

THE BUZZ

CENTRAL SUSSEX BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

CHARITY 1051548

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Editors Notes
Chairmans Notes
News from the Apiary
Tips of the Month
Contributor Features
Events & Notices

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Welcome to the December 2023 Edition of The Buzz.

As we embrace the festive spirit our Winter Meetings continue and I'm excited to remind you that on **Wednesday 6th December** we will be treated to a presentation on "Swarm Collection" by one of our own members, Dr Nadia Ziyada. Many of you will already be familiar with Nadia from her regular contributions at the training apiary throughout the year. This gathering marks our last chance to come together before Christmas and to sweeten the occasion, there's a promise of mince pies!

Thank you to those who took the time to complete the 2023 Online Membership Survey. Your invaluable feedback and suggestions have been passed to the Committee.

In closing I'd like to extend warm wishes to each and every one of you for a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year. An extra special wish to all our beloved bees – may you stay cosy throughout winter and soon bask in the warmth of the Spring sunshine.

Yolanda Noye

A close-up photograph of a bumblebee on a yellow flower. The bee is positioned on the right side of the flower, facing left. Its body is covered in yellow and black fur, and its wings are partially visible. The flower is a bright yellow, and the background is a soft, out-of-focus green.

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES – Ben Hewson

Well folks, it's all a bit quiet on the beekeeping front, but soon thoughts will be turning to the new season and preparations for the new beekeepers' course and the annual bee auction. If on your travels, you happen across friends and acquaintances that would like to get started in the wonderful world of bees please direct them to the web site for details on the course. Similarly its never too soon to plant the seed that we would love some volunteers to help out at the bee auction held as usual at Brinsbury next April 2024 - many hands make light work!

We still have plenty of winter talks planned, mail shots and details will be set out periodically and are included in the monthly Buzz, the last talk on Bumble Bees was fascinating and very well attended, also yours truly will be talking all things Asian Hornet in February – not to be missed!

As this year draws to a close, we have the perfect opportunity to reflect on the highs and lows of the past twelve months, a notoriously swarmy year for many but the numerous stings and melting inside a suit will have all but faded in the intervening months.

Lastly I would like to wish you and your families a wonderful Christmas and happy and healthy New Year.

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

All the best





NEWS FROM THE APIARY – Ade Belcham

It's approaching three years since I took on the role of Apiary Coordinator and I'm afraid increasing commitments elsewhere mean I need to step down at the AGM in March. I took on the role to pay back the time and enthusiasm that the club, and Melvyn, Pip and Andy in particular, had given to get me started in beekeeping. I am very happy to say that the terrific trio are still part of the apiary team, still great company and, along with the more recent team members, still teaching me loads.

So, what this leading to is, of course, a request. Could my successor please step forward!

Have no fear of plunging in the deep end as you'll have lots of help including:

- A 'well-oiled' team, with Melvyn as our most experienced teacher plus eight others (including me) who share the task of leading and supporting the sessions on a variety of themes over the season.
- The on-going practical support of local bee-farmer Richard Markwick, who keeps one of his production colonies at the apiary and shares valuable insights and tips.
- An established (but flexible) programme of events with topics for beginners and experienced beekeepers.
- A student handbook that complements Melvyn and Yo's start of season 'Zoom' course and covers all the key beginner's sessions delivered at the apiary.
- A well-equipped apiary stocked with colonies headed by locally bred queens.

The Apiary Coordinator's role is to make sure all these elements fit together over the course of the season. You'll need to bring:

Enthusiasm, a desire to work with others and good organising skills.

You don't need to be a bee guru or even have decades of experience, but you do need to be keeping, or have kept, your own bees. The role could equally suit someone with relatively little experience (that was me – three years ago) or someone with lots of experience. The apiary team provides a breadth and depth of beekeeping experience that is a huge resource to back up your own.

What's in it for you? Well, to some degree I guess that depends on you, but for me the following benefits have been a real reward over the past three seasons:

- Being part of a great team of people that generously share their time and experience and often do what is needed before I even think to ask.
- Seeing the delight and interest in each new group of beekeepers that come through, and the confidence and knowledge that they accumulate over the season.
- Learning from the club bees and the sessions at the apiary – both of which have developed my own beekeeping.
- The satisfaction of being an active member of the club in its wider sense and helping to keep open for others, this doorway that has been the entrance into beekeeping for so many of us.
- The opportunity to give something back and help shape the experience of the next group of new beekeepers as well as connect with and help the “old hands” keep learning especially in the face of new challenges (such as the yellow legged hornet) and new opportunities (such as treatment free beekeeping).

