of emerging brood from the original hive) was put where the old hive used to be. I marked the queen using a white colour as she was from last year and put her in the new hive where she was joined by all the flying bees.

We then went through the original hive in the new location and removed all but a couple of developing Q cells.

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

### Barcombe (cont.)

More tea and cake was consumed in the barn afterwards where the group digested what they'd seen and a few reported back to me in the following days that they had successfully done the manipulation in their own colonies.

The next session is on 18 June where we will be joined by Bee Inspector Diane Steele talking about diseases and problems in the colonies. She will also be bringing some props including a preserved Asian Hornet.

**Tony Birkbeck, Apiary Manager**

### Cooksbridge

Ian White kindly hosted this meeting at his apiary. As he had collected a few swarms it was 'spot the queen' day.

We opened the nuc boxes to see if the virgin queens had mated and started to lay, and to find and mark her.

New beekeepers Sam and Fran went through a small box (nuc) of bees. They were asked to tell us what they saw, nectar, pollen (in an array of colours) workers, drones, eggs, larvae and of course the queen. Well done Alex, who started beekeeping last year, who spotted a queen in the second nuc of bees.

Ian, who is also the swarm co-ordinator this year had decided to ensure all swarms caught would be laying before giving them to new beekeepers, and to have the queen marked. A good thought, which hadn't been done before.

Of course not every queen was found, there is always one! And if you are going to mark your queen for the first time, practice on a drone first. Different types of queen marking equipment was also discussed during the afternoon.

Once the bees had been 'sorted' it was time for teas and cake. Which as usual was organised and as yummy as normal by Shirley Light. Thank you!

**Hilary Osman**

### Hove



Beeks at Hove. Photo Graham Bubloz

We have four hives at Hove, located at the side of our host's garden, adjoining the gardens of at least eight neighbours and beside a pathway to the allotments. We have to be very mindful of our bees taking mating flights and getting lost on their way back (hopefully!) either on an allotment or in a garden, somewhere along the road.

The colonies were looking very good at the start of April, healthy except for a very small amount of chalk brood which is not uncommon at the start of the year, attributable to weather conditions, the queen's laying pattern and the presence or lack of nurse bees.

I remember remarking to another beekeeper at the end of March that there was both drone brood and drones in most of the hives.

The presence of drones is not a problem but an indication that the bees are planning to produce queen cells in the near future; it takes about 34 days from egg to sexual maturity. That's something to be thinking about at inspections, especially when queen cells also appear.

On the Easter Bank Holiday weekend, an extra inspection was done because one of the hives hadn't changed its temperament. I had ideas of changing the queen and thus the behaviour of the hive.

Documented on our Facebook page, Tony Birkbeck visited while Graham filmed our progress. Together we split the hive into three nucs, removed the queen and put a frame of eggs from a hive we knew to be better-tempered into the brood box with the flying bees and some nurse bees. The new queen

should start laying any time soon. Fingers crossed.

### Split split split

Towards the end of the month, another inspection showed that the other three hives had queen cells, so immediately a Demaree split was done.

The queen, drones and workers were left in the bottom brood box. The brood was stacked over with two supers between. The following week the top brood boxes had produced the expected queen cells, which were used to make more nucs, two for each brood box. In case you need to know that now means that we have four colonies and eight nucs plus another made to make use of a spare queen cell.

This makes inspections lengthy. The next plan is to merge some of the nucs, replacing old queens with new, if temperament seems to be calm.

There have been two open hive meetings hosted at Hove apiary: the first was before the queen cells, the second after the queen cells.

On the second visit, one hive was opened and, when we looked inside, there was a sealed queen cell which will be checked this week (w/c 16 May) and is expected to have produced a new queen.



Inspecting at Hove. Photo: Graham Bubloz



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

### Hove (cont.)



The apiary at Hove. Photo: Graham Bubloz

### Afterword

We were contacted by a beekeeper who had some pre-loved equipment which he wanted to be used by local beekeepers. He said that he helped his mother to keep bees and that the equipment had used over a few years.

