A DIVISION OF THE SUSSEX BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2024

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Winter meetings

· Meetings and more

• See this & back page for details

NEXT MONTH

EVENTS

- Seasonal hints & tips
- Asian hornet update
- News updates
- Latest events

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.

EDITORIAL

Sadly, Mike James died unexpectedly last month. Hilary went to the funeral which was well-attended. Mike was a B&L stalwart whose hives grace many an apiary in our area. He will be missed: obit on p3.

Further sad news: Paynes Bee Farm is to close and is holding a clearance sale. It seems that semi-retirement beckonswhich I would call a win for them.

From the website: "While some family members will be retiring, and others moving on into new industries, others will remain in the beekeeping world. Roger and Becky will be continuing with their

beekeeping journey but on a much smaller, more manageable scale. They will continue to supply nucs and queens."

Hurry, and you might be quick enough to pick up a bargain!

On the plus side, the warm end to June and hot July resulted in my best harvest ever: around 60kg of concentrated sunshine from just six hives. As usual. production across the colonies was very variable: some gave a lot, others very little. I hope your harvest went well.

Manek Dubash, Editor

Winter meetings

| Date | Location Topic | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|--|--|--|
| Wednesday 18 Sept | Live | How was your beekeeping season? Short talks plus Q&A | | |
| Wednesday 16 Oct | Zoom | From Buckfast to Buckingham Palace, plus rare bees, by Richard Rickitt | | |
| Wednesday 20 Nov | Live | Let's get ready for the Honey Show: judging standards, by Gerald, Jude & Bob | | |
| | | Must-haves vs nice-to-haves—Perspectives from a commercial beekeeper, | | |
| Wednesday 18 Dec | Zoom | by Dan & Ken Basterfield | | |
| Wednesday 15 Jan | Zoom | How to keep your bees in the best of health, by Margaret Murdin | | |
| Wednesday 19 Feb | Live | 2025 AGM and Honey Show | | |
| Wednesday 19 March | Live | The role of drones & drone congregation areas, by Stephen Fleming | | |
| Wednesday 16 April | Zoom | The special language of bees, by Margaret Murdin | | |

- All winter meetings start at 1915 for 1930
- Those marked as live take place at Eastgate Baptist Church Hall, Lewes BN7 2LR
- Meetings marked as Zoom are online only; a link will be sent before the meeting

Next Bee Chat: TBD

ONLINE



B&L website Facebook



QR link to our website

September: end of the season

So you've taken the honey off—and I hope you had as good a harvest as I did this year—now is the time to thoroughly check the brood for disease and mite levels in your hives. Only treat your bees if they need it. Use the National Bee Unit Guide on Managing Varroa and go to the chapter on Integrated Pest Management for advice. If your daily average mite drop is above 10, then you need to treat immediately. Several treatments are available to us, but some need to be applied before the temperature drops too far.

As you can see from the picture below, this colony was a bit upset when I put Apiguard on.

You will also want to protect the stores, so it's a good idea to reduce the hive entrance size to help the bees guard against wasps and other bees robbing, especially for a smaller colony.

Winter feeding

So what constitutes a small colony? It's been suggested that anything with fewer than five frames of bees is in danger of failing during the winter.

There could be a number of reasons for this, but the primary one is that there isn't enough mass in the cluster to protect against heat loss unless you take extra precautions to conserve heat inside the hive.

There are many solutions to protecting bees in colder environments, one being to unite them with or into larger colonies using the newspaper method.

Your records will show you which colony to choose and which queen to cull (yes, a bit of regicide, but sometimes bee husbandry calls for it). The resulting colony will have a better



Apiguard reaction. Photo: Ian White

chance of survival, a better developed queen and more stores to see them through the winter.

Feeding: how and how much?

When the last of the ivy has flowered there will be little chance for your bees to collect more forage for the winter and they will have to rely on their stores for five to seven months. Lower temperatures also limit the ability of the cluster to move to new stores. So having stores readily available, close to the cluster is essential.

You will need anywhere between 18-27kg of stores, depending on the location of your bees and the external temperature. A National super frame holds about 2.5kg of stores.

Counter-intuitively, the warmer it is, the more food the bees will need to survive the winter. This is because the cluster will be looser, and the bees will be able to move to new areas of stores within the hive easily.

If you think there will not be enough stores for the winter, either because they've eaten it already or you've taken it all, you will need to feed additional 2:1 thick syrup (1kg of sugar to 630ml of water to be precise) or commercial invert syrup to make up the shortfall.