So, if you'd like to find out more please contact me on adabelcham@icloud.com or the club secretary Fiona on secretary@centralsussexbeekeepers.org.uk



TIPS OF THE MONTH – *Melvyn Essen*

As you would guess there is not a lot for me to write about this month, apart from the obvious, check your colonies stores by hefting or weighing the hives. It's a good idea to have some fondant ready for any emergencies, store it in plastic bags or boxes to stop it drying out. If you are alarmed how light a particular hive is now you will need to feed it until the spring. If you feel a colony is at risk of starving place the fondant above the cluster on the frame tops, you will need an eke to raise the crown board. Allow access underneath the fondant but cover the surface with an upturned plastic tray to stop it drying out.

A lot of new members with their first colony will feed with fondant whether the bees need it or not, usually they will have too many stores, the bees may take the fondant down and just store it.

It's reassuring to know if your colonies are still alive by putting the Varroa tray in for a week then checking the debris pattern on the tray.

If the temperature drops don't worry about insulating your hives it's the damp that does more damage, if you suspect during cold frosty spells that woodpeckers have visited your hives wrap chicken wire around them, but make sure you can still heft them.

It's a good time now to clean your wax capping's ready for making Christmas candles for gifts or for your own Christmas dinner table decoration, you could have often found me melting some wax on that very morning!

Have a lovely Christmas.





Honeybees cluster together when its cold – but we've been completely wrong about why

Credit Derek Mitchell, University of Leeds



Honeybees in man-made hives may have been suffering the cold unnecessarily for over a century because commercial hive designs are based on erroneous science, my new research shows.

For 119 years, a belief that the way honeybees cluster together gives them a kind of evolutionary insulation has been fundamental for beekeeping practice, hive design and honeybee study. More recently, California beekeepers have even been putting bee colonies into cold storage during summer because they think it is good for brood health.

But my study shows that clustering is a distress behaviour, rather than a benign reaction to falling temperatures. Deliberately inducing clustering by practice or poor hive design may be considered poor welfare or even cruelty, in light of these findings.

Honeybee (*Apis mellifera*) colonies don't hibernate. In the wild they overwinter in tree cavities that keep at least some of their numbers above 18°C in a wide range of climates, including -40°C winters. But popular understanding of their overwintering behaviour is dominated by observation of their behaviour in thin (19mm) wooden hives. These man-made hives have very different thermal properties compared with their natural habitat of thick-walled (150mm) tree hollows.



The walls of commercial hives are thinner than the kind of cavities wild honeybees live in.

Getting through winter

On cold days in these thin-walled hives, colonies form dense disks of bees, called a cluster, between the honeycombs. The centre of these disks (the core) is less dense and warmer (up to 18°C). This is where the honeybees produce most of the heat by eating and metabolising the sugar from honey. The cooler outer layers (mantle) produce very little heat as the bees' body temperatures are too low. If the temperature falls much below 10°C, the bees there will die.

Since 1914, beekeeping texts and academic papers have said the mantle "insulates" the inner core of the hive. This meant beekeepers saw clustering as natural or even necessary. This belief was used in the 1930s to justify keeping honey bees in thin-walled hives even in -30°C climates. This led, in the late 1960s in Canada, to a practice of keeping honeybees in cold storage (4°C) to keep them clustered over the winter.

In the 2020s, keepers are refrigerating honeybees in summer to facilitate the chemical treatment of parasites. This is happening across the US – for example in Idaho, Washington and Southern California. Outside of a cold winter, if beekeepers want to treat mite infestations, they normally have to locate and cage the queen. But cold storage means beekeepers can skip this labour-intensive step, making their commercial pollination services more profitable.

Struggling for warmth

However, my study found cluster mantles act more like a heatsink, decreasing insulation. Clustering is not a wrapping of a thick blanket to keep warm, but more like a desperate struggle to crowd closer to the "fire" or die. The only upside is that the mantle helps keep the bees near the outside alive.

As the temperature outside the hive falls, bees around the mantle go into hypothermic shutdown and stop producing heat. The mantle compresses as the bees try to stay above 10°C.