It was perfect for new beekeepers or occasional extra kit. Graham and I

collected it. Novice beekeepers were given a chance to take it away for a donation, used to buy books for our divisional library.

To borrow any of the books, the list is on our website and [Librarian Barbara](#) will sort you out!

**Jude New, Apiary Manager**

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## Bee Improvement Group (BIG) report



The meeting on 14 May was held at Tony Birkbeck's apiary.

Previously that week we had each collected 300ml of bees, popped them into our apideas (mini-nucs), fed them with fondant and left them for two nights in a cool place, like a garage. Instructions were to spray them twice a day to keep them cool, and enable them to eat the softened fondant.

Having charged them with bees, none of us was expecting the roar that the bees gave off.

So two days later, Saturday, we meet up and off to Tony's apiary. A beautiful day, and a lovely apiary site.

Tony took out the frame of queen cells from a hive. There were two different types of cells, hole punched and the nicot system. As we all took

turns to remove a cell and pop into the apidea we all agreed that the nicot system seemed the easiest to load up. And then silence—apart from a cuckoo. With a queen cell in each colony, all the apideas went quiet.

So now we have to wait to see if the queen mates successfully, and the colony starts to expand. A big learning curve for us all, but very enjoyable. Of course we accept that not all the colonies will survive but its good fun learning something new, in a group together, each supporting each other with our successes or failures.



Thanks must go to Tony who has done a lot of the work for us, to Ben to help graft eggs, and Graham who takes the photos.

**Hilary Osman**



Top left: the route to Tony's apiary; top right: apideas full of bees; above: bees on the nicot frame making and tending to queen cells. Photos: Graham Bubloz.



### Heathfield Bee Market, 21 May 2022

The Heathfield Bee Market went with a delightful buzz.

The cake stall was a hive of activity with an abundance of joyful compliments for all the cake bakers from Brighton & Lewes Beekeepers who provided a beautiful colourful array of diverse cakes to tempt and treat the tastebuds. They ranged from vegan lemon drizzle, beetroot chocolate brownies, bread pudding cake and so many more.

We were also joined by a team from Buckfast Abbey who 'Zoomed' (in and out of connection) with us through the ground breaking journey undertaken by Brother Adam who pioneered and was at the cutting edge of beekeeping in the early 20th century.

The trade stalls offered many treats ranging from delicious local honey, aromatic hand made bees wax soaps, delightful hand made wooden bird boxes, an array of garden plants, hive equipment and even some amazing antique skeps were on display.

The auction room didn't disappoint either, with many interesting lots for sale ranging from honey extractors, sieves, complete hives, hive parts, tools, to name but a few. The event was well attended and hopefully just as well fed and watered!

**Mim Gee**



Clockwise: B&L cake stand, bee houses, hive products, auction room, busy show, The Bee People, observation hive, gardeners. Photos by Bob Curtis; more on [page 9](#).



### Bee Disease Day: 31 May

Hurry—book now!

Places are still available for the Bee Disease Day, led by the Bee Inspectors, to be held on Tuesday 31 May 2022 at the Laughton Parish Hall, BN8 6AH.

The day will be split into groups, each consisting of:

- Diseased comb workshop
- Varroa Workshop
- The Asian Hornet Workshop
- Visiting local apiaries

Please bring a clean suit, clean boots and gloves while visiting the apiaries.

You will be examining diseased colonies so aprons and gloves will be provided while examining the foul frames.

Refreshments will be provided throughout the day but please bring your own lunch.

Booking is mandatory. Places will be allocated on a first come basis, so book now to avoid disappointment.

To book, please contact [Norman Dickinson](#).



Deformed wing virus



European foulbrood

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### B&L will need a new apiary manager

Do you fancy looking after some more bees? If so, this could be your chance.

For some time, B&L has been aware that our four existing apiaries, near Barcombe, Burgess Hill, Hove and Isfield do not cover the southern end of our area as well as we would like.

