



WSBKA 47th Bee Market & Auction

This month's Auction is on **Saturday 15th April** at Brinsbury Campus, Pulborough.

Sue Cooper is again running the **Plant Stall** and is in urgent need of plants to sell, so if you can help with cuttings, shrubs, bedding, vegetable plants and more... please contact Sue on e-mail:

woodbugs23@gmail.com



Thanks to all those **Volunteers** who have offered their time to organise the Lots, assist vendors and buyers, help in the Auction Ring, support the admin team and brew the tea! With over 300 Lots registered it will be a busy day.

Worthing Division's **Tombola** will be very happy to take those unwanted gifts off your hands!

Chichester Beekeepers will again have a **Book Stall** selling a variety of beekeeping and bee-related books.

A capacity number of Lots are now registered for sale and we are in for a bumper event in this our 50th year of the West Sussex Beekeepers' Association. The Auction Catalogue will be on the WSBKA website on or soon after 10th April: www.westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk/auction.html

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WSBKA Convention 2023

Success of our first face-to-face Convention in three years...

It was good to return to Lodge Hill after our three year Covid break. We had a brilliant line up of speakers, talking on a variety of subjects of interest to beekeepers of all levels of experience. Feedback from our delegates has been excellent.



It was a bit chilly (boiler breakdown!) but that didn't deter our hardy attendees and all in all, it was a very successful and enjoyable day. We learned a lot, caught up with fellow beekeepers around the region and beyond and generally had a very good time.

Huge thanks go to the West Sussex BKA organising team, to volunteer helpers during the day and to Lodge Hill for hosting the event. Next year's Convention is being held on **Saturday 24th February**, so put that in your diary now!

Details are still on the website: www.westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk/convention.html

Chrissy Blakeman

Your 2023 Committee

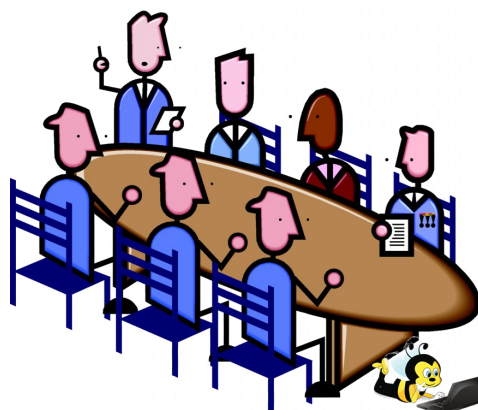


The picture below is misleading as your committee meets on 'Zoom' these days!

At the recent AGM - our 50th - all committee members were returned for a further year of service to the Association. However, Melvyn Essen had reached the end of his 2-year term of office as President and was succeeded by Christine Stevens (Chichester). Christine, who has given decades of service to WSBKA, thanked Melvyn for his past service.

Other committee members elected for 2023: – Chair, Roger Patterson (Wisborough Green); Treasurer, Brian Hose (Chichester); Secretary, Graham Elliott (Chichester) and Vice-Chair, Harry Boxall (Chichester). The accounts scrutineer, Kevin Breen (Chichester), was also returned for another year.

One other item of business was transacted and that was to modify the name of the Area Association's constitution. It had caused confusion as since its inception it has been referred to as the 'Rules' of the Association. The proposal to rename as 'Constitution and Rules...' was carried unanimously by those present. It was further amended to refer to WSBKA as an 'Area Association Member' of the British Beekeepers' Association.



Chairman's Chat



Chairman, Roger Patterson writes for the County News.

In March, I did a bit of travelling and, as is often the case in spring, the trees and plants varied considerably in their advancement.

On one trip to North Wales, about 230 miles due north west, I noticed trees got more and more advanced as I got further away from home, which I didn't expect, bearing in mind what I had heard about the weather in that area a couple of weeks earlier. Flowers such as daffodils and primroses were further ahead than ours, one roundabout being bright yellow with dandelions and several banks at the roadside covered in lesser celandines. Of these, it's only the latter two that are of any use



to honey bees, but that doesn't matter, as it shows a trend.

One advantage of keeping bees is that it brings the observant beekeeper closer to the natural world, an example being that I am writing this on 27th March, when during a warm spell in the afternoon, I saw several bumblebees, a few hover flies, a lovely brimstone butterfly and a red admiral. All of this when I was topping a leylandii hedge belonging to a neighbour, so my bees aren't so hovered in.

That's a reminder that if you haven't trimmed back vegetation, then do it soon, otherwise you will be short of time to do it, as the temperatures rise and you concentrate on your bees.

There is a reminder of the auction elsewhere. If you are new to the craft, please chat to me about any lots you might be interested in and if you are likely to buy bees, I will be inspecting them beforehand, so you can see what you might bid on. If you don't buy anything, it doesn't matter, as the day is good for speaking to other beekeepers.