The mantle bees getting closer together increases the thermal conductivity between them and decreases the insulation. Heat will always try to move from a warmer region to a colder one. The rate of heat flow from the core bees to the mantle bees increases, keeping those bees on the outside of the mantle at 10°C (hopefully).

Think of a down jacket – it's the air gap between the feathers that help keeps the wearer warm. Honeybee clusters are similar to the action of compressing a down jacket, whereby the thermal conductivity eventually increases to that of a dense solid of feathers, more like a leather jacket.

In contrast, when penguins are huddling in the Antarctic winter, they all keep their body core hot at similar temperatures, and therefore there is little or no heat transfer between the penguins. Unlike the bees in the mantle, there aren't any penguins in a hypothermic shutdown.

Academics and beekeepers have overlooked the part played by the invisible air gap between the hive and the cluster. The thin wooden walls of commercial hives act as little more than a boundary between the air gap and the outside world. This means that for hive walls to be effective, they have to be substantially insulating, such as 30mm of polystyrene.

This misunderstanding of the complex interaction between the colony enclosure, thermofluids (heat, radiation, water vapour, air) and honeybee behaviour and physiology are a result of people not recognising the hive as the extended phenotype of the honey bee. Other examples of extended phenotype include a spider's web and a beaver's dam.

There are almost no ethics standards for insects. But there is growing evidence that insects feel pain. A 2022 study found that bumblebees react to potentially harmful stimuli in a way that is similar to pain responses in humans. We urgently need to change beekeeping practice to reduce the frequency and duration of clustering.



WINTER PROGRAMME - Fiona Hiron

CSBKA WINTER MEETINGS

Our December Winter Meeting will take place on Wednesday 6th December 2023 at the Millennium Hall, Crawley Road, Roffey, Horsham, RH12 4DT and is a presentation from our very own Dr Nadia Ziyada. The talk will commence at 7.30pm but the room will be available from 7.00pm for those that want to get settled into their seating and catch up with other members.

Light refreshments will be served.

Dates for your Diary:

Wednesday 6th December 2023 :



Dr Nadia Ziyada, CSBKA: Swarm Collection

Wednesday 17th January 2024:



Joseph & Elizabeth, Bee Cosmetics: Local family run business featured in the recent "All about Horsham" September publication. Formulators of skincare products using beeswax, honey and propolis along with natural and organic botanical oils.

Wednesday 21st February 2024:

Ben Hewson CSBKA/AHAT – The Asian Hornet

March 2024

AGM



NOTICES

CSBKA Beekeeping Course for Beginners

We are delighted to announce the dates for our 2024 Beekeeping Course for Beginners, designed to provide a comprehensive introduction to the fascinating world of beekeeping. The course will commence with a series of online theory sessions conducted via Zoom, taking place over the following x6 Thursday evenings:

Thursday	29 th February
Thursday	7 th March
Thursday	14 th March
Thursday	21 st March
Thursday	28 th March
Thursday	4 th April

Each online session is scheduled to begin promptly at 7:30pm and will last approximately one hour. As the course progresses into April, we seamlessly transition into a further x24 weekly Saturday morning practical sessions. These sessions take place at our dedicated training apiary, providing participants with invaluable hands-on experience throughout the beekeeping calendar. Priced at an affordable £50.00 (for a total of x30 training sessions), this course offers an exceptionally cost-effective opportunity to acquaint yourself with the fundamentals of beekeeping and serves as an ideal platform to explore whether beekeeping is really for you.

We ask you to spread the word amongst your friends and family to join us on this educational journey and discover the rewarding world of beekeeping – to register or request more information visit [CSBKA Courses](#)

We look forward to welcoming new members to our Beekeeping Course for Beginners in 2024!



Hive Count

The National Bee Unit needs YOU to update your records!

The Hive Count runs annually from 1st November until 31st December: The links to do this on their site are only active during a live hive count period and you will need to have set up your login to BeeBase to do this.

Visit: [Hive Count](#) to update your records

The task is quick and simple to fill in the short form. Even if you have no overwintering colonies this season it is still important to update your BeeBase record to reflect that. This survey runs until 31st December 2023.





BBKA – Basic Assessment Certificate

I am extending an invitation to those who are interested in participating in the BBKA's Basic Assessment next year. My plan is to form a dedicated working party comprising members who have successfully managed at least one bee colony for a minimum of twelve months. The collective objective is to work towards the successful completion of the Assessment.