How much is enough? In my opinion, keep feeding them until they stop taking it down. However, if you want to be a little more measured and you're making it yourself, then 1kg of sugar will make 1.25kg of stored syrup once the bees have processed it. So, if you think the shortfall is 10kg then divide 10kg by 1.25kg to give you the resulting 8kg of sugar you will need to make your syrup (10/1.25=8). Be sure if you are making enough; the bees can empty a 10-litre feeder in a couple of days.

At the end of the process and, as a rule of thumb, the hive will feel like it is fixed to the ground if you try and lift it.

Feeder types

You can use a contact feeder where the lid bucket has a fine mesh outlet. When full and the lid is in place, the bucket is inverted over one of the holes in the crown board. An eke is put over the

inverted bucket and the hive cover replaced. Or you can use a rapid feeder, usually 75-100mm deep open trays with an entrance at the bottom (below). These may require an eke or if they are big enough, can act as the crown board and the hive lid placed directly on top of them.

There are no practical differences between them: the important thing is to add all the winter feed in one go. Dave Cushman's website has more details.

When feeding, and to avoid any unnecessary excitement, try not to spill any syrup; make sure your feeder is bee/wasp proof from the outside and try to feed later on in the day when there is little foraging activity.

Nadiring: should you?

If you have left your bees a super of their own honey for the winter, the next question is whether to leave it above or below the brood. I favour the latter option, known as nadiring. Remove the queen excluder beforehand.

My reasons for nadiring are that bees always move upwards where it's warmer. So, as the brood nest shrinks there will be space for the bees to store honey in the brood comb and towards the top of the frames. As the weather gets colder, the bees will move up into the region filled with stores.

Remove the super very early in the spring, or the super will end up with brood in it as the brood area expands.

Enjoy your harvest and think about entering the National Honey Show—contact Norman for details; you'll be surprised at what you can do with honey and other hive products.

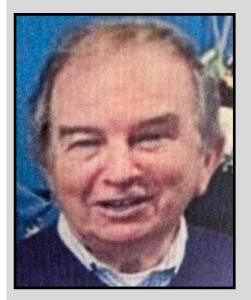
The Veiled Beekeeper



English rapid feeder

Obituary: Mike James

Many of B&L stalwart Mike's hives are installed in members' apiaries



Mike James

I recently went to the funeral service of Mike James, who suddenly and unexpectantly passed away last month. He was a member of Brighton and Lewes Beekeepers.

Although a quiet man, he was known for the excellent quality of his wooden hives, and products of the hives that he made with his wife Viv.

Many of his friends—and quite a few beekeepers too—came on 9 August to pay their respects.

After retiring, he tried many activities including gin making (a disaster), but the rum making went well!

He was also a "Trekkie" [nothing wrong with that! MD], grew fruit and vegetables, and was fan of Country and Western music. In his younger days, he owned at least one motorbike.

We always think that we know someone, but it always amazes me how once they have passed we learn so much more about them.

For Mike

If you would like to thank Mike for the work he carried out on the hives that he made, please go to a website for his charity, the Moorfields Eye Charity. He had a very rare eye condition—a malignant melanoma—for which he was treated at Moorfields hospital for over 20 years.

Equipment for sale

On a happier note there will be several items up for sale to do with beekeeping. I can keep you all posted. I will try and get this organised for next month.

Hilary Osman

Wax workshops

How about a day with beeswax?

Two wax workshops have been arranged for the autumn at Patcham Memorial Hall:

- Saturday 19 October from 09.00 to 12.00
- Saturday 9 November from 13.00 to 16.00.

There will be a charge for materials, and opportunities to make a range of items with beeswax. We will have a pop up honey shop so if you have honey to sell you will be able to bring that along too. Please contact me.

Jude New, Training Co-ordinator





Manek Dubash Asian Hornet Team Co-ordinator

Asian Hornet report

No Asian Hornet nests have been reported in our area so far, thank goodness, though there have been reports around Three Oaks, to the north east of Hastings. The National Bee Unit also said it is conducting track and trace activities in Ramsgate, Alkham and Temple Ewell in Kent and further surveillance in Hastings, East Sussex.

So we are in monitoring mode. To that end, I took delivery, as part of a trial, of a box of 20 free Nest Sweeper units from Pollenize. These are essentially high-tech bait stations that report back any AH sightings automatically to the NBU. I brought

them to the recent Rottingdean apiary meeting—which was very well-attended incidentally, more about that on the next page—and all have now been spoken for.

