

the Petersfield Beekeeper

PETERSFIELD AND DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

81ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

on

Saturday 12th February

at

7:30 on Zoom

All the reports and “paperwork” for the AGM are in this newsletter. To join the meeting simply click on the link below or in the Agenda on Page 2.

THE NOMINATION FORM FOR NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS IS ON THE LAST PAGE OF THIS NEWSLETTER

ZOOM LINK FOR AGM



AGENDA

PETERSFIELD AND DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Notice is hereby given that the
81st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of Petersfield and District Beekeepers Association will be held on
Saturday 12th February 2022 at 7.30pm on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85709794827?pwd=aXZscFFsaXNfazRmekZjUnZqR2c0QT09>

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 80th Annual General Meeting held on 6th February 2021
3. Matters arising
4. Annual Report - published in the February 2022 Newsletter
5. Treasurer's Report - published in the February 2022 Newsletter
6. Education Secretary - published in the February 2022 Newsletter
7. Honey Show Manager's Report - published in the October 2021 Newsletter
8. Newsletter Editor's Report - published in the February 2022 Newsletter
9. Librarian's Report - published in the February 2022 Newsletter
10. Apiary Custodians' Report - published in the February 2022 Newsletter
11. Election of President
12. Election of Officers
 - Chairman
 - Honorary Treasurer
 - Honorary Secretary
13. Election of Committee members
14. Appointment of Delegates to National Honey Show
15. Appointment of Association Delegates to H B A
16. Honey Show - 12th September 2022
17. In accordance with Clause 10 (2) of PDBKA Constitution 2017

Petersfield and District Beekeepers Association – Clause 10.2 of PDBKA Constitution 2017

PDBKA Membership Categories 2022	Subscription:	Registered	Partner	Country	Associate	Family
Online Renewal Item	Mapped Payment Item					
BBKA Capitation (Registered)	£21.00	x				
BBKA Capitation (Partner)	£13.50		x			
BBKA Capitation (Country)	£10.00			x		
HBA Capitation	£5.00	x	x	x		
BDI Basic (3 hives)	£2.00	x	x			
PDBKA Member	£8.50	x	x	x	x	
PDBKA Family Member	£2.00					x
Beginners' Training	£31.50					
	Payment Due:	£36.50	£29.00	£23.50	£8.50	£2.00
	2021-	29.50	23.00	18.00	8.50	2.00

Registered members fee includes membership to PDBKA, BBKA, HBA and BDI for 3 hives
Partner membership is the same as the above linked to a Registered member.
Country membership is PDBKA, HBA and BBKA without the insurance.
Members enrolled for the 2022 Beginners Training course will be charged £31.50 in addition to their membership fee.

18. Presentation of Certificates

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM

PETERSFIELD AND DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION MINUTES of the 80th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held online on Saturday 6th February 2021 at 7.30pm

After Elizabeth Eveleigh explained how to cast your vote within the Zoom meeting, Pippa Barker, on behalf of Graham Rowden, Chairman, welcomed 29 members in person and 1 member by proxy to the Annual General Meeting (as listed at the end of the Minutes). Notice of the AGM was distributed by e-mail to all members on the 24 th January 2021, together with the Agenda, minutes of the 2020 AGM, proxy forms, Annual Reports and Chairman;s and Treasurer’s reports, in accordance with Clause 12 of the PDBKA Constitution.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. Morag Crawley, Greg Cumming and Graham Rowden.
2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING held on the 1st February 2020, were circulated by email on the 24th January 2021. After noting the misspelling of Hilary Hayward and that the President is elected rather than appointed, Ali Hollingbery proposed that the Minutes, being a true record of that meeting, be accepted. Peter Reader seconded. The proposal was carried.
3. MATTERS ARISING. There were no matters arising.
4. ANNUAL CHAIRMAN’S REPORT. The Annual Report, written by Graham Rowden, was sent to members on the 24 th January 2021 and will be published again in the March “Newsletter”. Pippa Barker repeated his thanks to everyone who has kept the Association going through the COVID pandemic, especially the Apiary custodians for their solitary labours and those participating in the Zoom meetings. Mel Espin proposed that the report be received, and it was accepted unanimously.
5. TREASURER’S REPORT. The Treasurer’s Report, written by David Hall, was sent to members on the 24 th January 2021 and will be published again in the March “Newsletter”. David Hall highlighted the HBA capitation introduced for 2021 of £2. The committee had decided to absorb this cost for this year but that it be added to future subscriptions. The HBA have advised that their subscription per member would increase in 2022 to £5. The BBKA have given notice that they will be increasing their subscription for 2022. Ian Neilson advised that he will be fully implementing the BBKA membership online IT system, for subscriptions for this year’s renewals. Emails will be sent with the link. Penny Adams asked if paper copies of the subscription renewal form could be sent out. Ian Neilson assured her a form could be sent out on request. A demonstration of the renewal process was given after the end of formal business at the AGM. The cut-off date for renewal of subscriptions has now been changed to the 30 th of March. As the system is now online this date is fixed and any unpaid subscriptions will mean the 40 day suspension of BDI will automatically be incurred by the member. David Parkinson queried the change in Gift Aid from 2019 to 2020. This was caused by a delay in the receipt of the 2018 Gift Aid, and the 2020 figure is the normal amount. Despite the cancellation of the Honey Show some costs were incurred from engraving cups. Thanks were given to David Hall for his work over the last 3 years as our Treasurer and Membership Secretary. David Parkinson, seconded by Ali Hollingbery, proposed that the report be received, and it was accepted unanimously.
6. EDUCATION SECRETARY’S REPORT. The Education Secretary’s Report, written by Anne-Chantal Ballard, was sent to members on the 24th January 2021 and was published in the December “Newsletter”. There are over 40 people starting the 2021 training online in

