

# THE BUZZ

CENTRAL SUSSEX BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

CHARITY 1051548

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## CSBKA COMMITTEE

Melvyn Essen (President 07811 070294)  
[president@centralsussexbeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:president@centralsussexbeekeepers.org.uk)

Ben Hewson (Chairperson)  
[chair@centralsussexbeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:chair@centralsussexbeekeepers.org.uk)

Ben Donnachie (Hon Treasurer)  
[treasurer@centralsussexbeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@centralsussexbeekeepers.org.uk)

Kim Mair/Fiona Hiron (Hon Secretaries)  
[secretary@centralsussexbeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:secretary@centralsussexbeekeepers.org.uk)

Pip Edgcombe (Membership Secretary)  
[membership@centralsussexbeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:membership@centralsussexbeekeepers.org.uk)

Matt & Glynnis Arbuthnot  
(Marketing & Fundraising)  
[extractors@centralsussexbeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:extractors@centralsussexbeekeepers.org.uk)

Ade Belcham (Apiary Coordinator)  
[apiary@centralsussexbeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:apiary@centralsussexbeekeepers.org.uk)

Pip Edgcombe (Events/Show Co-Ordinator)  
[membership@centralsussexbeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:membership@centralsussexbeekeepers.org.uk)

Yolanda Noye (Newsletter Editor)  
[buzz@centralsussexbeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:buzz@centralsussexbeekeepers.org.uk)

Viv Sallows (Convention Coordinator)  
[convention@centralsussexbeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:convention@centralsussexbeekeepers.org.uk)

Simon Randall (Website Coordinator)  
[website@centralsussexbeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:website@centralsussexbeekeepers.org.uk)

Piers Pollard (School Liaison Officer)



Welcome to the November 2022 Edition of The Buzz.

Our Saturday morning Apiary Meetings have concluded for this year, and we now meet monthly in Roffey, Horsham. The next meeting is on **9<sup>th</sup> November**, and we are very fortunate to have secured Reading Beekeepers to deliver a presentation on the results of a recent Pollen Study they undertook which I hope you will all support and attend.

Last year we introduced an online membership survey, and we are repeating it again this year via this link [CSBKA – 2022 Feedback Form](#)

Please do take a few minutes to complete and submit this short survey it is a valuable tool for us to gain an insight into the memberships' needs and thinking. The CSBKA Committee are keen to do all they can to make your attendance to the Winter Meetings/Apiary Sessions and membership in general as enjoyable as they can so your feedback would be greatly appreciated. We will of course continue to remain in touch with you all throughout the winter months via the Winter Meetings, WhatsApp Groups, this publication, and ad hoc emails direct from the Committee.

Yolanda Noye



## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES – Ben Hewson

So that is it folks. The annual apiary clear up and BBQ signals the end of the season for another year, thank you to everyone who came and helped - it really is appreciated. All year the apiary team led by Ade do an amazing job keeping the apiary in tip top condition and it is the jewel in our associations crown. It will be great to see everyone returning in the New Year and sampling the wonderful atmosphere, swapping stories and tips – the cake is also always exceptional.

Just because the honey has been harvested it doesn't mean the Committee stop. Behind the scenes Fiona and Kim have been working hard to line up winter evening talks. Keep an eye out for these in the coming newsletters and on the socials. We have a mix of online and in person attractions lined up, everyone is welcome and the more the merrier.

The last month hasn't been all sweetness and light, we have seen some terrible cases of wax moth recently, the pictures on the WhatsApp group served as a stark reminder. It would be interesting to hear your recommendations to dealing with this pest – does anyone freeze their supers?

Another nasty was the verified sighting of an Asian hornet in Dover, let's all hope it was a single hornet that caught a ride on a truck and not one from an established nest. Again, a timely reminder to be ever vigilant, Melvyn heads up the "AHAT" coordinator if you would like to know more, please get in touch.

Enough of the doom and gloom – take a moment as you prepare your hives for winter to reflect on what a glorious year 2022 was, a seemingly endless summer, things pretty much back to normal and jars of golden sunshine to see you through winter.

Once again, I wish you all good luck and happy beekeeping.

All the best, Ben





## NEWS FROM THE APIARY – Ade Belcham

Firstly, thanks to everyone that helped out at the apiary clean up and BBQ on the 24th September. I was working in Leeds that day and missed the sausages and banter but was very impressed by the work done pre-BBQ! A special thanks too to Elaine and anyone who brought food along on the day.

We had our Apiary Team “end of season review” at the beginning of October and have been pleased with the way the season has gone. There has generally been good attendance by both beginners and experienced members and on occasion it has felt like a return of the sociable days before Covid raised its ugly head. Next year we plan to continue with the programmed talks starting the morning followed by a cuppa and then the move on to the hives. This format means that people who want to attend the presentation/discussions and the social can do so, leaving those afterwards, who want the hands-on experience, to do the work in the apiary. As I said last time if you have any suggestions or requests, please do let me know or include something in your response to the annual member’s survey.

If any of you are not currently on the CS Bees Knees Whatsapp group, then I would recommend you contact Melvyn and get yourself added. During the season I post weekly reminders of the topic for the following Saturday. The full programme for next season will soon be published on our website.