Roger

chairman@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk

BBKA Spring Convention



A REMINDER that the event is just three weeks away. **Friday 21st - Sunday 23rd April** at Harper Adams University, Shropshire, TF10 8NB.

The lecture programme starts at 10am and Workshops and Seminars from 9:30am daily with a wide

range of practical and scientific topics, for all levels of experience.

With a three-day or single-day Wristband Ticket (not Trade Show only) there is no further charge for lectures. Book by **11th April** for the discounted entrance fee. Trade Show **Saturday 22nd April only** £6. (no discount).

Several Workshops & Seminars are already fully booked and ten extra sessions have been opened. Some of these still have places available. The workshop – ‘*Build your own hive*’ is recommended for beginners, something that many struggle with. At £205 it may seem expensive, but is a bargain for a complete cedar hive correctly assembled!

There is no shortage of tickets to the Convention and its lecture programme – a choice of 25 topics, everything from cutting-edge science to basic, practical beekeeping.

For full details: www.bbka.org.uk/planning-your-bbka-spring-convention

BBKA Social Media Manager Vacancy

The BBKA is looking for a Social Media Manager to proactively promote the BBKA via its social media platforms including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube.

The role will be on a self-employed basis working from home. Part-time hours averaging 10-15 hours spread over the week at £13/hour.

For more details and an application form please email: gen.manager@bbka.org.uk

Kind regards

Leigh Sidaway

BBKA General Manager



Around the Divisions

All Members are welcome to attend any Divisional meeting, but please advise the organiser if you plan to attend.

Central Sussex Division

Full details of the Division's activities from: chairman@centralsussexbeekeepers.org.uk or the Division's website: <https://centralsussexbeekeepers.org.uk/>

Chichester Division

Wednesday 19th April - 'Swarming, Prevention & Control' with Dick Bowyer, Chichester Beekeepers at 7:30pm. at Boxgrove Village Hall, The Street, Boxgrove, PO18 OEE.

Further details of the Division's activities from: Cheryl Barton, secretary@chichesterbeekeepers.co.uk or the Division's website: www.chichesterbeekeepers.co.uk.



Wisborough Green Division

Details of the Division's activities from: Martina Hendry, secretary@wgbka.org.uk or website: www.wgbka.org.uk. The Division's Newsletter may be viewed or downloaded here: www.wgbka.org.uk/Newsletters.html

Worthing Division

Thursday 13th April - 'Workshops' at the Glebelands Centre, Greystoke Road, Ferring, BN12 5JL at 7:45pm.

Further details from: Debra Edwards, dmcd.edwards@gmail.com or the Division's website: www.worthing-beekeepers.org



'Share your Division's activities with readers of the County News'

...and Dates for your Diary

Saturday 15th April - WSBKA Bee Market & Auction. Brinsbury Campus, Pulborough, RH20 1DL
See details in this and last month's Newsletter.

Further details: www.westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk/auction.html

Friday 21st - Sunday 23rd April - 'BBKA Spring Convention'. Harper Adams University, Newport, Shropshire, TF10 8NB. Full details: www.bbka.org.uk/pages/category/about-spring-convention

We are on facebook so if you would like your events featured please send details to the Editor.



...and finally

National Dandelion Day

Who knew? The UK celebrates '*National Dandelion Day*' on Wednesday 5th April this year.



The Dandelion, much loved by the honey bee amongst others for its nectar, is a tap-rooted, perennial, herbaceous plant, native to the temperate areas of the Northern Hemisphere. Once dandelion flowers dry off, dropping petals and stamens, it opens into a spherical shape. Once the seeds are mature, they fly off with the help of fluffy parachute-like structures attached to their tips. The wind disperses the seeds — they are capable of travelling very large distances.

It is believed that the dandelion evolved around 30 million years ago in the Eurasian region. Our prehistoric ancestors were well aware that the plant was edible and brimmed with medicinal properties. The properties of the plant were known to Egyptians, Greeks, Chinese and Romans. It was popular in America for its edible uses and in China for its medicinal benefits.

Raw dandelion greens are rich in calcium, potassium, iron, manganese, and various vitamins. The flower can also be used to produce a yellow dye.

MEMBERS' COUNTY NEWSLETTER

Thanks to all this month's contributors. If you don't have access to the internet and want further details of anything in this newsletter, please contact the Editor & County Secretary. Likewise, if you would like to contribute to future newsletters please send articles and photographs to:

Graham Elliott, Editor & County Secretary, no later than the 20th of the preceding month.
secretary@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk

We're on the web:

www.westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk



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Previous newsletters from the last 12 months are available on the website.

