



THE BUZZzzzz



Editors Notes

News from the Apiary

Seasonal Beekeeping Tips

Member Contributions

Events & Notices

CSBKA COMMITTEE

Melvyn Essen (President 07811 070294)
president@centralsussexbeekeepers.org.uk

Simon Randall (Chairperson)
chair@centralsussexbeekeepers.org.uk

Bob Williams (Hon Treasurer)
treasurer@centralsussexbeekeepers.org.uk

Fiona Canty/Elaine Allen (Hon Secretaries)
secretary@centralsussexbeekeepers.org.uk

Pip Edgcombe (Membership Secretary)
membership@centralsussexbeekeepers.org.uk

Matt & Glynnis Arbuthnot
(Marketing & Fundraising)
extractors@centralsussexbeekeepers.org.uk

Carl Slade (Apiary Coordinator)
apiary@centralsussexbeekeepers.org.uk

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

Yolanda Noye (Newsletter Editor)
buzz@centralsussexbeekeepers.org.uk

Viv Sallows (Convention Coordinator)
convention@centralsussexbeekeepers.org.uk

Simon Randall (Website Coordinator)
website@centralsussexbeekeepers.org.uk



Photo credit: CSBKA Member Mark Smith

Welcome to September 2025 CSBKA Newsletter!

September sadly brings our apiary sessions to a close, with just our **Clean Up Party and BBQ on Saturday 27th September** to round off the season. But no time to rest on our laurels - we'll be heading straight into the **Winter Programme**, with our first evening meeting on **6th November**. More details inside this newsletter.

We'd also be very grateful if you could take a few minutes to complete the online survey linked below.

<https://forms.gle/yPnRQeXfv5FyvonB7>

Your feedback is invaluable to the Apiary Team and Committee, giving us an insight into the needs and ideas of both our existing members and our 2025 NewBees. Please be open and honest - after all, unless we know what isn't working, or where improvements could be made, we can't make changes. Equally, it's wonderful to know what you enjoy, so we can look to include more of that too! Finally, we will of course continue to remain in touch with you throughout the winter months via the Winter Meetings, WhatsApp Groups, this publication and ad hoc emails from the Committee!

Yolanda Noye



NEWS FROM THE APIARY – Carl Slade



We've had a busy couple of months in August and September, focusing on harvesting and organising the supers on our hives. One useful technique we've employed to clear nectar from a few remaining wet frames is creating an "empty super space" below the supers we wish to clear. A large enough gap encourages the bees to think they're "robbing" the nectar from above – and we've successfully used this method on several of our hives.

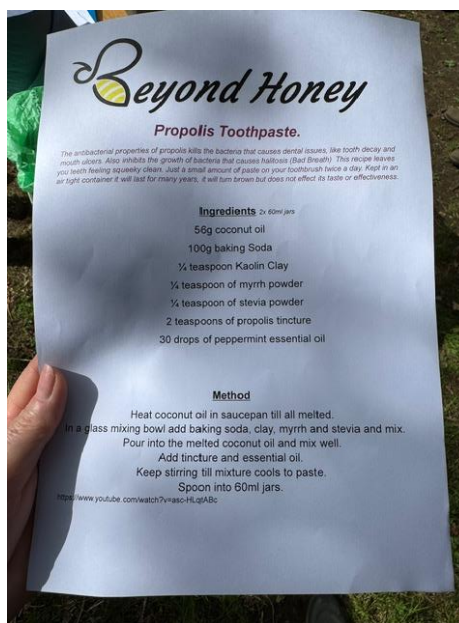
It seems that both the bees and we have been a little haphazard with foraging and harvesting this year, but we've now harvested all the hives while leaving sufficient stores for the winter. Our apiary is going into autumn in great shape, with nine National hives, two Nucs, and the Top Bar hive all looking strong.

Recently our focus was preparing the bees for winter. We've been reviewing this in our apiary meeting talks, ensuring that any weaker colonies were fed with inverted syrup to build up their stores. We've also been monitoring varroa counts over several weeks, and the Apiary Team has made a joint, informed decision on how many hives to treat this year.

One of our proudest achievements this season may well be our queen rearing efforts, led by Melvyn. Using one of our gentlest, most hygienic colonies, we hope the results will be successful.