Sorry to anyone who missed out, though you can I hope get one from the Pollenize website.

The device vaporises its AH attractant, which is then carried on the wind. It's said to increase the attractiveness of the station, making it a game-changer for early detection and monitoring.

I'd be keen to hear your findings once it's installed.

What can we do for you?

A message from your Meetings Secretary... on our winter meeting programme





'Winter meetings programme' I hear you shout! We're still in summer and we haven't even taken all our supers off yet!!!

Well, I know I am writing this in August, but your committee is already working hard to make sure you, the members, have a really exciting winter programme to lift your spirits during those long, chilly winter evenings once you have closed your hives down. And the reason we are sending this out now is because our first meeting is on 18 September and we need your help, yes, your help, to set this programme off to a terrific start.

New broom, new programme

This year we have overhauled the meetings programme based on your feedback and what you have found most valuable. These get-togethers are a great chance for us all to remain connected and socialise on a range of beekeeping topics that will interest new and experienced members alike,

though when pressed we've prioritised new members' needs first.

So all our meetings will be 'live' at our now-traditional venue, the Eastgate Baptist Church Hall in Lewes, where you will be offered warm [hot, surely? Ed] drinks, cakes and biscuits and an awful lot of bee chat! Whilst we have focussed on 'live' events, we wanted to get the best speakers and so we will have a few Zoom presentations, where the speakers live far away, and we can't justify the travel.

Who's talking?

And we've got some excellent speakers for you, talking about topics you have told us are of real interest!

Without sharing the programme big reveal, we already have one of the best talks from SBKA, 'From Buckfast to Buckingham Palace' by Richard Rickitt (above right), we have the leading expert on Bee Sex (it's over 18s and photo ID only!) talking drones and Drone Congregation Areas; plus a presentation from the 'Trainer of the Trainers' on the new BBKA Bee Health syllabus to help you better look after your bees.

If you are interested in beekeeping there will definitely be something in every talk which will broaden your horizons.

The programme reveal will be on 18 September at Eastgate Baptist Hall. And this is where we need your help. Our first event is 'So, how was your 2024 beekeeping season?'





Help required

Sometimes us beekeepers live in our own worlds and it's tough to see the bigger picture of what is happening in our region. We aim to share this with you, and this is where your help is required. We have already sent out a short questionnaire to all members via email and the Buzz WhatsApp group asking about your experiences in 2024 and how you feel.

My commitment to you is that all your data will be anonymised and collated together so we can get a general view of 2024 from you, the members.

My second request for help is to please support the programme and come along to the meetings this year. We have invested in an expert selection of the very best speakers on your behalf. So, if you haven't attended our winter programme before, give it a go, we do not think you will be disappointed.

Now is the time to note in your calendar our monthly Wednesday meetings at the Eastgate Baptist Hall on 18 September, 16 October, 20 November and 18 December this year.

See you there!

Nigel Kermode, Meetings Secretary

Out-apiary meetings

Grassroots



So, what has been going on at Grassroots? There haven't been any meetings. But Nigel was asking for honey to sell at the Rottingdean Fair on 3 August but all the apiary managers were wondering if there would be any honey at all. Two had enough honey to extract plus frames donated from random hives.

I share a four-frame manual extractor, so it was a relief initially, to have a small crop to extract at the end of July. My extractor partner assured me that he didn't have any honey to extract at that stage.

The honey was filtered twice, and I removed the foam with cling film, ready for bottling. Fifteen jars of honey and a taster jar went to Rottingdean for Nigel and the team to sell, with the proviso that I would collect unsold honey the following week.

All was sold, and the money put in the B&L account. Honey left from that honey bucket is being paid as rent to the land owners of our apiary.

Honey theft

The bees became buzzy and defensive after the honey was removed because

the major nectar flow was over. The weather has been very changeable; nectar has been available sporadically compared with the flow in July. Blackberry is setting and still in flower, Himalayan Balsam is in flower, but is being removed as an invasive weed, and I have seen plenty of ragwort, clover and creeping thistle. I haven't seen any phacelia, the latest green manure; it makes very pale honey.

Winter preparations

I had to manage robbing and increasingly I have been monitoring and trying to control wasp and European Hornet incursions. So weak colonies or queenless colonies are being merged through newspaper. The intention behind this is to make it more difficult for wasps to get into hives. Larger colonies can defend themselves better. I did see wasps on landing boards and a European hornet caught a bee on its way in or out of the hive. She landed in front of the hive and began to attack our honey bee. As I





approached, she flew off leaving the honey bee behind, which looked unharmed.

