



# The **A**piarist

...High Weald Beekeepers' Newsletter

## Wings & things: Chair's Update

By Roxanne Gould

In early 2024, Malcolm Wilkie said in his Chairmans Chatter that 2024 will undoubtedly be a challenging year for us all, and that's a sentiment which I echo today for 2026.

There are so many parallels which I can draw from that season and am witnessing in the world around me. The winter has been incredibly wet and mild, leading to Hazel catkins laden with pollen since before Christmas, and the willow is out in full force already. There are mature drones in my colonies, one of which is superseding, and I have capped queens cells within the colony.

The similarities between now and two years ago leads me to think back to the Yellow legged Hornet problem too. If our colonies are building up and ahead of the season, then surely other insects are benefiting from the change in our climate, will the hornets have been affected by the cold snap, and how do they cope with the extreme heat conditions and droughts?

Recently, I attended the Sussex Beekeeping Association's AGM, hosted by East Grinstead BKA. One key moment for me was a very informative talk given by regional Bee Inspector Tom Bickerdike, who shared his insight around the changing weather patterns we are experiencing. I found it incredibly interesting that hornet bait stations were not being visited at the hottest point of the day during extreme heat events (which we seem to be experiencing more and



more) and that hornet workers have been witnessed collecting water. Could they be needing to thermoregulate their nests?


I'd like to take this opportunity to encourage our members to put out Hornet traps in the early season and to monitor them, not just in Spring but throughout the season, when the workers are expanding their nests and 'hungry' for our bait. This year feels like a critical year in combatting the hornet problem. The more we can do to support the National Bee Unit and our Bee Inspectors to monitor and report sightings, the better collectively we will be able to reduce the impact that they have on our ecosystems, bee hives and wild pollinators. If you haven't already, please download the free **Asian Hornet Watch** app produced by the UK centre for Ecology and Hydrology (available on Google Play and Apple's App Store).

Enough about hornets from me though, as our Yellow legged Hornet co-ordinator, Tim Wadham, introduces himself in this edition, and outlines the HWBKA's plans for this ongoing problem and the threat it represents.

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We'll also hear from Carlton Waghorn, our Events Secretary, on what this season holds and events where volunteers are always appreciated, and Deborah Parks our President, on the beginnings of her beekeeping journey.

There's plenty to look forward to in this edition, so read on and enjoy, and if anyone has any thoughts or ideas on how we can continue to grow engagement across the association and beyond, please reach out. 

**The Apiarist** is a quarterly newsletter from the High Weald Beekeepers' Association.

**Publisher:** Roxanne Gould (HWBKA Chair)

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**Next issue: July 2026**

# We have a new President

By Deborah Park



the HWBKA.

I have now kept bees for 11 years. When I got to the stage in life when I had both space and time to set aside I looked for a beekeeping course. A couple of abortive attempts and serendipity put me in touch with Keith Obbard. I spent a four hour afternoon with him and the bees at Cherry Hill Gardens and that was it . . . I was totally hooked! In one afternoon Keith taught me so many valuable lessons about the bees that I hold in my mind 11 years on.

I previously held a post on the committee and even produced a few issues of The Apiarist at one point – though we are now blessed to have Paul, a far greater talent as editor! One of my success stories was securing a Wealden District Council grant which supported our training programme.

I was delighted and very proud to be invited to be your president and I'm looking forward to contributing to the further good work of

Within our association membership we have a wealth of experience and expertise, but more importantly people who care and share. No matter whether you are a "newbie" or have many years of experience keeping bees there is always something to learn and always someone to offer advice or help you to develop your skills to be a more complete beekeeper. Please make good use of our Bee Banter sessions and our social media platforms to reach out if you have questions, or to give advice.