It's important to note that the Assessment does not involve a written test. Instead, when the group is adequately prepared it will be arranged for an Assessor from the BBKA to conduct an observation of each candidate. This observation will include the handling of bees and equipment at a suitable apiary. Additionally candidates will undergo oral questioning on three key topics:

*** Natural History and Beekeeping *** Swarming, Swarm Control and effects *** Diseases and Pests ***

To prepare for the Assessment, I propose that we review, discuss and work through the above topics on the syllabus (attached for your information) over a few dedicated weekly Zoom sessions. Coordinating thereafter with the Apiary Team, these online sessions will be complemented by some practical practice sessions at the Training Apiary, providing valuable preparation for the final Assessment.

The fee for participation is £25.00, and the deadline for completing the Assessment is 31st August 2024, with Assessments from May onwards.

I'd like to highlight that this endeavour represents a unique opportunity, as I will be pioneering and trialing CSBKA's new format for working towards the BBKA Assessment! If you are interested in joining this initiative, please register your interest via email at buzz@centralsussexbeekeepers.org.uk by the end of January. I plan to organise a short one off introductory online session in early February for those initially interested to come and discuss any questions you may have, with the understanding that there is no commitment to the Assessment, purely an opportunity to gather more information.



BBKA BASIC ASSESSMENT APIARY REQUIREMENTS

It is the responsibility of the Apiary Manager and the candidate to ensure that the colonies and associated equipment meet the specified criteria:

Before conducting the Assessment the Assessor should determine, as far as reasonably practical, that the following equipment is to hand:

- a queen-right colony of bees having brood in all stages, with honey and pollen stores, and covering at least eight brood combs and at least one honey super. Colonies affected by foulbrood or seriously affected by any other disease are unacceptable;
- the component parts of a brood frame and a sheet of wired foundation together with the necessary nails and tools ready for assembly in front of the Assessor;
- **suitable container** to hold a sample of bees;
- a working smoker with spare fuel, hive tool(s) and any other items required to enable colony inspection;
- clean protective clothing and equipment.

Ideally the Assessment should be conducted at an apiary not belonging to the candidate because the Assessment should not take into account the condition of the colonies presented. Local association apiaries or apiaries belonging to the Assessor are best because the quality of the bees is known before the Assessment.

Normally a group of candidates (up to 4 or 5) should be instructed to attend a common venue at about hourly intervals. When there is only one candidate to be assessed then the candidate should travel to the Assessor. This is highly desirable on economic grounds as well as quality of bees.

On the occasions that the Assessor travels to the candidate then if the Assessor considers that the colony offered by the Candidate is unfit for inspection for the purposes of the Assessment, then the Assessor is entitled to ask the Candidate to propose a second colony explaining the reasons why. In a situation where the Assessor is offered a substitute colony by the Candidate and this colony is also unsuitable the Assessor cannot proceed with the Assessment.

Where assessors travel to an apiary, it is essential that an apiary manager or other responsible person should be present for the duration of the assessment(s). **This is for health & safety and safeguarding reasons.** Details of how to contact emergency services must **also** be available and should include a map reference and postcode (where applicable).

If these requirements are not met the assessment will not proceed and fees will not be refunded.



BBKA BASIC ASSESSMENT SYLLABUS

Applicable from January 2020

AIM

To provide new beekeepers with a goal which will give them a measure of their achievement in the basic skills and knowledge of the craft. It is hoped that it will be a springboard from which to launch into the more demanding assessments.

A pass in the Basic Assessment is a prerequisite for entry into all other assessments.

1. Conditions of Entry

- 1.1 The Candidate shall have managed at least one colony of bees for a minimum of 12 months.
- 1.2 The entry form and fee shall have been received by the Local Examination Secretary, or the Secretary of the BBKA Examinations Board.
- 1.3 The candidate must be a member of the BBKA.

