

# Brighton & Lewes Beekeepers



A DIVISION OF THE SUSSEX BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

## CONTENTS

### Seasonal hints & tips ..... 2

- Supering: prepping for harvest

### News from the Division ..... 4

- Words from the Chair
- Asian hornet latest
- From our apiaries
- Bee Disease Day reports
- BBKA Basic Assessment: a personal journey
- B&L community out-reach

- South of England Show report

### Noticeboard..... 11

- B&L member wins award at SEAS
- New books to borrow
- Apiary manager required
- Offers of land for beekeeping

### Photo Corner ..... 12

- Brilliant macro photos of bees

### Meetings and contacts ..... 13

## EDITORIAL



Honey bee on daisy. Photo: Neeta Pedersen

If there's one word that defines our beekeeping group, it's activity. Naturally, this is the buzzy busy time of year: people are splitting hives, collecting swarms, extracting honey and so on. As a result, this issue is packed with info.

But B&L itself is busy too. Our Facebook group has been a huge success, with more than half the membership now signed up, while our WhatsApp group B&L Buzz, aimed at new beekeepers, has 35 B&L members and is growing daily.

B&L Buzz was started as a way of providing new beekeepers with easy access to help from the more experienced, and it's still that, but increasingly, new beekeepers are—sing it—doing it for themselves. There's a whole lot of self-help going on, which is great to see.

So if you would like help from fellow local beekeepers, join up today!

### Bee Disease Day

Talking of being busy, last month we held our long-delayed (for obvious reasons) [Bee Disease Day](#). Held at Laughton Parish Hall, it was a huge success with some 30 B&L members attending plus many members of adjoining Divisions.

It was led by the Regional and Seasonal Bee Inspectors who between them provided comprehensive descriptions of and solutions to the various diseases and pests that honey bees attract.

Additionally—and this was the highlight of my day—after donning protective clothing, we got to see some frames displaying symptoms of diseases such as European and American foulbrood, sacbrood and chalkbrood. For someone who has never experienced the worst of them, this was the real value of the day.

Side note: your intrepid correspondent, being a bit of a stickler for such matters, did ask one Inspector why they couldn't have named the day the same as we did: we called it a Bee Disease Day, they called it the Healthy Bee Day. Say it out loud... Anyway, I got a dusty response!

There's more about the day inside this issue, together with lots of photos.

**Manek Dubash, Editor**

## NEWSLETTER JULY 2022

### EVENTS

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

### NEXT MONTH

- Tips for mid-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

### Seasonal tips for July

Despite the warm weather—much better than last year it has to be said—swarming this year has been very muted. A good thing for your colonies to some extent but it does mean that many new beeks haven't been able to get bees.

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 that it can take six weeks from splitting a colony to finding newly laid eggs.

By early June, the queen should be laying to her maximum potential and colonies 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
- Enough room for the queen to lay
- Supers filling up
- Disease
- Sufficient stores until the next inspection
- Presence of queen cells

I know that generally speaking July is late for colonies to swarm, but they can and they do. It would be a shame to lose half of your work force just when they're needed, so continue to be vigilant for the those swarm cells.

### 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 the nectar.

When nectar is brought into the hive it has a water content of about 80 per cent, and so needs a lot of space. The bees reduce its water content to about 18 per cent and then store and cap it, 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 chimneying or the chimney effect).

So once the brood box has about seven to eight seams of bees, put on the first super, preferably with drawn comb. Once this super is 80 per cent full with nectar put the second one on, again preferably with drawn comb.

### Super tips

Why drawn comb? Because it takes a lot of nectar to make wax—about 8kg of nectar for 1kg of 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 when there is a flow on with plenty of nectar to go around.

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 box, 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



A very full super. Photo: The Apiarist

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 100mm x 100mm 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 anywhere else until they have no choice, so it's not advisable to use 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 in our area, (so far) please keep an eye out for the blighters in your wasp traps. They are trying to invade...