My biggest challenge in beekeeping was to "rescue" 20 hives and recover the bees, over-winter them and help them to thrive. It turned out to be a massive undertaking in terms of equipment manipulation, queen identification, varroa management, swarm prevention and all the rest! My biggest joy though is to sit and watch my bees come and go; their dances and their interactions are fascinating. The first time I heard a new queen "piping" made my heart soar. I love to follow my bees around the garden and watch what they're foraging on – my favourite photo is of a bee bathing in a mallow flower totally covered with pollen like caster sugar on a cake. And



*It's a constant joy to watch honeybees and bumblebees working the flowers in our garden.*

who can't delight in the heavy aroma of honey as you lift the crown board on a heaving super.

My role is an honorary position though I hope to support the valuable work that our committee do. I hope too that members will contact me with feedback, ideas or just to say hello, how are your bees?!

I wish you all an enjoyable and successful year of beekeeping.



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# We have a new Events Manager

By Carlton Waghorn



I found it fascinating watching the bees coming and going from the hives, and would often bring homework or a book to sit and watch them. My friends thought I was a bit nuts—

I'm very proud to have been appointed as Events Manager for HWBKA.

My interest in beekeeping actually began when I was a child. I used to

looking back, they may have had a point.

Like many people, the time spent at home during the COVID pandemic gave me the push I needed to start learning how to keep bees. A friend kindly allowed me to help with his colonies, and I was immediately hooked. He encouraged me to join my local association, which turned out to be one of the best decisions I've made.

Since joining, I've met so many great people and learned a huge amount from those with a wealth of experience. Books and online research can only take you so far—beekeeping is something best learned

through shared experience, friendship, and mutual support. Getting involved in association events is a big part of that.

We have a large membership, but many of us have only met a small fraction of fellow beekeepers. This year, we'll be supporting a variety of shows and fetes, as well as hosting a summer BBQ and our monthly "Bee Banter" meetings.

Please do get involved — I'd love to see as many of you as possible at our events. And if you have any ideas or suggestions for future activities, don't hesitate to get in touch.



# Un update on the HWBKA Library

By Helen Searle



As some of you maybe aware I am responsible for the care and control of the HWBKA library.

When I took this

over I was aware that this resource was under-utilised and in great need of reorganisation to meet its full potential. I embarked on cataloguing the books by author alphabetically and also by subject matter and am pleased, after many happy hours spent ploughing through various dusty boxes, to report that this task is now complete. The details of the resulting catalogue have been uploaded to the Association Website. I would urge you to have a browse, web-link [here](#).

We were fortunate to receive a substantial donation enabling the library to expand its collection. These funds presented an opportunity to update the library and to purchase a wider range of books. New books have been acquired on Varroa and the Asian Hornet as well as established

treatises on bee keeping – including a detailed book on bee biology and the history of beekeeping.

With an increasing number of members committed to improving their beekeeping knowledge by sitting the various exam modules set by the BBKA, the committee has agreed that it is sensible to acquire books and pamphlets specifically for these courses.

Borrowing a book is simple. Simply contact me by phone or email and I will then make the necessary administrative arrangements. A small deposit is required which is reimbursed upon return of the book. If you are unsure whether a book is suitable, or you are looking for something particular, I am happy to assist.

As an adjunct to the physical library it is intended to record and upload to the Association website the excellent courses run by the Association. If anyone has experience in editing and would like to assist with this please do not hesitate to get in contact with me. I am sure that this will prove to be an excellent future resource.

Your Association now has a wide range of books available. Whether you want to study for exams, expand



your knowledge or simply read a light hearted autobiographical account of keeping bees there is something for everyone.

It's your library so please do use it.



## Book review

By Paul Lindström

*The Bees-Master of Warrilow* by Edwardes Tickner. First published in 1907.

This is a gem of a book, kindly given to me by a friend who had to give up beekeeping because of allergy to bee stings. At first I wondered if it really would be worth while to read such an old book, but as soon as I started to read I was enchanted.