Finally, a big well done to this year’s group of beginners – thank you for your enthusiasm, your questions, your patience, and your interest in the bees. As I am sure you have realised by now, beekeepers are a varied and interesting group. As you find your own way through the many options and strategies for working with your bees, I remind you of the CSBKA student’s guide which hopefully you have used at some point during the season. It provides a quick reference summary of the basic strategies that we’ve endeavoured to demonstrate at the training apiary. It also aims to provide a simple alternative to the maelstrom of opinion unleashed by a Google search! If anyone has mislaid or never heard of the guide, contact me on [adebelcham@icloud.com](mailto:adebelcham@icloud.com) and I’ll send you a copy.

If you have your own bees now or are planning to get some next spring, then I’d strongly encourage you to consider continued attendance at the Saturday meetings next year. You’ll have seen this summer that the apiary topics span all levels of experience and it’s amazing how much more makes sense (and how many questions come up) once you start working with your own bees.

In these strange and often unsettling times, bee well. Ade

Apiary clean up and end of season BBQ





## TIPS OF THE MONTH – Melvyn Essen

Full colonies should have had, if needed, any supplementary feeding by now before the temperature really starts dropping. However, due to the mild temperatures we have recently been experiencing it's not too late to give any Nucs some inverted syrup. Remember to check in on your hives during the winter by hefting or weighing the whole hive using luggage scales. If you feel they are starting to feel light by early Spring give them some fondant above a feed hole in the crown board, however if you fear that at any time, they are starving, place fondant directly above the bees on the frame tops. Nucs will also need to be checked throughout the winter for stores by hefting and if they feel light give them some inverted syrup for the bee's immediate use. When the temperature drops, change over to fondant – when feeding fondant make sure the bees have a supply of water nearby.

Storing supers can be a challenge in keeping Wax Moth away which will thrive if your supers are kept warm. It is recommended to store supers outside to subject them to frosts and take advantage of the cold ..... difficult with mild winters though (!) Alternatively, if you have room in a freezer then store your frames in there for the winter. Thorne sell Sulphur discs & burners to kill off any Wax Moth. Acetic acid is also available in treating Wax Moth and is also effective against Nosema. Be careful if using Sulphur or Acetic acid, read the instructions.



Also be wary if your hives have been attacked by Green Woodpeckers, they may be back if the weather turns cold when they can't find any ants to feed on and decide to change their diet to honeybees! Chicken wire around the hives usually deters them.



Also remember to put on your mouse guards across hive entrances!

Finally, check out any sales from Beekeeping Suppliers to save a few pounds on equipment!



## EVENTS

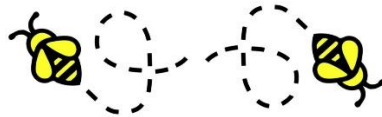
### CSBKA WINTER MEETINGS

Our Winter Programme commences this month in the Chichester Room at the Millennium Hall, Crawley Road, Roffey, Horsham, RH12 4DT on **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November**

The presentation is:

#### Reading Beekeepers: Pollen Study

The talk will commence at 7.00pm but the room will be available from 6.30pm for those that wish to get settled and catch up with other members.



**Saturday 4th February 2023 – British Beekeeping Show: NAEC Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, CV8 2LZ (9am to 4pm)**



The British Beekeeping Show is a rebranding of the original BeeTradex and will continue to keep the trade show feel with strong suppliers in attendance, whilst also expanding into new beekeeping and pollination areas. Free lectures will also be a main feature of this annual event along with the opportunity to attend workshops and presentations from some great and renowned names in beekeeping. Also, for 'newbees' to beekeeping, there will be several associations and trader stands available who offer advice and have sections of their stands aimed at the new starters.

The British Beekeeping Show is determined to make this event a huge success for both commercial and hobbyist beekeepers and encourages those that are thinking about starting beekeeping to come along and learn about this fascinating world.

For more information visit <https://www.britishbeekeepingshow.com/> where you can purchase 2 for 1 tickets using the code **BBKS**.



**25<sup>th</sup> February 2023 – WSBKA Annual Convention, Lodge Hill, Pulborough, RH20 1LZ (9.30am to 4.30pm)**

This annual event is making a return after two years and is intended to suit beekeepers of all abilities and experience. As well as the main lectures there will be a choice of other seminars available dedicated to more specialised topics. Pop the date in your diary – more details to follow soon.



**21st – 23rd April 2023 – BBKA Spring Convention, Harper Adams University, Shropshire, TF10 8NB**

The next BBKA Spring Convention will be held in April 2023. A full programme of events will be released in due course but in the meantime several recorded lectures from the 2022 Convention have now been edited, and are available on the [BBKA YouTube Channel](#)

**22<sup>nd</sup> April 2023 – WSBKA Annual Bee Market and Auction – Venue (to be confirmed)**

A definite date for your diary – this local annual auction has a longstanding reputation for being a major event in the beekeeping calendar with many visitors from all over the country and buyers/sellers returning year after year.

CSBKA are looking for volunteers to help throughout the day and support WSBKA run this event. We will most likely also host the return of our Cake Stall (*though this is to be confirmed*) and will therefore need you to potentially get baking too!