### Another veiled beekeeper



**Graham Bubloz**  
Chairman

### Words from the Chair

Right at the end of May, we held a hugely successful Bee Disease Day. If you weren't there – you missed a truly fascinating and informative day. There is more information elsewhere in this newsletter—but I'd strongly urge you to make sure that you attend the next one. You won't regret it.

#### Out-apiary meetings

I've attended all the out-apiary meetings this year so far, and it's great to meet up with the members who do turn up—but it would be even nicer to meet the members who don't come along. It's a great way to meet your fellow beekeepers. If you're a long-standing member and haven't been along in recent years, please take a look at the programme at the end of this newsletter for the dates and venues for the forthcoming meetings. If you're new beekeeper, then I would suggest that it's an essential piece of practical groundwork to come along and understand how to manipulate the hive and get an answer to the many questions that you'll inevitably have.

If the weekend out-apiary meetings aren't convenient, then how about coming along to one of our impromptu Bee Chat nights, held at a local pub (and we deliberately move the

venue to try and get close to most members at least once) and spend an hour or two talking about bees. I'd welcome feedback—good or bad—that might help us as a committee to improve things.

#### Not a swarmy year

I hope that by now, any threats that your colonies might swarm are in the past. Indeed, when talking to Swarm Co-ordinator Ian White, he said that this year, just like last, has been a relatively poor one in terms of overall swarm alert calls from members of the public. I wonder why that is?

There's a number of members taking the BBKA Basic Assessment this summer. By the time that you read this, they should have (just) taken the exam. I wish them the very best of luck. If you haven't taken this exam yourself – please consider doing so in a future year. It will improve your beekeeping (and is good for the bees too!)

Finally, just a reminder that our Librarian, Barbara Summerfield, rarely receives requests to borrow books. It's just a fiver to borrow – and you get that money returned when you return the book! Contact Barbara on the via the email link [on the back page](#).



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

### Asian hornet latest



Know your enemy! Asian hornets (*Vespa velutina*), like most eusocial members of the wasp family *Vespa*, establish a primary nest, built by the over-wintered queen. Into it she lays a handful of eggs which, once matured into workers, expand the nest, and then build a much bigger, secondary one. The queen then devotes herself to egg-laying.

The Asian hornet team on Jersey know all about this in practice. They've now established a successful routine for tracing

and tracking down *V. velutina* nests. It bears repeating that they have been able to stem the incursion of the attractive but invasive and destructive pest only with the help of the public. The watchword is now 'look up'.

I've seen photos of primary nests you'd barely notice stuck to the high ceilings of large buildings such as warehouses and the like. Without that vigilance and the impulse to look up, at least one of the recent ones could have been missed.

They're lucky. Jersey is a relatively small community. If *V. velutina* were to establish itself here, it would be much harder to find. Indeed, we cannot know for certain that it actually hasn't. Instead we must rely on the public to be our eyes and ears. So please keep your eyes and ears open—and when you go into buildings, even if it's your garden shed, look up.

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

#### Barcombe



Bee Inspector Diane Steele (yellow boots) led the inspection on 18 June. All photos on this page: Graham Bubloz

It's been a good month for Barcombe. The Pagden split we did at the Apiary day on 7 May worked really well. The Original queen in a New hive at the Original location (ONO) is doing very well and already has ten full frames of brood in all stages (remember, apart from the one frame I put in with the queen the rest was just new foundation). The split that obviously consisted of the non-flying bees made a number of new queen cells of which I removed all but one and this week (18 June), so I have lots and lots of new eggs and a big fat new queen.

We had a bit of a forage gap once the abundance of the oil seed rape finished which settled the colonies but when the summer flow started again mid-June, two of the colonies decided to start throwing up queen cells again so more splits are now in progress—it seems to be a full time process this beekeeping malarky!!

Then on 18 June we had an excellent Apiary day where our very own seasonal bee inspector Diane Steele turned up to talk about diseases. Because I have seven good colonies now at Barcombe I met Diane a bit early to do a full disease inspection on all the hives and I am pleased to report they all passed with flying colours.

We re-inspected a single colony once all the attendees turned up where Diane led the group talking about EFB, AFB) and other diseases, viruses and pests. I had placed the inspection boards under the hives five days earlier, and the group helped inspect for varroa of which, surprising even for me, there were very few spotted.