The author interviewed several beekeepers at a time when the “new” system of removable super- and brood frames was recently introduced



and some beekeepers still kept their bees in skeps. The language is rich and flowery, “old style” perhaps, but beautiful. We get a glimpse into what rural England, actually Sussex, was like over a hundred years ago.

And I actually learned a lot of things. Like that bees can actually withdraw the stinger, given the chance, demonstrated by a Master beekeeper who made a bee sting him on purpose and then let the bee wriggle the stinger free!

We are also taken on a bee hunt, where a group of beekeepers used trapped foragers from a feral colony show the way to the nest by being released one by one, involuntarily

revealing the location of the nest as they flew home.

There are of course things that are totally outdated, like when a beekeeper talks about breeding bees that don't want to swarm (but wait a minute – some beekeepers still have that silly idea even today!).

And there is a story about how the beekeeper treats a person with rheumatism with bee stings. And several examples of how bee products have medicinal uses. And instructions on how to breed drones. And the list goes on – lot's of interesting stuff to learn from. I will donate the book to the HWBKA library when I have finished it.



# Update on Asian hornets/Yellow-legged Asian hornets

By Tim Wadham

My name is Tim Wadham and I've recently taken over from Peter Coxon as Asian Hornet Action Team (AHAT) Coordinator for the association.



I'm in my third year of beekeeping, managing five colonies across two out-apiaries in Hadlow Down and High Hurstwood. I keep bees for the broader experience, not just honey — learning how colonies develop, hopefully this year to gain a bit more consistency of swarm management!



also a suspected nest and hornet sighting in Crowborough, but the nest had blown down before official confirmation. These are likely to have produced foundress queens now attempting to establish embryo nests nearby.



For locations within a 1 km<sup>2</sup> grid of last year's nests current guidance is to deploy 2-5 traps per apiary or other permitted trapping area. Place traps in sunny locations near likely nesting sites — hedgerows, woodland edges and gardens. Cease spring trapping by early May, when workers begin to emerge.



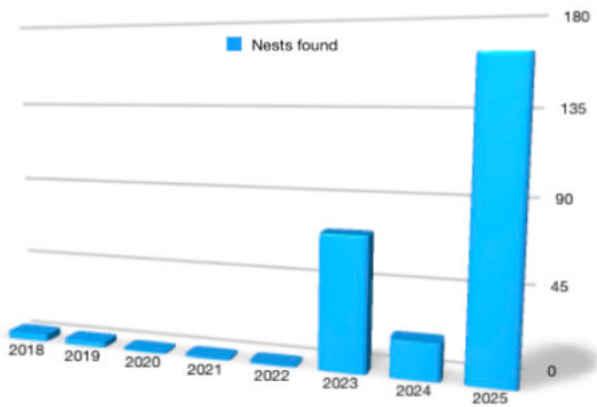
*This is what we DON'T want to see in the UK – nests of Yellow-legged Asian hornets.*

freeze to kill it and report via the AsianHornetWatch app.

Alongside deploying traps, we also need visibility of where they are. The BBKA's preferred system is the eR2 YLH monitoring app. It's a simple mapping tool showing trap locations and overall coverage.

Because it sits within the eR2 system, anonymised data is shared with the NBU, DEFRA and APHA. This helps inspectors understand local activity and, where needed, focus on specific hot spots.

The illustration below is a screen dump showing the browser using the app. The coordinator version is



*It's alarming to see how many more Asian hornets/Yellow-legged Asian hornets were found in the UK last year compared to previous years. Our actions this year will determine if we can stop the invasion.*

Last year saw a sharp rise in Yellow-legged Asian hornet (YLH) activity, with 162 nests found and destroyed — a 710% increase on 2024! A warm spring aided over-wintering queens survivability and drove early emergence of overwintered queens. This year looks similar, with a mild late winter and early spring, so expect foundress queens to be active early again.