With the aim of making B&L's apiaries as easily accessible to as many members as possible, we are in the

process of setting up an apiary near Telscombe.

We shall therefore need an apiary manager to run it.

So if you live in or near the area, have at least a couple of years' experience of beekeeping and could be interested in taking on running an apiary, please contact chairman Graham Bubloz, contact details on the [back page](#).

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### Curiouser and curiouser



Some of the clever kit used by the Bee Improvement Group. Full report on [page 6](#).



### News snippets

- **First aid kits:** B&L cannot for safety reasons supply medicines—such as anti-histamine and epipens—at our apiaries. If you think you may need such supplies, please bring your own. We do have on-site first-aid kits for minor injuries and the like.
- **Honey sales:** we are considering setting up a honey sales database with the aim of helping you sell your honey. More details later.
- **Honey jars:** B&L can buy jars in bulk and sell to you at cost, helping to keep a lid on the costs of selling your honey. If you'd like to buy some jars, please contact Norman Dickinson, whose details are [on the back page](#), before mid-June.
- **Syrup and fondant:** B&L has a small stock of syrup and fondant, bought at bulk prices. If you'd like to buy some, contact Norman (see above).
- **Blois:** Lewes is twinned with Blois, an attractive town on the Loire in France. The committee is considering setting up a visit with beekeepers in Blois but we'd like to gauge interest. If that sounds like something you'd like to do, please contact Graham Bubloz, whose details are [on the back page](#).
- **Facebook:** B&L's Facebook group is now 100+ strong, over two-thirds of the membership. There are plenty of comments every day, with everyone learning off each other. I don't think anyone expected it to be so successful. Keep it up!
- **Bee Buzz:** a WhatsApp group for newbees. Check [Jude New](#) for details.

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### Apiary sites on offer

Looking for an apiary site? We have received three offers of land for bees:

- Ten acres of wild flower meadow in a very quiet, rural setting near Uckfield.
- St Peter & St James Hospice, near Wivelsfield would like bees in its large garden, fields and woodland area.
- Kittyhawk Farm in Laughton  
Please contact Chairman Graham Bubloz for details (see [back page](#)).



## Honey bee with braula on willow



Orkney photographer and beekeeper **Derek Mayes** graciously allowed me to share this wonderful close-up image of a honey bee on willow.

As well as the image being technically perfect—in focus along the entire length of the bee’s body, which is difficult to achieve with a macro lens, and very beautifully lit—you will not have failed to notice both its full pollen baskets, and that this bee is carrying a passenger.

Doesn’t quite look like a varroa mite? That’s because it’s a braula (*Braula coeca*).

Often referred to as a bee louse, in fact it’s a wingless fly. They are rarely seen on the UK mainland where varroa treatments have pretty much eliminated them, but braula flies do little harm to honey bees.

Our own Gerald Legge reports: with the widespread use of acaricides and other *Varroa* treatment regimes the prevalence of *B. coeca* has crashed with now only two accepted (Orkney, London) and two unconfirmed records (near Aberdeen, Greater London) on the [NBN Atlas](#). It is extinct elsewhere in the UK and getting rarer elsewhere.

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## Heathfield Bee Market, 21 May 2022, part 2

*More images from the first Bee Market event for two years.*



Left: prospective bidders examine the kit.

Right: the auction is under way.

Photos: Bob Curtis

### The mind of a bee



**Tuesday 14 June 2022, 20:00**

With **Prof. Lars Chittka**

Most of us are aware of the 'hive mind': the power of bees as an amazing collective. But do we know how uniquely intelligent bees are as individuals?

Ecology professor and author of *The Mind of a Bee*, Lars Chittka, draws on decades of research, including his own pioneering work, to argue that bees have remarkable cognitive abilities. He shows that they are smart, have personalities, can recognise flowers and human faces, exhibit emotions, count, use simple tools, solve problems and learn by observing others. They may even possess consciousness.

