



Findon Sheet Fair - Honey Show

To celebrate 50 years of the West Sussex Beekeepers' Association (established on 22nd May 1973) Worthing Division has created a new Honey Class.

Worthing's Honey Show will be held at the Findon Sheep Fair, Nepcote Green, Findon Village, on Saturday 9th September.

All West Sussex members are invited to enter 2 jars of runny honey, labelled and ready for sale, into the new Class 30 - 50th Anniversary open class. There is no entry fee.

The winning entry will receive a bottle of Champagne as judged by David Sandwell.

The [Show Schedule and Entry Form](#) may be downloaded from the 'Events' page of the website. Note - this has to be returned to the organisers no later than 28th August. Entry labels may be collected when delivering your exhibits for staging on the morning of the event.

Good Luck!



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Bee Feeding Survey

Members are asked to help Bethan with her coursework

Hi everyone!

I'm a Weald Sixth Form student studying A Level Product Design.

I'm completing my coursework on Beekeeping and creating an innovative design for a bee feeder. To aid my research, I'd really appreciate if you could answer my quick, anonymous survey please?



This will allow me to understand the key features & current problems in a bee feeder.

Please complete the short survey by following this link: <https://forms.gle/7EtjGNw73Kky2zDB7>

Thank you!

Bethan

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BBKA Public Relations



The BBKA is interested to hear from Public Relations companies or freelance professionals with knowledge of beekeeping who could offer occasional PR support to the Association.

To find out more please contact the General Manager, Leigh Sidaway gen.manager@bbka.org.uk before **4th August 2023**.

NBU Contingency Exercise

The National Bee Unit will be carrying out a contingency exercise on **2nd & 3rd August** in apiaries across the Petersfield area of Hampshire & into neighbouring areas of West Sussex, designed to mimic an incursion and spread of the small hive beetle.

This is only an exercise but we will be asking for the co-operation of local beekeepers as we test our contingency procedures and the effectiveness and responsiveness to an outbreak.



**Animal &
Plant Health
Agency**

John Geden MSc, PG Dip, GOS, CF
Regional Bee Inspector, Central England

Chairman's Chat



Chairman, Roger Patterson writes for the County News.

To be a proficient beekeeper you need to be ready to deal with any situation as it arrives, whether it is in the book or not. Experienced beekeepers often get caught out, so it's no surprise that beginners do too.

We are coming to a time of the year when we need observation, knowledge and lateral thinking more than ever. In a short time, we need to extract, put supers back for cleaning, treat for *Varroa*, feed and manage colonies if the ivy yields. I don't have space to describe it all, but if you treat for *Varroa* using a thymol based product such as Apiguard, that is the thing you need to work around.

The treatment is for 4 weeks. It can't be used when supers are on, so after extracting. The efficacy is temperature reliant, so must be finished before the cold sets in. Feeding can be done at the same time, but many prefer to wait until treatment is finished.

A warm autumn can induce the ivy to yield heavily, which with reduced brood rearing, is stored. Ivy honey granulates solid, often before capping, so can cause winter starvation, unless feeding is done at the same time.

Yes, autumn can be interesting! I suggest the beginner speaks to more experienced beekeepers to help them manage their bees to prevent any problems.

Roger

chairman@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk

Success in the County

Congratulations

In June this year two members from West Sussex Divisions successfully passed 'The Honey Bee Health Certificate' - Marina Steel from Chichester and Martina Hendry from Wisborough Green. Congratulations and very well done to you both.

The Assessments took place at Chichester Beekeepers' teaching apiary at Aldingbourne and my thanks go to Norman Dingmans for making the apiary available and setting up on the morning of the Assessments.

Sincere thanks also to our assessors, Tom Moore and Gordon Allan for giving so freely and willingly of their time to do the Assessments.

Sue Elliott

examsecretary@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk

Hornet Hunters

The crack squad keeping an invasive species at bay on Jersey.

A retired police detective and a band of volunteers are all that's stopping the Asian hornet, a voracious predator of flying insects, from spreading across the island to mainland Britain.

John De Carteret, the retired police forensics detective is the linchpin of the Jersey Asian Hornet Group (JAHG), a band of two dozen volunteers. These mostly retirees are the frontline troops in a seemingly unwinnable war against an invasive foe – a voracious predator of honey bees and all other flying insects, which has rapidly conquered the west European mainland.