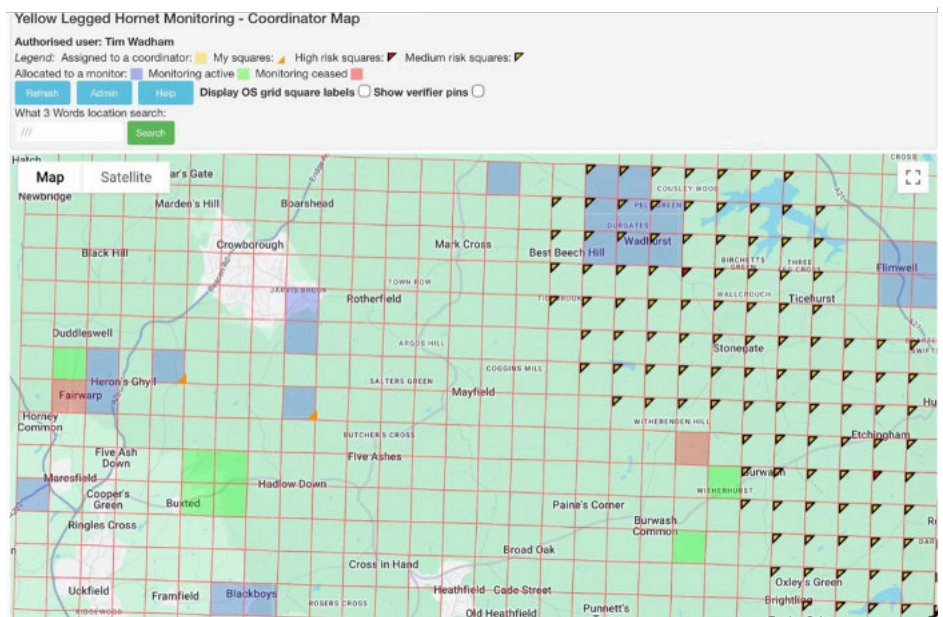


With the NBU ending its spring trapping programme, responsibility for early detection now sits largely with beekeepers and associations. Coordinated local trapping and monitoring is essential.

Late-season secondary nests in Etchingham and Wadhurst are particularly relevant to us, there was

To support members, the association is purchasing 100 selective (non-kill) monitoring traps. These come with bait, instructions, and colour-coded lids for both spring queen trapping and later-season worker trapping. Cost is £3.50 each. To purchase, contact: timwadham@gmail.com.

Should you actually trap a YLH Queen – do not release, take a photo,



*The view the Coordinator can see using the the eR2 YLH monitoring app. Red triangles mark high-risk squares.*



limited to AHAT leads, members can be added as

Monitors. Monitors can view trap locations and take responsibility for grid squares.

Yellow triangles show medium-risk squares around last year's nests. Blue/purple squares indicate assigned monitors. Red triangles mark high-risk squares where the 2025 late nests in Wadhurst and Etchingam were found.

The App has help-pages and training videos. The one for Coordinators can be viewed [here](#). The one for Monitors can be viewed [here](#). These should provide further clarity of how it works.

At present, monitor coverage is limited, particularly around last year's nest sites. To make this effective, we need more members involved — especially those already setting traps. Monitors within 1 km of those sites are particularly valuable.

If you would like to become a Monitor, please contact me and I will set you up: [timwadham@gmail.com](mailto:timwadham@gmail.com).



## Recommended Bait Recipe

I've been informed by neighbouring association that the following was an original 'Trappit' recipe, so comes recommended as a bait for selective queen trapping:

### Fermented Jam / Vinegar Mix

1 kg sugar

1 litre water

250 ml apple cider vinegar

1 pot smooth jam (no fruit pieces)

250 ml grenadine

Substitutes commonly used:

Old or cheap beer instead of cider vinegar

Mashed old fruit or berries instead of jam

Berry fruit cordial (not sugar-free) instead of grenadine

Sugar and jam are typically dissolved in hot water first; vinegar and cordial are added once cool.