Inspecting for varroa—but very few found.

We retired to the barn for tea and cakes where Diane had laid out pictures of diseased frames so people can hopefully identify problems in their own hives—she even had a real Asian Hornet in a resin mould to show around. What an excellent day—I would like to thank Diane for her time.

#### Next moves

Unfortunately, there will be no more Apiary days at Barcombe this year: I was going to host a 'preparing for winter' session and a honey extraction session at my house but I'm due a knee operation in July which will scupper these events. I hope to be able to keep the updates coming.

#### Tony Birkbeck, Apiary Manager



Drone brood removal.

#### Grassroots

Grassroots has been just ticking over. I have tried to re-queen the one-size box, but the bees were not interested. One queen emerged but may have swarmed, the second emerged but didn't return.

The Bee Improvement programme produced two queens for Grassroots, which are going to be used to head new nucs to overwinter.

The swarm nuc was queenless, the colony began to decline and no eggs were found and a test frame didn't produce a queen, even though a queen cell was made. I gave the nuc a queen from the Bee Improvement programme but they were probably queenless for too long. This was despite introducing her with a Butler cage and then putting her into a full-sized two-frame introduction cage—still the nuc wouldn't accept her.

The Apidea that the queen cell was removed from has produced a new queen cell, I am waiting to see if she can be used to start another nuc.

There are few bees at Grassroots at the moment. Our queen rearing for Bee Improvement has succeeded in producing queens in the first round, but the second round of queen rearing still has to be assessed. I will continue to work on the queen rearing and bee improvement next year with assistance from the willing volunteers who have looked after queens for us in their home apiaries.

The shed roof (below) was damaged during storm Eunice: the willow tree which hangs over the shed had dropped, bounced on the roof causing it to buckle. During swarm season, that's not a good look. Repairs are in hand.

#### Jude New, Apiary Manager



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

### Hove

There were eight trips to Hove and Grassroots apiaries in May.

Hove apiary you may be aware is in a large garden which has an allotment on one side and individual gardens on the other three sides. This year, realising that the hives were producing swarm cells, I went with the sole aim of using Demaree swarm control to keep the colony numbers similar and to minimise swarming.

As I worked my way along the row of hives, one swarmed. Swarm co-ordinator Ian White phoned me two days later to let me know that the swarm had settled a few doors from our apiary. Graham Bubloz was volunteered to try out his new swarm vac (*see previous issues*) to collect the bees and remove them to Hassocks to Grassroots—you may have seen his collection on Facebook.

The resulting queen cells produced by the hives were used to re-queen all the hives. There was a tense few weeks while the virgins emerged and settled back into their colonies. Merging through newspaper is now almost finished, resulting in four hives with new queens and one queen right nuc which will be taken to Grassroots to head up a queen-less colony.

The supers are on, the bees are collecting nectar again.



Eggs in evidence, mated queen in residence from naturally produced queen cell.



Definitely no mated queen present, what a lot of eggs in a cell!

### Meetings

We held an open hive meeting for those taking the Basic Assessment and novice beekeepers have visited Hove apiary.



Open hive meeting for the Basic Assessment group. All Hove photos: Graham Bubloz

On one occasion there were seven or eight nucs spaced about the apiary awaiting mating flights etc, and lots of bees which were a bit tetchy.

**Jude New, Apiary Manager**

### Isfield

On a nice warm 12 June, a small cluster of beekeepers assembled around the three hives at the Isfield apiary.

One of the hives was suffering with severe varroosis—the varroa board displayed a worryingly high load of the parasitic mites. So I decided to treat the original hive and the split from it with Apiguard.

These two hives are now in the third week of the four-week treatment period. We also marked a queen in a capture cage.

After that, brief inspections of three mini-nucs were followed by cake, char and chat.

**Ian White, Apiary Manager**



Above: bees on the comb, queen marking, mucky varroa board. Photos: Manek D.