February. They would be joined by the 2020 trainees as, due to the COVID restrictions, they were unable to complete the course or to attend the apiary training, and they have been offered the 2021 training free of charge. Hilary Hayward asked how the Association is aiming to hold Apiary training session and maintain COVID rules. Anne-Chantal Ballard responded that all visits will be dependent on the current rules and will be managed with full consultation with the Apiary Custodians. Hilary Hayward proposed that the report be received, and it was accepted unanimously.

7. HONEY SHOW. The Honey Show had to be cancelled in 2020 due to COVID restrictions. The Honey Show Manager's report, written by David Parkinson, was published in the October "Newsletter". David Parkinson hoped that members had used 2020 to finesse their honey production ready to enter the 2021 competition. If COVID restrictions forbid the normal Honey Show it is suggested that a "virtual" honey show could be designed with judging taking place without the public or extra people being present. Penny Adams proposed that the report be received, and it was accepted unanimously.

8. NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT. The Newsletter Editor's Report, written by Helen de Peyrecave, was sent to members on the 24th January 2021 and was published in the December "Newsletter". Helen De Peyrecave was thanked for her work and a request was made for more copy. Ali Hollingbery requested photos of members apiaries to be placed in the Newsletter, to allow virtual visiting, and this was welcomed. Anne-Chantal Ballard proposed that the report be received, and it was accepted unanimously.

9. LIBRARIAN'S REPORT. The Librarian's Report, written by Martin Smyth, was sent to members on the 24th January 2021 and will be published again in the March "Newsletter". The library is safe and dry, and will be taken to the Apiary sessions when they are able to resume. Ali Hollingbery reminded members that PDBKA sweatshirts and polo shirts will also be available as they will be kept with the library

10. APIARY CUSTODIANS' REPORT. The Apiary Custodians' Report, written by Rowan Roberts, was sent to members on the 24th January 2021 and was published in the December "Newsletter". Chris Clark, Graham Rowden, Peter Reader, Dean Gregory and Rowan Roberts were thanked for running the Apiary. Rowan Roberts will be the Apiary Manager for 2021 and Ali Hollingbery has joined the team. Anne-Chantal Ballard proposed that the report be received, and it was accepted unanimously.

11. ELECTION OF PRESIDENT. Tom Blackburn agreed to remain as our President, as proposed for re-election by Pippa Barker and seconded by David Parkinson. The nomination was accepted by all members present.

12. ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

CHAIRMAN. Graham Rowden was proposed as Chairman by Penny Adams and seconded by Peter Nicholson. The nomination was accepted by all the members present.

HONORARY TREASURER. Ian Neilson was proposed as Treasurer, by David Parkinson and seconded by Ali Hollingbery, and accepted by all the members present (with the exception of Ian Neilson, who was out voted).

HONORARY SECRETARY. Mel Espin was proposed by Martin Smyth and seconded by Anne-Chantal Ballard, and was accepted by all the members present. Especial thanks were given to Mel for her handling of bookings and cancellations during this difficult year.

13. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

Anne-Chantal Ballard, Elizabeth Eveleigh, David Parkinson, Pippa Barker and Martin Smyth stood for re-election, as proposed by Hilary Hayward and seconded by Peter Nicholson.