Finally, our apiary talks have been well received and well attended. Highlights include a propolis toothpaste-making workshop, which proved great fun – with several members taking toothpaste home for a trial.

Hope you have all had a good harvest this year and I look forward to seeing you at the Winter Meetings!











Winter Programme – Yolanda Noye



Our Winter Meetings will commence on Thursday 6th November at the Millenium Hall, Crawley Road, Roffey, Horsham, RH12 4DT. The talks 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.

We are delighted to announce that, for the second year running, we have secured a presentation by Professor Tom Seeley. For the first time, we will also be joined by Dr Stefan Stangaciu, a leading international figure in apitherapy, the medicinal use of bee products and we are equally pleased to welcome back James Donaldson, who will once again deliver a hands-on live dissection, projecting images directly from the microscope for all to see. Finally, Steve Riley – our mentor on CSBKA's path to varroa resistance, author of *The Honey Bee Solution to Varroa*, and collaborator with Professor Stephen Martin on the "Path to Varroa Resistance" project – will also be joining us in the new year.



Thursday 6th November 2025: Professor Tom Seeley

Now retired, Dr Thomas D Seeley served as the Horace White Professor in Biology at Cornell University, within the Department of Neurobiology and Behaviour. His teaching focused on animal behaviour completed by this research into the complex social dynamics and behaviours of honey bees. His work is summarized in three books: *Honeybee Ecology* (1985), *The Wisdom of the Hive* (1995), and *Honeybee Democracy* (2010).



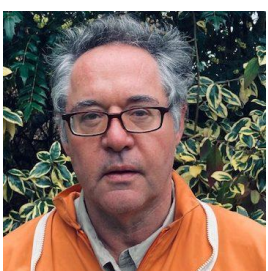
Thursday 4th December 2025: James Donaldson

James has been a beekeeper since 2005. He qualified as a Master Beekeeper in 2021 and holds the Microscopy certificate. He is heavily involved in teaching beginners with his local association and also teaches for the BBKA. James speaks regularly at local BKA meetings and county conventions and last year delivered a lecture at the National Honey Show.



Thursday 8th January 2026: Dr Stefan Stangaciu

Dr Stefan Stangaciu, President of the Romanian Apitherapy Society, is a medical doctor specialising in preventive medicine and natural therapies with a focus on bee products. He serves as Secretary General of the International Federation of Apitherapy. An active promoter of apitherapy worldwide, he has spoken at over 100 conferences in more than 50 countries and founded multilingual Apitherapy Networks as well as Apitherapy.com. His publications include *Soft Healing Through Bee Products*, *Gentle Healing with Honey*,



Thursday 5th February 2025: Steve Riley

Steve is the author of *The Honey Bee Solution to Varroa* and a member of the "Path to Varroa-resistance in the UK" team, led by Emeritus Professor Stephen Martin. This team launched an educational science website, www.varroaresistant.uk, in April 2023. Currently, Steve serves as Chair and Education Officer of Westerham Beekeepers, who are well on their way of searching for and identifying Varroa-resistant honey bees.



SEASONAL BEEKEEPING TIPS – Melvyn Essen



September in the Apiary: Preparing your colonies for winter

For those who attended the recent apiary talks, you'll know that this is the time to evaluate any small colonies housed in full-sized hives. Consider whether they would have a better chance of surviving the winter in a poly nuc. Smaller spaces are easier for the bees to maintain the required temperature to keep warm and require using fewer stores. Adding a nuc brood extension can give the colony additional capacity to store food. Remember to monitor nuc stores throughout the winter.

Varroa Treatment

Full colonies needing Varroa treatment should have sufficient stores in place before you begin. If not, feed them first. Apiary talks have outlined the available options, and at this time of year one treatment with *Formic Pro* is recommended to help ensure healthy winter bees. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully and choose the treatment strategy that works best for your colonies.

Feeding

Large feeders are most effective at this time of year. Inverted syrup is preferable as it is less likely to ferment in the hive and is easier for bees to process, though it can be a little costly (roughly the value of a few jars of honey).