Where used, ethyl acetate (food grade, e.g. pear-drop scent) is sometimes added at low concentration only when the mixture is completely cold.



## Did you know?

- That Asian hornets (*Vespa velutina*) were first confirmed in the UK in September 2016, and arrived from France. Now often called Yellow-legged hornet or Yellow-legged Asian hornet.
- An Asian Hornet colony will consume 11kg (eleven!) of insects (not just honeybees) per annum.
- In northern France some areas have Asian Hornet nest densities of 10-15 colonies per km<sup>2</sup>. So that's an invertebrate loss of 165 kg per km<sup>2</sup> or nearly half a ton per square mile or half a billion insects per square mile. This will have an impact on the bird population and crop productivity. It's very much an environmental concern.
- A Yellow-legged Asian hornet colony can produce between 180 and up to 500 queens in a year!

## Think you've seen an Asian hornet? Report it!



Report through the Asian hornet Watch app on your smartphone or at:

<https://catch.asianhornetalert.org.uk/>

or at:

[www.bit.ly/asianhornetreport](http://www.bit.ly/asianhornetreport)

**In 2025 we saw a drastic increase in reported AH – please put out traps and register them!**

Come and learn all about the fascinating world of bees at the

*Sussex Beekeepers' Association*

# *Bee Market*

SATURDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2026 - 10 AM TO 4.30 PM

*Uckfield College*

Downsview Crescent, Uckfield TN22 3DJ

**EVERYONE WELCOME - ADMISSION £3**

£1 for children up to 16 years old

Talks on honey bees and beekeeping:

**'The Truth About Honey'**

**by Lynne Ingram**

**'How To Take Up Beekeeping'**

**by Malcolm Wilkie**

Bees, plants and honey on sale

Equipment auction

Trade stands

Interactive Children's Bee Workshop

Refreshments and snacks available

Workshops, advice and much more!



[https://sbka.info/?page\\_id=159](https://sbka.info/?page_id=159)

# Treating a colony in April, May or June that has varroosis

By Malcolm Wilkie

This is something I wrote for one of the BBKA modules. I hope it may be useful to other members.



The challenge:

Treating a hive that has varroosis and 3 honey supers in the month of April, May or June. How would a beekeeper confirm there was an infestation and what could be done with the honey supers?

A peak in varroa numbers is common in the Summer months. Given the warm winters in the South East varroa, however, can even be a problem in late March and April.

A light infestation of mites in early Spring can lead to an explosion of their numbers as we reach the summer solstice.

Initial indicators that there might be a problem is something as simple as noticing deformed wings and "K-wings" among the adult bees. However these signs are not definitive as it is possible for both of these visual symptoms to occur in healthy hives. So the beekeeper

needs to set about to confirm that there is indeed a problem.

## Test for varroosis

There are several ways a beekeeper can test for varroosis.

1. Monitor for varroa for a week using a sticky board (use Vaseline and parchment paper) under an open mesh floor. You then count your mites and divide by the number of days you have been monitoring.

The multiplier of the daily mite drop you use depends on the month you are monitoring;

For March/April/September/  
October - X100  
May-August - X30  
November-February - X400

There needs to be fewer than 1000 mites in the colony

2. For an immediate confirmation of mite levels an alcohol wash will confirm the percentage of bees affected by phoretic mites. With this method you kill the bees. You are measuring the number of phoretic mites on those bees. So you are calculating the infestation levels in your colony. More than 5 mites per 100 bees (approx. 5%) indicates a serious infestation. Acceptable levels will be below 3%.



*This horrible parasite is aptly named Varroa destructor. It's by far the biggest threat to our honeybees.*

3. One can also use a sugar roll test which is not quite so accurate as the alcohol wash test. Infestation levels to be taken into account roughly the same as with the alcohol wash.