Remarkably, each individual is believed to be descended from one mated queen, which stowed away in plant pots from China bound for Marseille in 2004. Since then, the species has spread rapidly through France and into Spain, Portugal, Switzerland, Germany, and Belgium. Britain has only had a few incursions – 23 from 2016 to 2022 and nine so far this year, which almost certainly hitched a lift on cross channel ferries and lorries. But the Jersey volunteers warn that an invasion is coming.

'The key to finding hornets is to inform the public', says De Carteret. Thanks to plenty of media coverage on the island – and his popular Facebook page – many Jersey islanders can now identify them. 'People need to know what these insects look like', says De Carteret. 'It's a big problem but it's a community problem'.

Once located, summer nests must be destroyed as quickly as possible before a fresh generation of next year's queens emerge. Destroying them isn't simple: big nests are ferociously defended, and they are often in tall trees, so professional climbers are called in. Last summer, government climbers were not always available, leading to four-week delays in destroying nests on some occasions, which frustrated volunteers.

'If they ever got into the New Forest, they could tick away there for several years without being noticed'

Given that the battle against the hornet appears to have been lost in mainland Europe, shouldn't we simply accept it alongside other invasive non-native species, from grey squirrels to Japanese knotweed? *'If it was good for our environment here it would've been here all along',* says Matt Goetz, curator for invertebrates at Jersey Zoo. *'We have the European hornet here, and that's the hornet that fits into our environment. A hornet evolved in Asia has a different reproductive output and different behaviour. It might have bigger nests than our European hornet. It might have a bigger appetite and eat species that aren't adapted to cope with the pressure'.*

While Alastair Christie, the Jersey government's senior scientific officer believes the British government is taking the right approach by using beekeepers as its eyes and ears, Jersey volunteers are sceptical about Britain's chances of keeping the Asian hornet at bay.

But what happens if they reach Britain? *'I dread to think',* says Bob Tompkins, another JAHG volunteer. *'We are a very small island; we've got a good local knowledge base of the environment and where things are. There's very little space on this island that isn't observed. However, in Britain, if they ever got into the New Forest for instance, they could tick away there for several years without being noticed, get established, and then off and away'...*



We have been warned! Thanks to Central Sussex for this abridged article taken from that published in their June newsletter, 'The Buzz'. Original material by The Guardian's Patrick Barkham.

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: secretary@centralsussexbeekeepers.org.uk or the Division's website: <https://centralsussexbeekeepers.org.uk/>

Chichester Division



Full 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

Full details of the Division's activities from: Martina Hendry, secretary@wgbka.org.uk or the Division's website: www.wgbka.org.uk.

Newsletters may be viewed here: www.wgbka.org.uk/Newsletters.html

Worthing Division



Full details of the Division's activities 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

19th-20th August - 'Bee Fayre 400 Celebration'. See article in last month's Newsletter.

2nd-3rd September - 'BIBBA Conference'. Article in July Newsletter <https://bibba.com/conference-2023/>

4th-10th September - 'Asian Hornet Week'. Details www.bbka.org.uk/asian-hornet-week

9th September - 'Findon Sheep Fair' and Worthing's Honey Show. Article in this Newsletter.

23rd-24th September - 'South of England Honey Show'. Details in the [May Newsletter](#) or on the show's website: www.seas.org.uk/competing-autumn-show-horse-trials/



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



...and finally

Asian hornet Update



Inspectors are carrying out enhanced surveillance in the Dover district in response to two confirmed sightings of Asian hornets (*Vespa velutina*) in July. This takes confirmed sightings to 9 this year.

Both incidents reported to the NBU involved a single hornet, one on 1st July and a second on 17th July by local beekeepers. NBU Inspectors collected the samples which were sent to Fera who confirmed the specimens were *Vespa velutina*.

On 20th July there was a sighting in Gravesend in Kent. A small primary nest was located and destroyed. A possible sighting two days later in Plymouth has not been confirmed.

The public is being asked to be vigilant and a number of broadcasts have been made recently on national and local radio.

West Sussex BKA now has a new Asian hornet coordinator for the county - Ben Hewson (Central Sussex).

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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