2. The Assessment

- 2.1 An Assessor, approved by the Board, is required to conduct the Assessment at any suitable apiary. Normally only the Assessor and Candidate shall be present at the Assessment. The Board may wish a trainee Assessor or member of the Board to be present as an observer.
- 2.2 The Assessment shall consist of four parts and the Candidate must achieve the pass mark in all four parts individually in order to pass the Assessment as a whole. The pass mark is 50% in each part. A credit will be awarded if the total mark is 75% or greater **and a distinction if the mark is 90% or greater.** The parts are:
 - 2.2.1 Manipulation and Equipment. Practical Assessment of the Candidate's ability to handle bees and beekeeping equipment and the ability to interpret what is observed.
 - 2.2.2 Oral questioning and Assessment of the Candidate's knowledge of Natural History and Beekeeping.
 - 2.2.3 Oral questioning on Swarming, Swarm Control and effects.
 - 2.2.4 Oral questioning on Diseases and Pests,
- 2.3 Scientific names, although useful and show a greater depth of knowledge, are not required.

The length of the Assessment should not normally exceed one hour. The final date for an assessment is 31st August.

BBKA BASIC ASSESSMENT SYLLABUS

1.0 MANIPULATION AND EQUIPMENT - PRACTICAL

The Candidate will be aware of:

- 1.1 the care needed when handling a colony of honey bees;
- 1.2 the reactions of honey bees to smoke;
- 1.3 the personal equipment needed to open a colony of honey bees and the importance of its cleanliness;
- 1.4 the reasons for opening a colony;
- 1.5 the need for stores.
- 1.6 the importance of record keeping.

The Candidate will be able to:

- 1.7 open a colony of honey bees and keep the colony under control;
- 1.8 demonstrate lighting and the use of the smoker;
- 1.9 demonstrate the use of the hive tool;
- 1.10 remove combs from the hive and identify worker, drone and queen cells or cups if present, and to comment on the state of the combs;
- 1.11 identify the female castes and the drone;
- 1.12 identify brood at all stages;
- 1.13 demonstrate the difference between drone, worker and honey cappings;
- 1.14 identify stored nectar, honey and pollen;
- 1.15 take a sample of worker bees in a **suitable container**;
- 1.16 state the number of worker bees required for an adult disease diagnosis sample;
- 1.17 demonstrate how to shake bees from a comb and how to look for signs of brood disease;
- 1.18 name and explain the function of the principal parts of a modern beehive;
- 1.19 discuss the concept of the bee space and its significance in the modern beehive;
- 1.20 assemble a brood frame and fit it with wired wax foundation;
- 1.21 discuss spacing of the combs in the brood chamber and super for both foundation and drawn comb and methods used to achieve this spacing.

2.0 NATURAL HISTORY AND BEEKEEPING – ORAL QUESTIONS

The Candidate will be:

- 2.1 able to give an elementary account of the development of queens, workers and drones in the honey bee colony ;
- 2.2 able to state the periods spent by the female castes and the drone in the four stages of their life (egg, larva, pupa and adult);
- 2.3 able to name the main local flora from which honey bees gather pollen and nectar;
- 2.4 able to give a simple definition of nectar and a simple description of how it is collected, brought back to the hive and is converted into honey;
- 2.5 able to give a simple description of the collection and use of pollen, water and propolis in the honey bee colony;
- 2.6 able to give an elementary description of the way in which the honey bee colony passes the winter.

- 2.7 able to give an elementary description of how to set up an apiary;
- 2.8 able to describe what precautions should be taken to avoid the honey bees being a nuisance to neighbours and livestock;
- 2.9 able to describe the possible effects of honey bee stings on humans and able to recommend suitable first aid treatment;
- 2.10 able to give an elementary description of the annual cycle of work in the apiary;
- 2.11 able to describe the preparation of sugar syrup and how and when to feed bees;
- 2.12 aware of the need to add supers and the timing of the operation;
- 2.13 aware of the dangers of robbing and how robbing can be avoided;
- 2.14 able to describe a method used to clear honey bees from supers;
- 2.15 able to describe the process of extracting honey from combs and a method of straining and bottling of honey suitable for a small scale beekeeper, including hygiene;
- 2.16 aware of the various web based resources relating to beekeeping such as BBKA and Beebase.