### Bee Disease Day, 31 May 2022

*Photos by Bob Curtis & Manek Dubash*

B&L's much-delayed Bee Disease Day was a hit. Over 40 members attended, plus many from other Divisions, to hear and see Bee Inspectors from the National Bee Unit—a division of DEFRA—explain diseases and pests with slides and show them with hands-on inspections and diseased frames. Some frames were so fresh that occasionally a bee emerged from one of the brood cells.

B&L Chairman Graham Bubloz wrote to Dan: "I simply just wanted to express

my sincere thanks to you and your whole team for the absolutely fascinating and superbly educational day that you so kindly hosted on our behalf. I have not attended such an event before, and was so glad that I did: to be able to watch a bee inspector manipulating a hive was invaluable, but even more beneficial was to actually observe the real-life examples of the serious foulbrood diseases. I had only even seen photographs and read books that explained the disease – but being

able to actually get up close was so valuable."

Graham finished: "I spoke with many of the attendees – both at the event and afterwards. Everyone without exception was overtly complimentary."

Thanks to Hilary Osman, Lana Trundle and Norman Dickinson for organisation, Jude New for refreshments, and special thanks to Lana and Shirley Light who loaned apiaries for the demonstrations.

There's more on the next page...



### Bee Disease Day: a full report

*Photos by Bob Curtis*

Forty-two beekeepers attended the Bee Disease Day on Tuesday 31 May 2022. The event had been planned to take place in 2020 – but was deferred because of the pandemic.

The event was held at the Parish Hall, Laughton, near Lewes. Most (29) of the attendees were from B&L but six members from Eastbourne and one from Hastings & Rother Divisions also came along, plus one independent. Eight Bee Inspectors were there too, showing how important the Bee Inspectors believe training beekeepers is: virtually all the Bee Inspectors from the south-east of the UK were there.

#### Organisation

The event was superbly organised by Hilary Osman, with significant help from Norman Dickinson, Shirley Light and Lana Trundle. There was also plenty of car parking space, with tea/coffee and cake all included in the £10 admission price, plus easy registration on arrival.

We are extremely grateful to Shirley and Lana who made their own hives, located within walking distance, available for inspection.

As you would hope, there were no health issues in any of their hives. But I'm getting ahead of myself...

#### What we did

We were hoping to view some of the diseases that we've all heard of in our training but which thankfully, few of us

have experienced in real life, especially the two foulbroods: AFB and EFB.

We were split into three groups for the day. The day was also divided into three parts:

- An out-apiary inspection
- An explanation / slide show of typical bee diseases
- A visit to an isolation room where frames that had AFB and EFB were on display

The Bee Inspectors led each session. At the out-apiary session, it was fascinating to observe how these guys manipulated the hives.

I found it fascinating to observe how quick, and frankly how rough the inspectors were when inspecting.

#### What we learnt

From such a session, I learnt that it's possible to determine the age of an egg according to its orientation within the cell. I also learnt how to determine your level of varroa by observing the varroa poo that can be seen on the surface of the wax!

The visit to the isolation room was truly fantastic.

We've all dreaded seeing American or European Foulbrood, and thankfully none of us (I would hope) have ever seen it in real life, but we got the opportunity to see a couple of frames containing both diseases. We were suitably clad in disposable aprons and gloves to ensure that we didn't take any spores away with us.

The session that explained the more common diseases was also a useful reminder of what to look out for, and what to do when you do find that you have such a problem.

It concluded with a mark-your-own-homework type quiz. Again, it was a worthwhile reminder and exercise in remembering just what all the various diseases look like and what to do if you see them.

#### Feedback

Throughout the day, the beekeepers had the opportunity to meet new faces. I was fascinated to meet people from other divisions who had been invited along to share the experience.

Without exception, there was universal praise: everyone that attended were extremely grateful to Brighton & Lewes for organising such an event. Indeed, there was a certain amount of envy from members from other divisions who wished their groups were a little bit more proactive in organising such a day.

#### Should we do it again?

If you missed it, you missed a truly fascinating and extremely worthwhile day. We hope that we may run a repeat event depending on demand. So, please let anyone on the committee know if you'd like to attend a future event.