Hive Preparation

Make sure your hives are secure against strong winds and not in areas at risk of flooding. You may also wish to put mouse guards in place. If you have a history of Green Woodpecker activity near your apiary, wrapping hives in chicken wire can help, but remember to leave access for hefting.





CS Let's not treat Group – Melvyn Essen



Group visit to Steve Riley's Apiary



Several members of the group were invited by Steve Riley to his apiary for some hands-on tuition with his Varroa Resistant (VR) colonies.

After suiting up, we walked down to his apiary at the bottom of his garden. Along the way, Steve updated us on the current status of his colonies. He also expressed optimism that, when the next threat arises – the Tropilaelaps mite – his VR colonies could adapt to become Tropilaelaps Resistant (TR) colonies.

Steve thought it would be useful to set us to work straight away. We began by monitoring Varroa trays, checking for pupal exoskeletal remains, and counting adult Varroa and Varroa nymph drops.



Afterwards, Steve encouraged us to inspect his own colonies, paying particular attention to identifying uncapped brood cells – a valuable skill learnt for when we are examining both CSBKA apiary colonies and our own hives.



In addition to hosting small groups like ours, Steve, together with Professor Stephen Martin, continues to share his expertise worldwide, both in person and virtually, through seminars, conventions, and talks. *(See February Winter Meeting ~ Editor)*



365 DAYS OF BEES – Yolanda Noye



AUGUST

Field Scabious (*Knautia arvensis*) is a clump-forming herbaceous perennial, much loved by a variety of bees. Its gently swaying lilac flower heads provide valuable forage from summer through to autumn, supporting both the small scabious mining bee (*Andrena marginata*) and the larger scabious mining bee (*Andrena hattorfiana*).

Although Field Scabious is widespread, the larger scabious mining bee is restricted to the south of the UK, and where present, both species tend to be uncommon and usually seen only in small numbers.

Other visitors more frequently spotted on Field Scabious include the red-tailed bumblebee (*Bombus lapidaries*), a short-tongued species well-suited to these flowers, as well as honey bees.



Andrena marginata



Andrena hattorfiana



Bombus lapidaries



Knautia arvensis

SEPTEMBER

The *Salvia* genus contains many well-known aromatic plants attractive to pollinating insects. There are the herbs, sage and rosemary, and ornamentals available in colours for any planting palette. *Salvia Amistad* with its purple velvety flowers, produces food for bees from summer until the first autumn frosts. This tender perennial prefers full sun in a sheltered position but also requires well drained conditions. The long tubular flowers are easily accessed by bumblebees with longer tongues such as the garden bumblebee (*Bombus hortorum*). However, shorter tongued bees can cheat by biting holes in the flowers so that they can reach inside and rob the nectar reward!



Salvia Amistad



Bombus hortorum

OCTOBER

Ivy (*Hedera*) produces copious yellow green flowers in rounded clusters, mature ivy is a vital resource for a wide range of insects on the wing in autumn. As its name suggest the ivy mining bee (*Colletes hederæ*) is a specialist. The last of the solitary bees to emerge, this 1cm long yellow and black bee can be seen from late August and stays active into November. It nests below ground in sparsely vegetated patches including lawns, often with large numbers in a small area. They're harmless and only active for a few weeks. First spotted in Dorset in 2001 it has rapidly spread through most of southern Britain.



Hedera



Colletes hederæ



YELLOW LEGGED HORNET – Yolanda Noye



The following is the latest update from BeeBase as at 19 09 25.

462 credible yellow-legged hornet sightings have been reported in the UK in 2025.

118 nests have been found – **including nests in Shoreham, Wakehurst, Dorking, and Godstone.**