I have minimised the entrances and am trying an anti-robbing device (photo below) which fits on hive entrances. It caused the bees to be completely confused for about 20-30 mins, but now seems to be working well. It's cheaper than Wasp Out blocks (£10.50) and is available to click and collect from the National Honey Show at half price (£3.00) so I might order more. I don't think they will fit on my polystyrene hives, though.

Future plans

Apiguard treatments will be started in the next couple of days and most of the winter preparations will be completed by mid-September when I remove the second Apiguard tray.

If you want to work with me at Grassroots, get in touch: weather permitting we can fit in extra small group hive meetings.

Jude New, Apiary Manager

Hove



It was very hot at Hove this afternoon (11 August).

We welcomed a new member: Elizabeth (in the shorts in the picture above) came to her first apiary meeting. Hove's bees behaved impeccably and Jose, Adrien, Katherine and I answered a few questions for her.

We looked in the hives and talked about disappearing queens, mountains

of honey and varroa treatments. One hive had three supers, and a brood box full of honey. The other also has brood boxes with honey.

I think Jose ran out of shallow frames so he improvised. Those boxes looked heavy this afternoon.

Jude New

Out-apiary meetings

Rottingdean



We had a great day at the Rottingdean Apiary on Sunday 17 August: warm, sunny, views of the Downs, shoreline and windmill opening out like a freshly washed sheet undulating in the breeze.

Fourteen beekeepers and beekeepers-to-be turned out, including about five 'novices'. We split into two groups for the inspections, nicely led by Manek and Ross.

Everyone who wanted to had handson experience with one or two beecovered frames. I listened in and heard discussions about queen cups and cells and queenlessness (unfortunately!) and lots of other issues.



People were interested in the vertical split method I used this year to control swarming risk (I avoided any swarms this year) so I went through the process and gave handouts and then we looked at the lovely newly laid brood in the two splits.

We compared an old queen's brood box with a new superseded one and





again admired the beautiful biscuitcoloured brood of the latter.

And I spotted a queen for only the second time in my beekeeping career (!!). Jude marked her in a glistening green so she looks like she's wearing an emerald on her head (the queen not Jude).

Finally onto a discussion about winter prep and an apiary winter risk assessment over cheese scones, lemon cakes and fruited carrot cake caringly provided by our visitors. Thanks to the indefatigable Ross and his truckmobile of hot drinks.

Aside from that, honey production has been well below last year with more colonies in this year. Growth and





development was slowed during the long, wet spell in our delayed spring. The down side of vertical splits can be delayed or limited honey harvest—but the good thing is avoiding swarms, and the best thing is more and stronger colonies with which to go into winter.

Wrapping up

Well, that's the end of my first season as an apiary manager. What have I learned?

It is a lot of work, in part because you want to be on top of things with the Association's bees—several hours every week, especially because, as we have built more colonies, each visit to the apiary takes at least two hours.

Writing these newsletter pieces for the Ed is a chore [Oh, I know! MD] but forces you to reflect and gather thoughts.

Also the responsibility and sort-of-leadership encouraged me to look at published material and research to create my hand-outs which seem so far to have been well-received. Poorly attended open days are no fun but well-attended days are great fun, loads of learning and fantastic social interaction.

Jeff Rodrigues, Apiary Manager Photos: Graham Bubloz & Manek Dubash



Honey extraction day with Team Tony



And what an experience it was! As a newbie to the world of bees, I felt we were sleepwalking into our first extraction. How do you extract, when do you extract and do I need a licence to sell honey? So many questions and YouTube only has so many answers. But fear not: Team Tony has all the answers.

On a fine Saturday morning in early August, we were invited into Tony's honey processing workshop which is quite a sight. Everything laid out to ensure speedy extraction, bottling and labelling. Even a food safety inspection rating of 5 proudly on display.

Tony and Toni were superb hosts and explained everything, gave demonstrations or interactive participation, as well as tea or coffee.

Paperwork

Tony provided detailed information about how to gain your Food Safety Inspection rating. And yes, you do need this if you intend to sell your honey.

There is quite a bit of paperwork involved, but it is designed to make you think about what can go wrong and steps you take to mitigate the risk. Tony even offered to help with paperwork.

Once the official side was taken care the fun really began. Knowing when to extract honey is fairly straightforward: if a cell is capped, it's ready. If there is no cap, use the refractometer, any honey under 20% has the appropriately low water content to be called honey and can be extracted. Any above 20% may have too much water, and this can lead to fermentation once extracted.