**Graham Bubloz**



## What I learnt doing the BBKA Basic Assessment

### Learning from the best

My personal motto throughout my life has always been *'every day is a learning opportunity'* and, with a keen interest in the outdoors, retirement presented the perfect opportunity to take up beekeeping.

I was inspired by a good friend in Belgium who related fascinating stories from his hives, together with interesting honey tastings! We returned to the UK in 2018 and I have to say we are so lucky here with the help that abounds for the wannabe beekeeper. I went to a one day taster session at Plumpton College and did an apiary visit with Bob Curtis.

These clarified to me that beekeeping was interesting but was going to be a real commitment! So I joined B&L and I also had the help of a mentor, Chris Davidson, who has supported me through the highs (and lows) of beekeeping. I collected my first swarm with him in 2019 and frankly I have never looked back.

### Support group

By 2020, I had met up with club member Dave Boys and together we keep our bees in an apiary close to Chris in Rottingdean. We're a team and try to look after each other, especially during the honey harvest season.

Last year I signed up for the Basic Bee Assessment course which, after the pandemic, meant I was already in my third season. I was asking myself, what could I learn from a basic course?

I should have had no fears! Jude New organised a simply outstanding course which fundamentally operates to the level of the audience. Of course, there are certain fundamentals of beekeeping

facts which you need to know (bee life cycle, techniques and diseases etc) but then there are a lot of techniques within which beekeepers have differing opinions on the best methods (the old adage: give me three beekeepers and I'll have four opinions).

In our 'post pandemic' course, I found I was one of the least experienced of the group and the value of the discussion among us students led by the teacher was one of the best aspects of the training.

It is also important to say that the time invested and energy expended by the teaching team was truly outstanding. Many thanks go to Jude New, Norman Dickinson, Bob Curtis and Hilary Osman. Honestly we are so lucky to be surrounded by so much help—so to any new beekeepers, I say, take advantage of it!

After the Basic, B&L ran a Bee Disease Day (see pages 7 & 8) which was presented by the National bee Unit. After all the theory of disease in the Basic, this was such an exceptional experience to actually see diseased hives and get a better understanding of the potential problems which can affect us all. I highly recommend it.

### Lessons learnt

So where does this leave me now? Well thanks to the Basic here is what I have learnt:

- Knowledge: there is some important background you really need to know but the dialogue in the course and your own experience will help you formulate your own views and become a better beekeeper.
- Great connections: this club has many experts who are willing to help you out and through courses like the Basic you can build your own network of helpful contacts.
- New friends: a great opportunity to meet a friendly group of people with similar interests!
- And finally you get a certificate AND a badge!

### Paying it back

I began this with article with *'every day is a learning opportunity'*.

True to this spirit, the Basic was only the start of the journey for me. I am now helping mentor a first time beekeeper, Alistair, who was introduced to me through the club. In the same spirit of supporting the next generation, my daughter is now learning beekeeping and has even given talks of her experience in her school classroom where she works. Start them young!

Last winter I learnt how to present my honey, design labels and make candles—I have a lot more to learn on candle making! Thanks to the connections the Basic gave me, I just joined Jude New's Bee Improvement Group (BIG) and, while not as advanced as many, I am attempting to raise my own queens from my best hive.

Yes, *'every day really is a learning opportunity'*.

**Nigel Kermode**



### B&L community out-reach: offering a little help

Over the past three months, I have been assisting a final year student with her photography project. Her name is Charlotte Cornwall, a student at the University of Brighton. Her final year project was on the subject of bees.

She visited me to record both visuals and the sounds made by a colony of honey bees.

She also subsequently visited the Hove apiary where Jude New and I manipulated the hives while she observed and took photographs.

Her chosen photograph, on which she's pinning her qualification, is an A0 sized poster taken at the Hove apiary back in March 2022. This was on display in a public exhibition, as part of the Brighton Festival.

I went along to take a look and I took some photos—see below. You might wonder about the audio side of things: well there was a pair of headphones alongside the poster, which allowed you to immerse yourself in the sounds of a colony while looking at the poster.