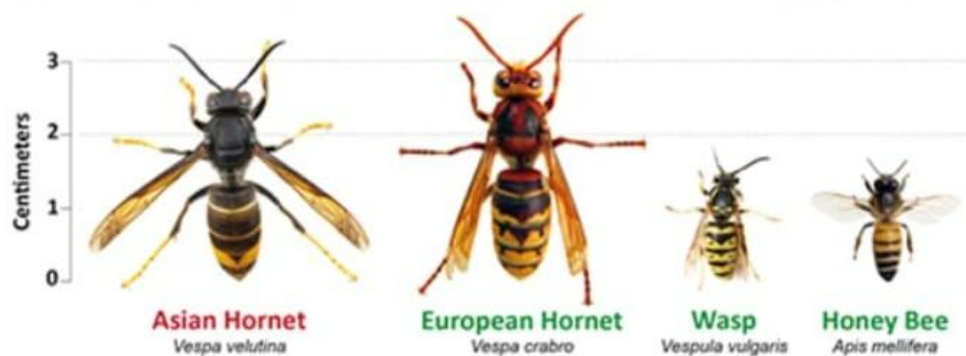
To view the location of destroyed nests, please visit the [map page](#) and choose the Asian Hornet map layer using the 'Layer' icon in the top right hand corner of the map.

For more information visit: [Yellow Legged Hornet 2025 Rolling Update](#)

If you spot a Yellow-Legged Asian Hornet or a nest, please report it immediately via the Asian Hornet Watch App.

See it! Snap it! Send it!

Think you've seen an Asian Hornet? Report it!



Report through the Asian Hornet Watch app or www.bit.ly/asianhornetreport



Yellow-legged Asian hornet nest tally

2025

January - June



- 23rd January - Oswestry, Shropshire - Specimen
- 16th April - Langley, Kent - Specimen & embryo nest
- 17th April - Hythe, Hampshire - Specimen & embryo nest
- 26th May - Canterbury, Kent - Primary nest
- 28th May - Mordon, County Durham - Sighting
- 6th June - Shoreham, West Sussex - Nest
- 8th June - Ashford, Kent - Nest
- 9th June - Wye (near Ashford), Kent - Nest
- 9th June - Hythe, Kent - Nest
- 12th June - Kennington (near Ashford), Kent - Nest
- 16th June - Hawkinge (near Folkestone), Kent - Nest
- 19th June - Folkestone, Kent - Nest
- 24th June - Chilham, Kent - Nest
- 25th June - Walmer, Kent - Nest

Yellow-legged Asian hornet nest tally

2025

June - July



- 26th June - Selsted (near Dover), Kent - Secondary Nest
- 27th June - Verwood - Dorset - Nest
- 29th June - Saltwood (near Hythe), Kent - Nest
- 3rd July - Dover, Kent - Primary & Secondary nest
- 4th July - River (near Dover), Kent - Nest
- 4th July - Chelwood Gate, East Sussex - Nest
- 13 July - Stelling Minnis, Kent - Nest
- 14 July - Ilford, Greater London - Nest
- 15 July - Whitstable, Kent - Nest
- 16 July - Staple, Kent - Nest
- 16 July - Rochester, Kent - Nest
- 16 July - Hythe, Kent - 3 Sightings - Nest
- 17 July - Udimore, East Sussex - Nest
- 17 July - Higham, Kent - Nest

Yellow-legged Asian hornet nest tally 2025

July - August



- 25 - 31 July - Sandgate, Kent - Nest
- 25 - 31 July - Broad Oak, East Sussex - Nest
- 25 - 31 July - Hastings, East Sussex - Nest
- 25 - 31 July - Sedelscombe, East Sussex - Nest
- 1 - 7 August - Hemsted, Kent - Nest
- 1 - 7 August - Stone Crouch, Kent - Nest
- 1 - 7 August - Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent - Nest
- 1 - 7 August - Hempstead, Kent - Nest
- 1 - 7 August - Whitstable, Kent - Nest
- 1 - 7 August - Seabrook, Kent - Nest
- 1 - 7 August - Selsted, Kent - Nest
- 1 - 7 August - Headcorn, Kent - Nest
- 1 - 7 August - Tenterden, Kent - Nest
- 1 - 7 August - Cranbrook, Kent - Nest
- 1 - 7 August - Dymchurch, Kent - Nest
- 1 - 7 August - Wakehurst, West Sussex - Nest