Delve deep into the sensory world of bees and discover how bee brains are unparalleled in the animal kingdom in terms of how much sophisticated material is packed into their tiny nervous systems. Learn about their innate behaviours and the implications for conservation and laboratory settings because bees feel and think.

Register [here](#).

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### Why varroa anatomy matters to your bees



**Wednesday 15 June 2022, 19:00**

With **Dr. Samuel Ramsey**

Dr Samuel Ramsey overturned 50 years of assumptions about varroa after discovering it feeds primarily on honey bee fat body tissue and not haemolymph.

Varroa are well-adapted to being parasites of honey bees. Some of their most fascinating adaptations are difficult to see with the naked eye but with the help of the USDA Bee Lab and the Electron Microscopy Unit, you can see the mites from the bee's perspective and learn why they're so adept at being so destructive.

CBKA event. Register [here](#).

### Which garden plants attract the most bees?



**Thursday 16 June 2022, 19.00**

With **Rosi Rollings**.

Rosi not only has a bee-friendly plant nursery, but she's carried out extensive research to discover the best flowers for pollinators

In 2011, Rosi wanted to start a plant nursery to support bees but didn't know much about it. This led her to start eight years of formal research into which plants attracted the most bees.

During that time she collaborated with best-selling author Prof Dave Goulson of the University of Sussex. They published [a joint paper](#) which quantified the attractiveness of garden flowers for pollinators.

Register [here](#).

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### BBKA Advanced Husbandry Assessment Preparation Training 2022



**Fri 15th July-Sun 17th July 2022**

This BBKA Training Course is now available and still has spaces. The course will cover both theoretical and practical aspects of the Advanced Husbandry Assessment, aiming to give you an understanding of what the assessment entails and your success criteria.

An intensive residential course, with high tutor to student ratio, providing time and space for both tutor to student, as well as student to student interactions.

The participants are required to hold the BBKA General Husbandry Certificate and to be eligible to take the Advanced Husbandry assessment in the near future.

**Venue:** Stoneleigh, Warwickshire

**Course fee:** £350.00 per person, including accommodation and meals.

Maximum number of participants is 12.

Book [here](#).

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### News special: Sweet Jubilee

Republicans—that's about 25 per cent of you—look away now! HM Elizabeth II is set to complete her 70th year on the throne. The monarch lives, among other places, in Buckingham Palace which we fairly recently learnt has its own apiary. According to [this news report](#), the apiary hosts four hives of Italian honey bees (*Apis mellifera ligusta*), located on an island in the palace gardens.

The bees produce over 100 kg of honey annually, enabling the palace to be self-sufficient in the sticky stuff. Palace chefs use it to make honey madeleines, chocolate truffle filling and honey and cream sponges, served at special events such as garden parties. Don't you wish you lived there too?



*A. mellifera ligusta* queen.





## B&L spring / summer events 2022

Date	Topic
Tuesday 31 May	Bee Disease Day at Laughton Parish Hall, BN8 6AH
Wednesday 29 June	Bee Chat, Cock Inn, Old Uckfield Road, Ringmer BN8 5RX

## Out-apiary meetings

Date	Apiary	Leader	Topic
29 May	Hove	Jude New	Feeding for June gap
12 June	Isfield	Ian White	Feeding for June gap
18 June	Barcombe	Tony Birkbeck	Checking for disease and varroa
19 June	Isfield	Ian White	Checking for disease and varroa
31 July	Isfield	Ian White	Honey management & winter preparations
3 Sept	Isfield	Ian White	Winter preparation/oxalic acid
4 Sept	Hove	Jude New	Winter preparation/oxalic acid

Outdoor meeting timings may change as circumstances/ weather dictate.  
Please pre-book for Hove only: contact Graham [here](#).

## Deadlines

Please send all contributions for the newsletter, **including photos**, to the Editor (details on right). Max. length: 500 words.

**Copy deadline:** 18th of the month before the publication date (except December: 11th). Email photos etc. for the website to Webmaster Gerald Legg (details on right).

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

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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.



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



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