3.0 SWARMING, SWARM CONTROL AND EFFECTS – ORAL QUESTIONS

The Candidate will be:

- 3.1 able to give an elementary description of swarming in a honey bee colony;
- 3.2 able to give an elementary account of one method of swarm control;
- 3.3 able to describe how to take a honey bee swarm and how to hive it;
- 3.4 able to describe the signs of a queenless colony and how to test if a colony is queenless;
- 3.5 able to describe the signs of laying workers and of a drone laying queen;
- 3.6 able to describe a simple method of queen introduction;
- 3.7 able to describe one method of uniting colonies and precautions to be taken;

4.0 DISEASE AND PESTS – ORAL QUESTIONS

The Candidate will be:

- 4.1 able to describe the appearance of healthy brood, sealed and unsealed;
- 4.2 aware of the reasons for good apiary hygiene;
- 4.3 aware of the reasons for regular brood comb replacement.;
- 4.4 able to describe the signs of the bacterial diseases American Foul Brood (AFB) and European Foul Brood (EFB), the fungal disease Chalk Brood and the viral disease Sac brood;
- 4.5 able to describe methods for detecting and monitoring the presence of varroa (a mite) and describe its effect on the colony including awareness of the effect of associated viruses;
- 4.6 aware of acarine (a mite) and nosema (a fungus) and their effect upon the colony;
- 4.7 able to describe ways of controlling varroa using integrated pest management techniques;
- 4.8 aware of the current legislation regarding notifiable diseases and pests of honey bees;
- 4.9 aware of whom to contact to verify disease and advise on treatment;
- 4.10 able to describe how comb can be stored to prevent wax moth damage;
- 4.11 able to describe how mice and other pests can be excluded from the hives in winter.



WSBKA – Annual Convention

NOT TO BE MISSED!

Saturday 24th February 2024, 9:30am to 4:40pm

Lodge Hill, Pulborough, West Sussex

The Convention has again attracted exceptional speakers to cover a wide range of topics with the main lectures being presented by Professor Lars Chittka, Margaret Murdin and Lynne Ingram. There is something for everyone, beginner to expert.

Lars Chittka is the author of the book 'The Mind of a Bee' and Professor of Sensory and Behavioural Ecology at Queen Mary College of the University of London. He is also the founder of the Research Centre for Psychology at Queen Mary. He has made fundamental contributions to our understanding of animal cognition and its impact on evolutionary fitness studying bumblebees and honeybees. Lars regularly appears in the media, gives lectures and is author/co-author of books and many journal articles. Lars will be giving a main talk on 'The Mind of the Bee'.

Margaret Murdin holds a degree in biological sciences, is a Master Beekeeper and holds the National Diploma in Beekeeping. She was previous Chair of the BBKA Trustees and past president of BBKA but for all the high positions she has held, describes herself as an ordinary, practical beekeeper who is naturally interested in furthering the education and training opportunities available to our BBKA members. Margaret is an examiner for all levels of BBKA exams and also moderates the practical exams. Margaret will give a main talk on 'The Queen' and will also run a seminar on 'Keeping Healthy Colonies'.

Lynne Ingram is a Master Beekeeper with over 30 years' experience in beekeeping. She is an active participative member of Somerset Beekeepers Association, where she is very involved in the education of fellow beekeepers and is also the Asian Hornet Co-ordinator. She recently organised the first South West region AHAT training event. Lynne was elected to the BBKA Exam Board in 2019. She is an examiner for the Basic, General Husbandry, Microscopy and Bee Health assessments, as well as for the written Module exams and is also a Correspondence Course tutor. Lynne will give a main talk on the Asian Hornet, titled 'Know your Enemy' and will also run a seminar on 'The Importance of Drones'.

Apart from the three main lectures, you can choose to attend two out of the six seminars and in between times it is a great opportunity to catch up with beekeeping friends throughout the County and beyond.

SEMINARS

- Margaret Murdin Keeping Healthy Colonies
- Lynne Ingram The Importance of Drones
- Sue Remenyi Where do Honey Bees travel for pollen? Results of a community study
- Sue Remenyi Wasp control in the apiary
- Andrew Gibb Environment, Bees, Food
- Andrew Gibb Simple Queen Rearing

The day promises to be both entertaining and stimulating. Tea and coffee will be served during the breaks and also a simple lunch.

Advance booking per person for WSBKA members, £30. Members of other Associations and non-members, £37. On the day if space allows, £37.

Further details will be available on the WSBKA web site at the end of December and the Booking Form and Programme will be attached to next month's newsletter.



EVENTS

2024

24th February – WSBKA Annual Convention, Lodge Hill Centre, Watersfield, Pulborough

12th to 14th April – BBKA Spring Convention

20th May – World Bee Day

8th to 12th July – Bees Needs Week

21st October – National Honey Day