Yellow-legged Asian hornet nest tally 2025

August



- 8 - 15 August - Woodchurch, Kent - Nest
- 8 - 15 August - Harrietsham, Kent - Nest
- 8 - 15 August - Stodmarsh, Kent - Nest
- 8 - 15 August - Wye, Kent - Nest
- 8 - 15 August - Cranbrook, Kent - Nest
- 8 - 15 August - River, Kent - Nest
- 8 - 15 August - Walmer, Kent - Nest
- 8 - 15 August - Weaving, Kent - Nest
- 8 - 15 August - Chilham, Kent - Nest
- 8 - 15 August - Dover, Kent - Nest
- 8 - 15 August - Wadhurst, Kent - Nest
- 15 - 21 August - Ilford, Barkingside, London - Nest
- 15 - 21 August - Stonecrouch, Kent - Nest
- 15 - 21 August - Exted, Kent - Nest
- 15 - 21 August - Ashford, Kent - Nest

Yellow-legged Asian hornet nest tally

2025

August/September



- 22 - 29 August - Ivy Hatch, Kent - Nest
- 22 - 29 August - Wittersham, Kent - 2 Nests
- 22 - 29 August - Runcorn, Cheshire - Nest
- 22 - 29 August - Langton, North Yorkshire - Nest
- 29 August - 5 Sept - Deal, Kent - Nest
- 29 August - 5 Sept - Broadstairs, Kent - Nest
- 29 August - 5 Sept - Folkestone, Kent - Nest
- 29 August - 5 Sept - Blean, Kent - Nest
- 29 August - 5 Sept - Capel Le Ferne, Kent - Nest
- 29 August - 5 Sept - Church Hougham, Kent - 2 Nests
- 29 August - 5 Sept - Bromley, London - Nest
- 29 August - 5 Sept - Brighton, East Sussex - Nest
- 29 August - 5 Sept - Chelwood Gate, East Sussex - Nest
- 6 - 12 Sept - Herne Bay - Kent - Nest

Yellow-legged Asian hornet nest tally 2025

September



- 6 - 12 Sept - Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent - Nest
- 6 - 12 Sept - Dover, Kent - 2 Nests
- 6 - 12 Sept - Shottednen, Kent - Nest
- 6 - 12 Sept - Stelling Minnis, Kent - Nest
- 6 - 12 Sept - Whitstable, Kent - 2 Nests
- 6 - 12 Sept - Ivy Hatch, Kent - Nest
- 6 - 12 Sept - Graveney, Kent - Nest
- 6 - 12 Sept - Hartley, Kent - Nest
- 6 - 12 Sept - Sutton Vallence, Kent - 2 Nests
- 6 - 12 Sept - Ashford Cemetary, Kent - Nest
- 6 - 12 Sept - Kennington, Kent - Nest
- 6 - 12 Sept - Sedlescombe, East Sussex - Nest
- 6 - 12 Sept - Wallcrouch, East Sussex - Nest
- 6 - 12 Sept - Frinton-on-Sea - Essex - Nest

Yellow-legged Asian hornet nest tally 2025

September



Confirmed nests

118 Nests - 462 Sightings

12 - 19 Sept - Plaxtol, Kent - Nest

12 - 19 Sept - Tenterden, Kent - Nest

12 - 19 Sept - Cobham, Kent - Nest

12 - 19 Sept - Godstone, Surrey - Nest

12 - 19 Sept - Holmbury St. Mary/Dorking, Surrey - Nest

12 - 19 Sept - Frinton on Sea, Essex - Nest

Click Here to watch a short 13 minute NBU update following the recent Yellow Legged Hornet Week 2025

<https://youtu.be/95cNhWgDGH4?si=z8ZABJKDbDKnFd7f>





EVENTS



Upcoming Events!

Below are some dates for your diary.

This list will be updated monthly, so be sure to check back for updates and latest details.

27th **CSBKA** Apiary Clean up and end of season BBQ

27th & 28th South of England Honey Show, Ardingly Showground

October

21st National Honey Day

23rd – 25th The National Honey Show, Sandown Park, Esher

November

6th **CSBKA** Winter Meeting – Professor Tom Seeley (7:30pm Millenium Hall, Roffey, RH12 4DT)

December

4th **CSBKA** Winter Meeting – James Donaldson (7:30pm Millenium Hall, Roffey, RH12 4DT)

January

8th **CSBKA** Winter Meeting – Dr Stefan Stangaciu (7:30pm Millenium Hall, Roffey, RH12 4DT)

February

5th **CSBKA** Winter Meeting – Steve Riley (7:30pm Millenium Hall, Roffey, RH12 4DT)

