



Asian Hornet Update

More sightings of the Asian hornet have now been confirmed in the UK this year than in all previous years combined!

Defra has now advised (at the time of writing) 58 nests have been found in 46 locations. Kent and Essex are the favoured locations but there have also been sightings in North Yorkshire, Surrey, London, Hampshire and East Sussex.

Over the weekend of 23rd September there was an unverified report of an Asian hornet sighting on the coast just west of Littlehampton which the NBU was monitoring. If this is verified it will be the first sighting in West Sussex.

Members should remain vigilant around their hives and in the vicinity of ivy which is now coming into full bloom. Hopefully, bait stations are in place and being regularly monitored. Use the Asian Hornet Watch App to report any suspected sightings with a photograph.

The BBKA has recently funded a month's poster campaign on the back of buses in the areas of Kent, Devon, Southampton and the New Forest from 25th September. It is hoped the trustees may agree to fund a wider campaign in the near future.



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National Honey Day

This year the National Honey Day will be celebrated on **Saturday 21st October**.

This is the second year of this celebration of all things honey. The BBKA will be encouraging everyone to buy a jar of local honey, produced by bees here in the UK. Not only do they want to ensure people are aware of all the benefits honey provides but are seeking to celebrate the pleasure of eating honey.

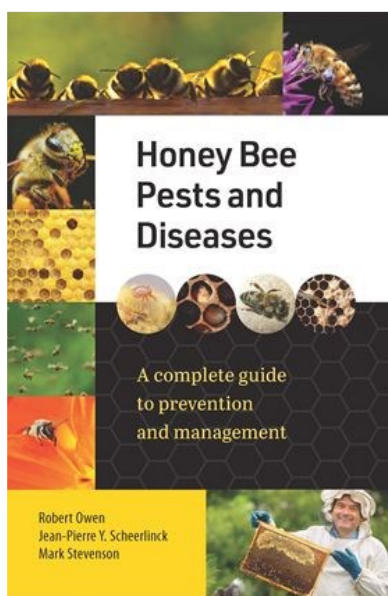
Honey has been enjoyed all over the world for centuries, it was found in the Egyptian tombs and is often depicted being collected by bees in ancient cave drawings.

So, please promote local honey in your area. The BBKA is continuing its campaign to identify adulterated honey and encouraging the promotion of locally produced honey.



Exisle Discount

Exisle Publishing is offering WSBKA members a 15% discount when ordering a new October publication, '*Honey Bee Pests and Diseases*' on their website. The same discount is being offered on all bee-themed books in their range.



'*Honey Bee Pests and Diseases*' is written by Robert Owen, Jean-Pierre Y. Scheerlinck and Mark Stevenson and is priced at £39.99 (£34 when discounted).

It provides up-to-date information on the management of honey bee diseases found globally. The authors – an avid beekeeper with a PhD in bee diseases, a professor of animal biotechnology, and veterinary epidemiologist with expertise in infectious diseases – bring their extensive experience together to form a comprehensive resource on the topic.

The advice in the guide is presented clearly and thoroughly, making it accessible for non-specialists and specialists alike. Information that was previously only available in academic journals is at last collated for all levels of beekeeper, paired with richly illustrated photographs and diagrams. Chapters cover integrated pest management (IPM), epidemiology, viruses, brood diseases, mites, parasites, as well as other problems a colony might face.



UK Distributor: David & Charles <https://exislepublishing.com/product/honey-bee-pests-and-diseases/>

BBKA Trustees Needed

Do you feel you could help the BBKA *'to advance the education of the public and beekeepers in the craft of beekeeping and promote the importance of bees in the environment'*?

The Executive Committee (EC) board needs members who have time, are enthusiastic about the BBKA and the issues currently in hand—Asian hornet, Honey Adulteration and Pesticides.

There are 6 EC meetings a year and each has with it a round of committee meetings which feed back to the EC meeting.

Finance, Standing Orders and Governance, Education and Husbandry, Communications, Spring Convention, Research Technical and Environmental, Shows, and BBKA News, with subgroups for Honey Adulteration and Sustainability. The board has recently formed a new committee—Asian hornet. Trustees are encouraged to take part in several committees.