Ali Hollingbery stood for election to become a committee member, as proposed by Tom Blackburn and seconded by Peter Reader

14. APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATE TO THE NATIONAL HONEY SHOW. David Parkinson

15. APPOINTMENT OF ASSOCIATION DELEGATES TO THE HBA. Tom Blackburn, Pippa Barker, Anne-Chantal Ballard, and Graham Rowden. The HBA will now only have one annual meeting for delegates, and this will be held online in March 2021

16. HONEY SHOW 2021. It was announced that the show will be on Saturday 11th September 2021. Location is to be decided.

17. IN ACCORDANCE WITH CLAUSE 10 (2) OF THE PDBKA CONSTITUTION 2017. The adoption of the subscription rates for 2021 were proposed by Mel Espin and seconded by Richard Brewer and accepted by all the members present.

18. PRESENTATION OF AWARDS AND CERTIFICATES

No members attempted the Bee Basic or Bee Module exams as they were cancelled by BBKA due to the COVID pandemic.

Honorary Membership – This year we have awarded this to Mike Foard for his past services to the Association, especially for managing the equipment for rent and storage of the equipment and trailer for many years. Derek and Jenny Slee were awarded their membership for their long attendance at shows, demonstrating skep making and helping with honey sales. Reports will be published in the March Newsletter.

Tresallier Unsung Hero Award – Presented to Brad Davis for helping us through the pandemic locked down periods, by hosting Zoom training sessions and talks, and supporting members with beekeeping queries on WhatsApp. We would like to thank him for being helpful with his knowledge of bees, and capability to get us onto the online meetings that have supported the Association whilst locked down at home. A report will be published in the March Newsletter.

The formal Annual General Meeting concluded at 8.10pm.

Regret was expressed about the lack of cake.

Members present:

Hilary Hayward David Parkinson Peter Reader

Ali Hollingbery David Hall Jane Ducker

Paul Massey Lynn Massey Penny Adams

Dean Gregory Helen de Peyrecave Elizabeth Eveleigh

Pippa Barker Tony Kehoe Ian Neilson

Rupert Rossetti Peter Nicholson Shelagh Phelps

Percy Phelps Anne-Chantal Ballard Martin Smyth

Mel Espin Richard Brewer Rowan Roberts

Jessica Taplin Tom Blackburn Derek Beesley

Matt Evans Brad Davis David Sandwell (by proxy)

CHAIRMANS REPORT

It has been another difficult year for the Association with Covid-19 and EFB. The year started with lots of positivity, hoping we had put the difficulties of Covid -19 behind us... I must thank everyone who has made a contribution to the running of the Association over the past year, no matter how small, it all helps the smooth running many thanks to you all.

Anne Chantel and her training team managed to keep things together by using zoom and the Association Apiary. You will find full details in her report and many thanks to Anne and her team. A big thank you to our Apiary Trustees for getting all the equipment ready for us and especially for looking after the Apiary when we had EFB. Please read the Apiary report from Rowan.

Our newsletter has kept everybody informed especially through Covid-19. This is all thanks to Helen De Peyrecave and her team expressly Elizabeth who email all the latest information to us. Our newsletter is one of our lines of communication, so if you have any topics please send them to Helen who would be extremely grateful to receive them. Our thanks again to the newsletter team.

Ian Neilson, our treasurer, has kept the finances in good order over the past year. He's now working on setting up online payments to make life easier for everyone. Good luck, Ian, I hope this goes smoothly.

Mel Espin, our secretary, has been busy booking the Community Centre and then having to cancel due to Covid -19. Show bookings have also been difficult as we were unsure whether we would be attending or not.

My thanks to Elizabeth Everleigh, our minutes secretary, for carefully taking the minutes of our Committee meetings and circulating them back to us. I am also grateful to her for, along with David Parkinson, running the Honey Show. Sadly, Elizabeth has decided to resign from the Committee. She will be sadly missed as she was a very active Committee member. On behalf of all the members we offer our thanks.

Pippa Baker has also decided to resign this year from the committee. Pippa has been a very strong Committee member, too, playing many roles especially at HBA as a delegate; always at the front when things got tough. On the Committee she has filled many roles and never shied away from dealing with problems. Many of our members will probably know her best from the Apiary, always making sure everything was there ready for any procedures we were going to do. Again, thank you, Pippa, for all your hard work over the years from all of us.