4. Another immediate test that could be carried out is to uncap drone brood. The NBU recommends uncapping 100-300 drone pupae. An uncapping fork is used. Drone brood that is at the purple eyed stage will have mites that are easier to spot as the mites will be more developed. If one discovers more than 5 mites per 100 drones then action needs to be taken. If 1 in 10 drone pupae are infected the infestation is a heavy one.

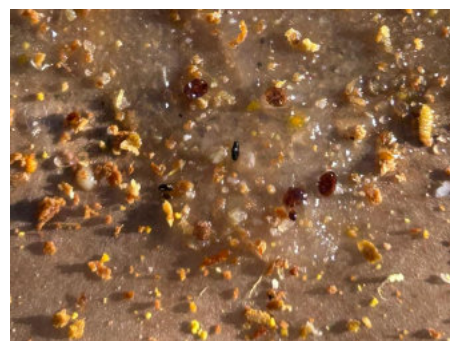
5. Using CO<sub>2</sub> gas. This anaesthetises both the bees and the mites and they temporarily fall into a sleep. The mites lose their grip and if both bees and mites are shaken for 30 seconds the varroa fall off. Once again - a 3% level would require action to be taken.

## Treatment

Once varroosis is confirmed decisions about a relevant treatment need to be taken. One's primary concern are the supers if there are supers of honey. Either they should be extracted if ripe, stored if uncapped (and then you have the problem of keeping them ant- and bee proof) or



*A typical inspection tray to check for Varroa. A tip is to cover it with parchment paper an Vaseline - saves on cleaning!*



*Inspection tray with some Varroa mites among the debris. You probably need a magnifying glass to see the mites properly.*

given to another colony to look after. So you will have to use a clearer board and get back the supers from the bees.

**Non chemical treatments should always be considered first.**

One alternative is a "shook swarm" where all the brood is taken away and burnt and the bees have to build another brood nest is one way. Don't forget to use a Queen excluder between the floor and the brood box. Once they have started to draw wax (you may need to feed) the bees can be treated with OA (Oxalic acid) to get rid of the phoretic mites. This will need to be done before there is any capped brood of course or otherwise you are just perpetuating the problem.

Another alternative is "Queen trapping" in a comb trap. This demands considerable skill as the Queen is allowed access to one brood comb a week and once this comb is

capped it is then removed from the hive.

Yet another alternative to consider – If the infestation rate is below 5% or below the threshold number of 1000 mites – is letting the bees make drones. Once a frame of drone has been capped, remove it and burn it. It will contain a lot of varroa.

### Chemical treatments


The final option is the use of something like **Formic Pro™**. This is the chemical option. This contains formic acid which is a compound found in hives. Formic Pro has the advantage of penetrating the cappings of the cells. This is important as most of the mites will be within sealed brood cells.

'During the summer 90 % of the mite population can be within the brood (Rosenkranz and Renz 2003)'

It is a product that cannot be used if temperatures are too high (29.5° C maximum). The colony must be

prosperous which it will be at this time of year if there are supers of honey to be removed. There needs to be good ventilation and so an OMF (Open Mesh floor) and removal of the entrance block is recommended. Use a proper mask for corrosive gasses and choose a still day.

Proceed as follows. Add an empty super between the floor and the brood box. The bees from the super will now have somewhere to go. Clear the bees out of the supers by using a clearer board.

Then the next day apply the formic pro strips above where the brood is situated. This is left in the hive for 14 days. There will be mortality of larvae and pupae. The colony will now have a much reduced varroa load. With luck if the supers are returned the bees will continue to collect and build up their numbers to then bounce back from the varroa bomb they were experiencing. 

## Rent a de-capping tool from HWBKA

The association has a nifty de-capping tool available for rent.

It's a bit of a faff to clean, but if you have several supers to extract it's worth the while. We used it at the HWBKA big honey extraction in 2025 and it saved a lot of time. It comes with a manual and includes instructions on how to clean it properly.