**Graham Bubloz**



Left: Charlotte Cornwall with friend Dan, and (above) her photo at the Brighton Festival.

### B&L community out-reach: help for new beekeepers

We recently received some equipment very kindly donated by Marcus Payne and Ian Clayton.

It was collected by me and Jude New, who sorted and sold it at low cost to our novice beekeepers.

As you can see from the photos below, the equipment is having a second lease of life and made some new beekeepers very happy. The sale has also allowed us to buy some specialist books for the B&L Library for

members to use, whether for personal research or formal study for the BBKA modules. There's more about the books on the [Noticeboard page](#).

**Graham Bubloz**



### South of England Show report

I was privileged, along with several other members of B&L to be able to help out in the bee tent at the show this year, where we were made to feel very welcome.

Being new to beekeeping (one year in), I was concerned that my knowledge or lack of would show! But it was an enjoyable three days and by talking to others, gained more knowledge.

This year the show was blessed by beautiful sunshine and although appearing smaller than pre-Covid there was a steady stream of visitors to the bee tent.

Included were demonstration bee hives, information from local beekeeping associations, stands selling bee products and mead—but no honey, so we sent them to Tony Birkbeck's trade stand (below). Well done to Tony and Toni for receiving Best General Trade Exhibit award.

Daily demos showing how to handle bees were well attended. Many people were thinking about keeping bees, new beekeepers were interested in finding out more, and many fliers for B&L were given out as a point of contact.

I was pleasantly surprised to find that children were very interested in the bees (right) and it was good to hear that they had knew quite a bit from school and also YouTube videos.

There is an after-show debrief so if you have any comments regarding the bee tent, please let me know.

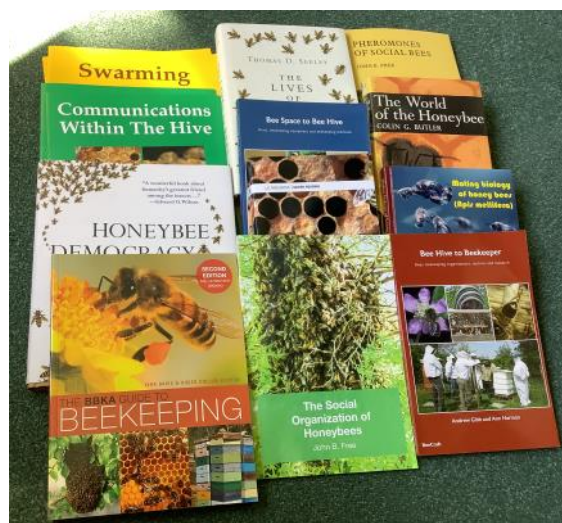
**Rick Butcher**





And as their website says: "All the profit we make from our products go back into looking after the bees and ensuring they are well cared for."

**New additions to the Library: free for all members to borrow**



## Manek Dubash

## B&L will need a new apiary manager

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](#).