28th West Sussex BKA Annual Convention (9am – 4pm @ Lodge Hill Centre, Pulborough)

March

12th **CSBKA** AGM, Social and Prize Giving (7:30pm Millenium Hall, Roffey, RH12 4DT)

28th **CSBKA** 2026 Beekeeping Course for Beginners (Day 1) (10am – 3pm MacNaughton Hall, Pease Pottage, RH11 9AH)

April

11th **CSBKA** 2026 Beekeeping Course for Beginners (Day 2) (10am – 3pm MacNaughton Hall, Pease Pottage, RH11 9AH)

26th WSBKA 50th Annual Bee Market & Auction/CSBKA Cake Stall



NOTICES



West Grinstead & District Ploughing Match & Agricultural Show



Our new CSBKA gazebo was out again recently at the Ploughing Match – many thanks to Pip and the Events Team for all their hard work.

Events like this are an important part of what we do: they help us promote and recruit NewBees for our Beginners' Beekeeping Course, fulfil our charitable aims by engaging with the public, and raise valuable funds through sales of honey harvested from our Club Apiary.

We rely heavily on Pip and the Events Team to transport equipment, set up the stand, staff the pitch, and pack everything away afterwards. It's a big task, and an extra pair of hands always makes a difference. If you're able to lend a hand at future events, even for just part of the day, your support would be very welcome.

VACANCY: Schools Liaison Officer (Voluntary)



Are you a retired beekeeper or someone with a passion for bees and the flexibility to share your knowledge during school hours?

CSBKA are looking for a friendly and enthusiastic **Schools Liaison Officer** to represent our club in local schools. This rewarding role involves visiting schools to give engaging talks and demonstrations about bees, beekeeping, and the importance of pollinators in our environment.

Responsibilities:

- Arrange and deliver age-appropriate talks and presentations to schoolchildren.
- Promote awareness of bees, beekeeping, and the role of pollinators.
- Liaise with teachers and school staff to coordinate visits.
- Represent CSBKA in a positive and professional manner.

Ideal Candidate:

- A background in beekeeping (hobbyist or professional).
- Comfortable speaking to groups of children and young people.
- Reliable, well-organised, and good with communication.
- Available during school hours (term time).
- DBS check (or willing to obtain one).

This is an ideal position for a retired beekeeper or someone with free time during weekdays who wants to inspire the next generation of nature-lovers and pollinator champions.

Interested?

Please get in touch with us at secretary@centralsussexbeekeepers.org.uk for more information or to express your interest.



Welcome to

West Sussex Beekeepers Association

When you joined your local Beekeeping Association (Central Sussex, Chichester, Wisborough Green or Worthing), you automatically became a member of West Sussex Beekeepers Association (WSBKA). This membership is important as it gives you access to opportunities that would be more difficult to provide at the local level as well as being your route to membership of BBKA, the British Beekeepers Association.

It is at Divisional level where most of the beekeeping activity and teaching takes place. However, some events are too large for Divisions to handle alone or are of benefit to all beekeepers county-wide. Therefore, these are organised by WSBKA. They include two annual all day events held early in the year.

Bee Market and Auction

beekeepers can buy and sell surplus equipment and bees

West Sussex BKA Convention

lectures and seminars featuring some well-known presenters

In addition, **ad-hoc events** may also include visits by international speakers or may relate to matters of wider interest. All events are planned, organised and resourced by members from across all the Divisions.

Additionally, WSBKA publishes a monthly **Newsletter** which is normally sent to members along with the local Division's Newsletter. This gives details of all the Divisions' meetings, beekeeping articles, national news from BBKA, etc.

As a member of WSBKA you are welcome to attend the meetings of all the Divisions.

It is through WSBKA that members of the Divisions can become members of BBKA as it is WSBKA that is the member of BBKA, not the individual Divisions. These subscriptions are collected by your local Divisional Membership Secretary. It is BBKA that provides the vital Third Party, Public and Product liability to beekeepers.

WSBKA has a committee of officers elected annually by the voting members, plus two representatives appointed by each Division. If you are interested in the work of WSBKA and would like to be involved, please contact one of your local representatives.