You can rent it two days at a time for £10 for two days (and a £20 Deposit).

Included in the rent is the tray to catch the honey and de-capped wax. Actually; it cut into the capped honey rather than de-capping it, so there is less wax lost from the frames than when doing a traditional de-capping with a knife or de-capping fork.



Note that the deposit will be forfeit if returned late, damaged or dirty. Severe damage/repairs will be charged at cost.

The de-capping tool is stored by Paul Lindström in Southover (outside Burwash).

Bookings and inquiries through Paul, see contact info below. Deposit by cash but final payment paid directly into the HWBKA bank account (same as when paying your membership fee etc).

For info, availability and booking call or text mobile number 07833-088 766.

Or email: [the.hwbka+apiarist@gmail.com](mailto:the.hwbka+apiarist@gmail.com) • Address: The Clock Tower, Southover, Spring Lane, Burwash, TN19 7JB



# Dates for your calendar

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April 10:00-12:00

## **HWBKA Training Session – Swarm Control**

Venue: Horsted Green park Apiary

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April

## **Basic Confidence Course with SBKA – Swarming, Varroa and Keeping Colonies Viable**

Venue: via ZOOM. Sign up on our [Events calendar](#).

17-19<sup>th</sup> April

## **BBKA Spring Convention**

Venue: Harper Adams University

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April

## **Basic Confidence Course with SBKA – Bees, the Beekeeping Year and Feeding**

Venue: via ZOOM. Sign up on our [Events calendar](#).

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 10:00-13:00

## **HWBKA Training Session – Introduction to bees, taster**

Venue: Horsted Green park Apiary

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 19:00-21:30

## **Bee Banter**

Venue: The Blue Anchor Pub, Crowborough

Beacon Road

Crowborough, TN6 1BB

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April

## **Basic Confidence Course with SBKA – Hives, Equipment, Hygiene and Records**

Venue: via ZOOM. Sign up on our [Events calendar](#).

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May

## **Sussex BKA Bee Market**

Venue: Uckfield College.

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May

## **Basic Confidence Course with SBKA – Confident Hive Handling and Inspection Skills**

Venue: via ZOOM. Sign up on our [Events calendar](#).

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 10:00-12:00

## **HWBKA Training Session – Swarm Control for real**

Sign up on our [Events calendar](#).

12:00-14:00

## **Session 2 – Hive building**

Sign up on our [Events calendar](#).

Venue: Horsted Green park Apiary

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 19:00-21:30

## **Bee Banter**

Venue: The Rose & Crown, Mayfield, in the Function Room, Fletching Street TN20 6TE

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June

## **Basic Confidence Course with SBKA – Bee Health, Disease Recognition and Responsibilities**

Venue: via ZOOM. Sign up on our [Events calendar](#).

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 19:00-21:30

## **Bee Banter**

Venue: The Blue Anchor Pub, Crowborough, Beacon Road Crowborough, TN6 1BB

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July 10:00-13:00

## **HWBKA Training Session – Bee “Safari”**

Sign up on our [Events calendar](#).

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July

## **Langton Green Fete**

Venue: Langton Green

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July 10:00-12:00

## **HWBKA Training Session – Varroa and YLH control**

Sign up on our [Events calendar](#).

Venue: Horsted Green park Apiary

12:00-14:00

## **Session 2 – Hive building**

Sign up on our [Events calendar](#).

Venue: Horsted Green park Apiary

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> July 19:00-21:30

## **Bee Banter**

Venue: The Rose & Crown, Mayfield, in the Function Room, Fletching Street TN20 6TE

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> August

## **Weald on the Field**

Venue: Luxford Field, Uckfield

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> August 10:00-14:00

## **HWBKA Training Session – Honey Extraction**

Sign up on our [Events calendar](#).

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September 10:00-12:00

## **HWBKA Training Session – Preparing Hives for Winter**

Sign up on our [Events calendar](#).