## News snippets

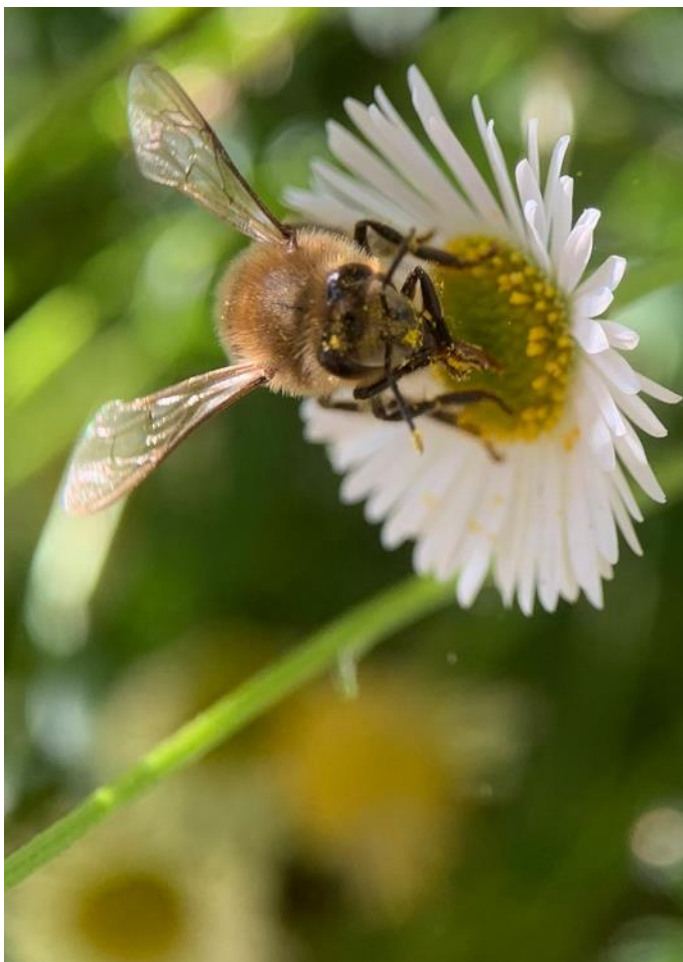
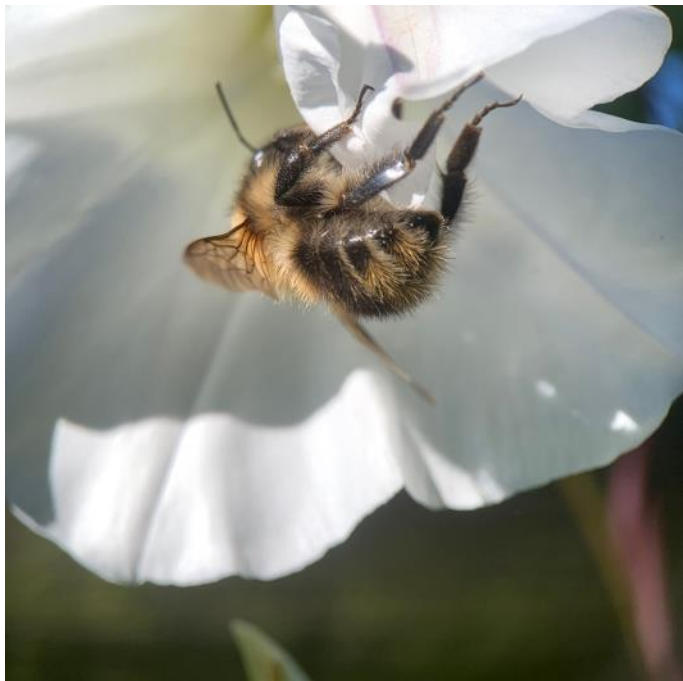
- **First aid kits:** B&L cannot not for safety reasons supply medicines—such as anti-histamine and epipens—at our apiaries. If you think you may need such supplies, please bring your own. We do have on-site first-aid kits for minor injuries and the like.
- **Honey sales:** we are considering setting up a honey sales database with the aim of helping you sell your honey. More details later.
- **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 [back page](#)).
- **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's 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: it's a roaring success with loads of help. Do join—contact [Jude New](#) for details.
- **New committee member:** welcome Tony Birkbeck whose energy and enthusiasm, not least as the Barcombe Apiary Manager, has been a huge asset to B&L already.

## Apiary sites on offer

- Ten acres of wild flower meadow in a 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](#)).

### Foragers in action: no June gap for them

More macro lens action this month, as Neeta Pedersen, owner/manager of the Star Gallery in Lewes, graciously allowed me to share her brilliant macro images of honey bees, all of which were captured in early June 2022.





## B&L spring / summer events 2022

Date	Topic
Wednesday 29 June	Bee Chat, Cock Inn, Old Uckfield Road, Ringmer BN8 5RX

### Out-apiary meetings

Date	Apiary	Leader	Topic
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.

### National Bee Unit inspectors

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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.

## Officers & contacts

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### Apiary Managers

- **Barcombe:** Tony Birkbeck

- **Grassroots:** Jude New

- **Hove:** Jude New

- **Isfield:** Ian White

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**Sussex BKA County Representative:** Vacant

**National Honey Show Rep:** Norman Dickinson



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