



# Platinum Celebrations!

**1952** was a good year for beekeepers in the UK, or so claim some of the newsreels of the time. However, the data shows the number of honey bee colonies about to start its decline after the wartime boom.

The BBKA had already been established for almost 80 years and its President was W. B. Williams. It appears presidents only served for 1 year until the 1960s.

*Varroa* was still 40 years away from these shores, the average colony of honey bees was around 80,000 (really?) with each colony giving a harvest of around 60lbs of honey in most years. The WBC was still popular but the British Standard National was becoming increasingly so - both of course with solid floors.

The imported Italian honey bee was popular with the 160,000 UK beekeepers with the only protection required being a veil attached to a Trilby hat, and often worn with a three-piece suit – the height of sartorial elegance in the apiary! What the lady beekeepers were wearing at the time is unclear.

How true some of this is I cannot say! But it's a good story for the **Platinum Jubilee** year.

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# BBKA Module Exams - Revised Syllabi for 2023

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Currently there are seven written modules within the BBKA examinations framework that candidates need to complete to be awarded the Advanced Theory Certificate. Modules can be taken in any order, apart from Module 8; that needs to be completed last. Module 8 is designed to be the last, as this is the synoptic module and it also covers beekeeping in general and honey bee colony management.



Over the last few years, it was felt that the content of Module 8 has drifted away from being a synoptic module and so, in 2021, the Examinations Board introduced changes to all modules to give Module 8 a more synoptic function. The result was that the individual history topics within Module 8 were taken out and spread over the rest of the modules in their relevant areas.

Having introduced the change in November 2021, the Examinations Board received a lot of feedback, both from candidates and those involved in teaching, suggesting that all modules have now become too history focused. This was particularly true for Module 1; that is generally the first taken by those embarking on their learning journey.

As a result of the feedback, the Examinations Board has reviewed again all module syllabi and has made further adjustments to moderate down the history element across our modules portfolio. The updated module syllabi are now available on the BBKA website and will take effect as of March 2023.

The module exams on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2022 will still be to the current syllabi. In 2022 therefore, both current and updated module syllabi will be available and candidates need to ensure they study to the syllabi relevant to the year they are looking to take the exams in.

The BBKA Education and Husbandry Committee will be aligning the Correspondence Course materials to the updated syllabi and both Correspondence Course tutors and the Correspondence Course students have been made aware of these changes.

If you have any queries please email Nicky Campbell, BBKA Exam Secretary: [nicky.campbell@bbka.org.uk](mailto:nicky.campbell@bbka.org.uk)

***Marin Anastasov***, Master Beekeeper, NDB  
Chair of the BBKA Examinations Board

## Des Res for Honey Bees

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Two sites on offer this month. Not too much information I'm afraid.

The first is near Fernhurst and offers a large garden and paddock. Contact Tim Wright [tim.wright33@outlook.com](mailto:tim.wright33@outlook.com) 07786 312408

The second is near the Bolney Wine Estate. Contact Julian King [julian@nhbinvestments.co.uk](mailto:julian@nhbinvestments.co.uk) 07881 581065

## World Bee Day in a West Sussex Apiary

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On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May - World Bee Day, the ITV weather forecast was broadcast live from our out apiary at Mill Farm, Lurgashall (with the kind permission of the farmer, Andrew Loughan).

Tom was interviewed and there were some brief shots of our apiary and of the inside of a bee hive. Tom was asked about how people could help bees.

Good publicity for beekeeping and great that they chose **West Sussex** for the broadcast.



## Gordon Allan

### Wildflower Verges Petition

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I have signed this petition and would ask you to also consider signing it. There are a number of advantages. Wildflower verges are nicer to look at, in the long term it will save councils money and reduce congestion caused by grass cutting, but most importantly it provides habitat for wildlife including pollinators.

I am aware that some enlightened councils are investing in wildflower meadows as is the Wildlife Trust. Signing this petition is an opportunity to show support for this and put pressure on others to do the same.

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/616394?fbclid=IwAR3IC3WlwTcsMURgbBFsJ5avIqZA9Vub4u-5D623M1CSjw9b1tABoMMb-GU>

Regards

**Stephen Barnes**

Chair of BBKA Board of Trustees



## Chairman's Chat

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*Chairman, Roger Patterson writes for the County News.*



**T**here are signs that beekeeping is returning to something like normal following two years where it has been difficult to meet each other, but the situation country-wide is still rather patchy. I am hearing of differing situations, with some BKAs only getting a few attendees at meetings, others more than expected.

One common thought is that beekeepers have been without practical tuition for two years, so feel they don't need it anymore, which I think is a rather short-sighted attitude. I understand that all West Sussex BKAs are organising full programmes and I hope they are well attended, as they take a lot of effort to arrange. Please support them if you can.

COVID provided an opportunity to make changes that may never have been made otherwise. Two examples are the Bee Improvement courses I run in several locations throughout the country on behalf of BIBBA, where the previous two day courses, with one day practical in the apiary and one day classroom based has had the latter replaced by online material. And the Honey Show, that has been a feature of the South of England Show for many years in June will now be in September, which is a more convenient time for beekeepers. I hope WSBKA members will support both.