If you feel you could make a difference, have time and skills that would enhance the trustee board then please consider applying. Nominations need to be in by 20th October.

Only one face-to-face trustee board meeting is held, but trustees have opportunities through the year to meet up at the Spring Convention and other events like the National Honey Show where BBKA has a stand to promote the work of the BBKA and meet members.

Further guidance on the roles and responsibilities of being a trustee can be found in the documents on the BBKA website and on the Charity Commission's website.

[What does being a Trustee of the BBKA involve?](#)

www.gov.uk/guidance/charity-trustee-whats-involved

Stephen and I would be very happy to have an informal chat with anyone wishing to find out more details. Please call 02476 696679 ext. 2005 or email the BBKA General Manager:
gen.manager@bbka.org.uk.

Diane Drinkwater

BBKA Chair

Stephen Barnes

BBKA Vice-Chair



Chairman's Chat



Chairman, Roger Patterson writes for the County News.

I have just returned from Serbia, where I was invited to speak at the Southeast Balkan Beekeeping Fair in Vranje. With two other beekeepers, I took the opportunity to visit several beekeepers throughout the country. When visiting other beekeepers, it is interesting to see that different equipment and methods are used to achieve the same thing.

We think that we are overstocked with bees, but the bee density from what I saw in Serbia is very much higher, resulting in very little natural pollen in combs and beekeepers having to feed pollen.

There were probably 70-80 trade stands at the fair, many selling the same goods, but the aisles were packed with eager buyers, with many stands packing up in the early afternoon because they had sold out.

It doesn't matter where you go in the world, even if only locally, beekeepers are always willing to speak about bees. The Serbian beekeepers gave us a great welcome and were free with information on how they keep their bees.

Roger

chairman@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk

Research into the Wax Moth

The University of Exeter who works with Wax moths (*Galleria Mellonella*) are very interested in investigating how wax moths may spread disease around bee hives and so are trying to collect samples of wax moth larvae from beekeepers.

The BBC is also producing a programme in October looking at the wax moth larvae's ability to digest plastic. Their saliva can 'dissolve' plastic as those of us with polyhives can confirm!

The research started in Spain where they are working to isolate the active proteins in the larvae's saliva. It is reported that 1 hour's exposure to the saliva degrades the plastic as much as years of weathering. They hope this will lead to natural approaches to deal with plastic pollution.

The BBC had approached the Association in the hope of obtaining larvae for their planned programme from our members.



Thanks to Worthing Beekeepers

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



Wednesday 18th October - 'Mead Making & Other Honey Drinks' with Chris Park. Boxgrove Village Hall, The Street, Boxgrove, PO18 OEE at 7:30pm.

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

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



Thursday 12th October - 'Plight of the Bumble Bee' by Dr Nikki Gamman, FRES. The Glebelands Centre, Greystoke Road, Ferring, BN12 5JL at 7:45pm.

Further 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

21st October - 'National Honey Day' sponsored by the BBKA. See article in this newsletter.

26th - 28th October - 'National Honey Show'. Sandown Park Racecourse, Esher, Surrey, KT10 9AJ
Full details on the Show's website: www.honeyshow.co.uk/

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



...and finally

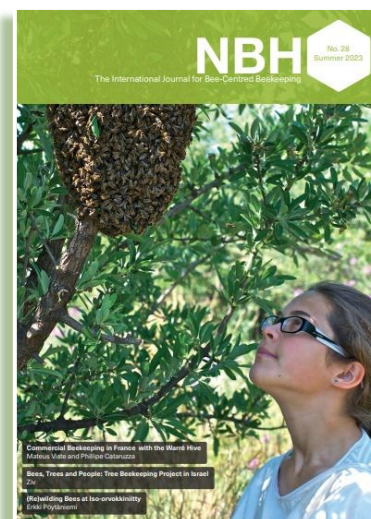
Discount on Beekeepers Quarterly & Natural Bee Husbandry



If you are subscribing to either of these publications, or would like to, a discount may be available through West Sussex Beekeepers.

Annual savings of up to £10 a year are available, but a minimum number of subscribers are needed for **Northern Bee Books** to offer the Association this discount.

So, if you are interested in seeing a copy of either/both of these magazines or are interested in subscribing please contact me.



Graham

secretary@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk

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.