Step one: Decapping

Toni shared her experience in how to decap. If it was an Olympic Sport, I'm sure we'd have a gold medal. Efficient is just one word to describe the process. We all had the opportunity to have a go at decapping, and it was surprisingly harder than you would think. There are a number of different tools, from scrapers to serrated knives, all of which have one ultimate goal: to remove the wax cap. With a bit of practice and 20 minutes later, we had decapped all of Debbie's 12 frames and they were loaded into the Extractor Beast.

Step Two: Extracting

The extractor is a fantastic looking machine which holds 12 frames—ideal for those with a large number of hives. Under careful instruction, the extractor was loaded evenly to keep the rotation stable. The machine was switched on and the speed slowly increased.

The extractor began a rocking and Tony lent it some stability! Apparently the extractors can start to walk, so this is something to look out for when extracting. It is surprising to see how much honey comes out of the frames, certainly more than I expected. Debbie was now the proud owner of approximately 5kg of honey!

Step Three: Straining and settling.

As usual with beekeeping there are many different theories about how to strain and settle honey, but basically the honey needs to be free from anything that's not honey: common sense really! The honey from the extractor had some cappings in it and certainly required straining before being placed into jars. Out came the double-layer metal sieve. A great contraption which took the physical detritus from the honey, leaving it looking a delicious, clear, pale golden colour.

Step Four: Jars and Labels

Once the honey has been strained it is left to settle for a couple of days, and this allows the bubbles to disperse.

It was a good job Tony had some honey on hand which had been settling and was now ready to be bottled.

This was also an efficient process, very straightforward, but if you'd never had a go before, it was testing to see the speed at which the jars filled and tricky to make sure you didn't overfill.

The final job was to put the tamper seal on and then the label over the top. Of course presentation is everything in a product for sale, so ensuring the labels are just right is a priority.

Step Five: Enjoy the honey

Thank you to Team Tony for sharing your honey production line, your knowledge and for making everyone feel so welcome.

And a massive thank you to everyone who brought cake or doughnuts, it was a great morning, and helped me to understand and feel more capable about the task ahead.

To note we promptly went home and decapped several frames all without a hitch, extracted them by hand (we now have arms like Popeye) and I've no doubt our success was due to the help and support we had that morning.

Sarah Taylor Photos by Valerie Baxter-Smith



Rottingdean Fair: a wonderful showcase for B&L



Isn't it nice when a plan comes together?

Rottingdean Fair is one of the major events on our social calendar to publicise B&L to the general public, to inform on a range of beekeeping topics and of course to generate income through product sales.

Last year we had to negotiate a very difficult change of plan when, at the last minute, gale force winds forced the fair to be held indoors. This year we were all up for emulating our successes of past years, working with the new Rottingdean Fair organising committee. We developed a plan as part of the community stallholders at the Fair.

Thanks to a considerable amount of behind-the-scenes work, the gazebo, tables, pop-up posters, bunting, BLBKA signage, general decoration, card reader and power supply, plus a pre-worked inventory spreadsheet all showed up on time at the village green early on Saturday morning. And once we had set everything up, Ian arrived with an observation hive which we installed in a prominent position.

Weather and engagement

If last year was a weather disaster, then this year was weather perfection. Not too hot, otherwise everybody would





have been on the beach! But slightly overcast, yet dry and warm so people wanted to get out. Footfall was the best we have seen in a while, and was a great opportunity to engage with the public and sell what we do for the community.

There really is a lot of general interest in beekeeping and, on days such as this, it was a pleasure to work on the stand and answer questions.

These varied from enquiries about pollination, potential future beekeepers—for which we had information about B&L and what we can offer—to general questions about the bee life cycle. It was interesting that many had heard about the dreaded Asian Hornet, and we had a real example—trapped in an epoxy block—to show people.

But undoubtedly the big draw on our stand, for children and adults alike, was the observation hive (below). This probably started with a search for the queen which then led to conversations about the hive, different types of bees and how they all work together.

My greatest fear was always whether we would have any honey to sell. It is all very well talking to people and educating on bees, but many seek us out to buy real honey. It is a question of trust: we sell a genuine product with nothing added or taken away, something that cannot be said about conventional retail outlets.

The incredible day-to-day variability in the weather this year has meant that in June we had little B&L honey and very few members who could offer honey for sale.