22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> October

## **National Honey Show**

Venue: Sandown Park Racecourse, Esher, Surrey

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November

## **BBKA Modules – Autumn Exams**

Sign up by contacting our Membership Secretary [Peter Halford](#)

*More events might be listed on our [web site](#) – check it regularly for the latest updates.*

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## Summary of the latest HWBKA committee meetings

The HWBKA committee has met on several occasions this year – on 21 February mainly to discuss what events we should arrange or participate in this season, then on 5 March to discuss how we best prepare to fight the invasion of Asian hornets, then again a regular committee meeting on 11 March to focus on finances.

There are four events prioritised this season; in May the SBKA “Bee

Market” in Uckfield, in July the bi-annual “Langton Green Fete” and “Crowfest” in Crowborough, in August the “Weald on the Field” in Uckfield. Check the Events calendar for exact dates and times and how to register! We need volunteers for most of those events so please contact any of the Committee members if you want to help.

You can read in Tim Wadhams article earlier what HWBKA do to fight

the Asian hornets, and it has also been decided that the HWBKA Apiary will be run as a “Co-operative”, lead by Apiary Manager Paul Lindström with the help of Assistant Apiary Manager Carlton Waghorn.

The next HWBKA Committee meeting will be on 22 July 2026 – *please submit issues to discuss to our Honorary Secretary Simon Bishop on email: [the.hwbka+secretary@gmail.com](mailto:the.hwbka+secretary@gmail.com)*

## HWBKA Committee 2025-2026

President: Deborah Park [the.hwbka+president@gmail.com](mailto:the.hwbka+president@gmail.com)

Chairman: Roxanne Gould [the.hwbka+chair@gmail.com](mailto:the.hwbka+chair@gmail.com)

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Apiary Manager: Paul Lindström

Events Secretary and Assistant apiary Manager:  
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Lecture Coordinator and Librarian: Helen Chivers  
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Membership Secretary: Peter Halford  
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Committee members: Liz Missen and Simon Kipping

### Other useful contacts - National Bee Unit inspectors:

Local Bee Inspectors:

Daniel Morgan (Mobile: 07500 95 43 90, email [daniel.morgan@apha.gov.uk](mailto:daniel.morgan@apha.gov.uk))

Helen Hadley (Mobile: 07871 320 316, email: [helen.hadley@apha.gov.uk](mailto:helen.hadley@apha.gov.uk))

For more Bee Inspectors see the National Bee Unit [web site](#).

## Rent a honey extractor from HWBKA



*The newer SAF Natura  
Tangential 4-frame extractor*

The association has two extractors available for rent. One newer SAF NATURA tangential 4-frames extractor and one older tangential 3-frame extractor (pictured right), Kindly donated by Don Bastick.

You can rent them two days at a time. The newer 4-frame tangential cost £10 for two days (and a £20 Deposit) and the older 3-frames tangential extractor cost £5 for two days (and a £10 deposit).

Included in the rent is a honey bucket, a sieve and an uncapping fork, if required + instructions for use.

Note that the deposit will be forfeit if returned late, damaged or dirty. Severe damage/repairs will be charged at cost.

PS. The older 6-frame extractor is not available at the moment since it is in need of a bigger repair requiring rare spare parts.



*The older tangential 3-frame  
extractor*

The older 3-frames extractor is stored by Paul Lindström in Southover (outside Burwash).

The newer 4-frame SAF Natura is stored by Lynne Curtis at Lynne's Organic Farm (just outside Crowborough).

All bookings and inquiries through Paul, see contact info below. Deposit by cash but final payment paid directly into the HWBKA bank account (same as when paying your membership fee etc).

For info, availability and booking call or text mobile number 07833-088 766.

Or email: [the.hwbka+apiarist@gmail.com](mailto:the.hwbka+apiarist@gmail.com) • Address: The Clock Tower, Southover, Spring Lane, Burwash, TN19 7JB