### **Roger**

[chairman@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:chairman@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk)

*See articles on both the South of England Show and the South of England Honey Show in this Newsletter. Ed.*

## South of England Show

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**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June. 9am - 6:30pm.**

Established in 1967 the **South of England Show** is back this year in all its glory with a real focus on going back to its roots as an agricultural show. With more than 100 fun things to see and do, the three-day programme sees the return of equine and livestock competing as well as new appearances including displays from the Army and gardening competitions.

Taking place at the iconic South of England Showground, this annual event allows every generation to see, meet, and learn from farmers, landowners, rural businesses, and local artisan producers to truly connect with the countryside – and ultimately have a fun-packed day out.

It is recommended you buy in advance to guarantee entry since numbers are limited. £21.60 for adults and £19.80 for seniors/students (including 10% advance discount until midnight Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June). Under 16s go FREE when accompanied by a paying adult.

Plenty of free parking at the South of England Showground, Selsfield Road, Ardingly, RH17 6TL.

**Details of the Bees & Honey Section in the September Show are on the following page.**

[www.seas.org.uk/south-of-england-show/](http://www.seas.org.uk/south-of-england-show/)

# South of England Honey Show

- A unique opportunity open to Associations, their members and individual beekeepers.
- Competition judged by Bill Fisher.
- Hone exhibit preparation ahead of Local, County or the National Honey Show.

Bees &  
Honey  
SECTION at the



Previously held in the Bees & Honey marquee at the South of England Show during June ... now more conveniently later in the beekeeping year ... and indoors at the **Autumn Show & International Horse Trials**.

Same location - **SoE Showground, Ardingly, West Sussex, RH17 6TL** - New dates

**Cash prizes** for each class.

**Trophies awarded** to the winner of the "Bounty from the Hive" class and for "Most Points in Honey Classes".

**NHS BLUE RIBBON AWARD** for the Best Exhibit in Show.

**Honey Show Schedule & Honey Entry Form**

available to download via our link or the **South of England Showground** website from June 2022

**Registration of entries** accepted up to the 17th September 2022

**Get together** with your fellow members to register entries on behalf of your Association or Division.

**Drop off entries** at the Showground during the 23rd September.

**Be smart**, arrange for one person to deliver and collect entries from your Association.

**Supply Honey** from yourself or Association to have sold from our popular Sales Stall

**Promote your Association or Division** by providing flyers or notices about your Membership, Training and Taster Days.

For Enquiries & Info, contact:-

**beesandhoneyinfo@gmail.com**

**Help as a Show Steward**

for a day on honey sales & info. stands.

For Enquiries & Info, contact:-

**chief.steward@deodar.org.uk**

**Visit us via this link ...**



[www.seas.org.uk/info/competing/competing-autumn-show-horse-trials](http://www.seas.org.uk/info/competing/competing-autumn-show-horse-trials)

South of England Agricultural Society,  
South of England Showground, Selsfield Rd, Ardingly, West Sussex RH17 6TL  
Tel: 01444 892700 Email: info@seas.org.uk Website: www.seas.org.uk

The South of England Agricultural Society is a registered charity no. 227033



## Around the Divisions

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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: [chairman@centralsussexbka.org.uk](mailto:chairman@centralsussexbka.org.uk) or the Division's website: [www.centralsussexbka.org.uk](http://www.centralsussexbka.org.uk)

### Chichester Division

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June** - 'Ask the Experts' with a panel of experienced beekeepers at 7:30pm., Boxgrove Village Hall, The Street, Boxgrove, PO18 0EE.

Further details of the Division's activities from: Ray Green, [secretary@chichesterbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:secretary@chichesterbeekeepers.co.uk) or the Division's website: [www.chichesterbeekeepers.co.uk](http://www.chichesterbeekeepers.co.uk).



### Wisborough Green Division

Details of the Division's activities from Martina Hendry, [secretary@wgbka.org.uk](mailto:secretary@wgbka.org.uk) or website: [www.wgbka.org.uk](http://www.wgbka.org.uk). The Division's Newsletter may be viewed or downloaded here: [www.wgbka.org.uk/Newsletters.html](http://www.wgbka.org.uk/Newsletters.html)

### Worthing Division

Details of the Division's activities from: Debra Edwards, [dmcd.edwards@gmail.com](mailto:dmcd.edwards@gmail.com) or the Division's website: [www.worthing-beekeepers.org](http://www.worthing-beekeepers.org)



*'Share your Division's activities with readers of the County News'*

## ...and Dates for your Diary

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June** - 'South of England Show', Selsfield Road, Ardingly, RH17 6TL. Full details on the Show's website: [www.seas.org.uk/south-of-england-show/](http://www.seas.org.uk/south-of-england-show/)



**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June** - 'Bee Boot Sale'. Half Moon Pub, Plumpton, BN7 3AF 8am - 12pm. Free entry.

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September** - 'South of England Honey Show'. South of England Show-ground, Ardingly. See article in this newsletter.

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> - Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October** - '91<sup>st</sup> National Honey Show' at Sandown Park racecourse, Esher, Surrey, KT10 9AJ. Details on the Show's website: [www.honeyshow.co.uk/](http://www.honeyshow.co.uk/)



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

...and finally



Thanks to Bristol Beekeepers via eBees

#### 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 20<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.  
[secretary@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:secretary@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk)

**We're on the web:**  
[www.westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk](http://www.westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk)



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Previous newsletters from the last 12 months are available on the website.