But as it turned out, on 3 August we were able to offer honeys from a broad



range of villages across Sussex and our display was only slightly reduced versus 2023.

Thanks to Hilary in particular, we also had virtually every conceivable beerelated product for sale. I will always be grateful for the top-quality bee backpack I bought, which my granddaughter absolutely loves!

Takings were almost double last year's, and we had sold out of Rottingdean honey by 14.30 and then all honey by 15.30! Net: an impressive day. It is not just about takings, because we had hundreds of positive connections with the community and promoted the cause of beekeeping with the public.

All this could not have been achieved without the support of our committee, and I want to thank Graham and Manek for help setting up and the morning session, Jude and Tony for their support on association honey and materials and finally Hilary, Norman, Ian and Bob for all their contributions and being there throughout the day.

It was in short, a great advertisement for B&L.

Nigel Kermode Photos: Bob Curtis, Manek Dubash & Nigel K



South of England Honey Show





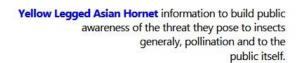
South of England Agricultural Society President: HRH The Duchess of Edinburgh GCVO Committee Chairman: Mr Bob Barnes Vice-Chairman: Mr Richard Bradfield Hon. Treasurer: Mrs Barbara Barnes Hon. Show Secretary: Ms Daisy Day Brew Cottage, Brewhurst Lane, Loxwood, West Sussex RH14 ORJ Tel: 07980 280852

Email: wellingtondays@hotmail.co.uk Judge: Claire O'Brien, National Honey Show regd.



The Honey Show Benches will once again be a focal point of the Bees & Honey display at the Autumn Show & International Horse Trials, within the show ground's centrepiece Norfolk Pavilion.

The ever popular Honey Sales stall will also be again offering honey products for sale, on behalf of and provided by individual beekeepers and Associations.



Microscopy planned as a new display content this year to reveal the exquisite details of the honey bee as well as how it is used in the identification of their ailments.

Promote your Association or Division by providing details about your Membership, Training and Taster Days to display alongside our general Honey Bee and Beekeeping posters.

For Enquiries & Info, contact: beesandhoneyinfo@gmail.com

Help as a Show Steward for half a day at our show, meeting other beekeepers and talking to our visitors; with the rest of the day free to look around the show ground.

For Enquiries & Info, contact: chief.steward@deodar.org.uk

< Featuring photos from the 2023 show.

sponsor individual Classes of Entries, and the two Trophies If you or your organisation would like to sponsor prizes in this or future years, please contact the Hon. Treasurer – barbara@deodar.org.uk mob. 07825 424371 Thank you.

The Bees & Honey Committee will be grateful for offers to

Prizes (monies cash paid) and exhibits will be available for collection from 4:30pm on the Sunday, or by prior alternative

arrangement with the Hon. Treasurer or Hon. Show Sec. South of England Agricultural Society, South of England Showground, Selsfield Rd, Ardingly, West Sussex RH17 6TL Tel: 01444 892700 Fax: 01444 892888 Email: info@seas.org.uk Act



The South of England Agricultural Society is a registered charity no. 227033



Winter meetings 2024-25

| Date | Location | Topic |
|--------------------|----------|---|
| | | How was your beekeeping season? Short talks |
| Wednesday 18 Sept | Live | plus Q&A |
| | | From Buckfast to Buckingham Palace, plus rare |
| Wednesday 16 Oct | Zoom | bees, by Richard Rickitt |
| | | Let's get ready for the Honey Show: judging |
| Wednesday 20 Nov | Live | standards, by Gerald, Jude & Bob |
| | | Must-haves vs nice-to-haves—Perspectives from |
| | | a commercial beekeeper, |
| Wednesday 18 Dec | Zoom | by Dan & Ken Basterfield |
| | | How to keep your bees in the best of health, by |
| Wednesday 15 Jan | Zoom | Margaret Murdin |
| Wednesday 19 Feb | Live | 2025 AGM and Honey Show |
| | | The role of drones & drone congregation areas, |
| Wednesday 19 March | Live | by Stephen Fleming |
| | | The special language of bees, by Margaret |
| Wednesday 16 April | Zoom | Murdin |

- All winter meetings start at 1915 for 1930
- Live meetings take place at Eastgate Baptist Church Hall, Lewes BN7 2LR
- Zoom meetings are online only; a link will be sent beforehand

Next Bee Chat

TBD

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).

National Bee Unit Inspectors

Regional Bee Inspector

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Seasonal Bee Inspectors

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