It has been another very unpredictable year in terms of what we could offer our members. Many winter meetings were moved online and some of our Apiary meetings were cancelled. Although we try to replace these with Zoom, I feel it's not quite the same. Let's hope 2022 turns out to be a much more productive year. It looks like there will be more exciting things going on at the Association Apiary so watch this space!

Now, after serving on the Committee for several years, I will be stepping down as Chairman and the Committee. Many thanks for all your help over the past years.

Graham Rowden

PDBKA TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2021

The Association continues to maintain strong financial reserves despite an upset year. Pandemic restrictions again took their toll on what would have been normal activities, reducing expenditure on events such as the Honey Show and stands at summer fairs. EFB brought activities at the apiary to a standstill for a while and helped ensure that there would be no honey crop this year.

Funds were needed to help restock the Apiary when it reopened, but this expenditure was significantly offset by income from sales of honey from previous years. Overall, the Association ended the year with an excess of income over expenditure of £1,370, greatly helped again by being able to claim back over £800 as Gift Aid from HMRC. Consequently, total reserves increased to £13,967, up from £12,597 at the beginning of the year.

Unfortunately, I was blind to the fact that the Association had accumulated unpaid debt of donations to the BBKA Research Fund over several years until finalising this year's accounts. This amounted to £310 pounds, which I will now pass on. There has also been a minor downward revaluation of the clothing stock as shown in the accounts.

Membership continues to increase, this year up from 179 to 193, of which 120 are registered as keeping bees.

PDBKA used the online renewal facilities provided by the BDI & BBKA eR2 membership system in 2021 for the first time, without major problems reported. Significant effort in setting this up at the beginning of the year, it is hoped, will pay dividends in the future. Amongst other efficiencies, its use reduces the amount of paperwork and postage, with associated clerical errors, to almost zero, which can only be a good thing. I hope that members will find this convenient again when we use it for 2022. Paper-based membership forms remain an option. For 2022 BBKA have increased their fees for Registered members from £19 to £21 with roughly proportionate increases for other classes. BDI premiums remain the same. Whilst there was effectively no charge to PDBKA members last year for HBA, the Committee feels the levy of £5 this year will have to be passed on to members. For HBA, as with BBKA capitation and BDI premiums, PDBKA simply collects and passes on these amounts. We do not feel there is a need to change the PDBKA membership fee, which we propose stays at £8.50. BBKA and HBA increases combined result in proposed increase in fees for Registered members of £7, to £36.50. A full itemisation of proposed fees will be given in the AGM agenda.

The first year in any role such as this is one of learning and consolidation, and I thank the past Treasurer, Dave Hall, and members of the Committee for their support and understanding throughout the year.

The accounts for 2021 may be read below.

Ian Neilson
PDBKA Treasurer & Membership Secretary
treasurerpetersfieldbees@gmail.com

Petersfield and District Beekeepers Association
Registered Charity No. 288178

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31st December 2021

	2021 £	2020 £
Income		
Subscriptions	1,344.80	1,310.50
Donations	217.95	148.50
Gift Aid	836.26	668.00
HBKA/BBKA capitations	2,267.00	2,163.50
ED Insurances	441.95	422.70
BBKA Research Funding	147.25	108.00
The Association Apiary	1,128.56	0.00
Demonstrations - Candle Rolling	135.00	190.20
Training	976.00	976.50
Sundry income	303.20	0.00
Interest received	37.30	0.00
Total Income	7,855.27	5,987.90

Less: Expenditure		
HBKA/BBKA capitation expenditure	(2,351.50)	(2,163.50)
ED insurance cost	(457.45)	(536.20)
BBKA Research Fund costs	(147.25)	(108.00)
Honey Show costs	0.00	(189.35)
Newspaper costs	(275.17)	0.00
Lecture costs	(47.30)	(376.88)
Association Apiary costs	(2,180.30)	(546.98)
Library and Training costs	(374.61)	(143.48)
Sundries	(544.56)	(291.02)
Reduction in value of clothing stock	(47.02)	0.00
Total Expenditure	(6,465.15)	(4,356.01)
Excess of Income over Expenditure	1,370.11	1,631.89

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2021

	£	£
Assets		
Bank Current Account	6,139.58	5,635.60
Cash in hand	0.00	50.81
National Savings Account	6,987.23	7,049.93
Total banks and cash	13,127.21	12,736.34
Debtor - gift aid	836.26	0.00
Clothing stock	315.00	362.02
Current Assets	14,278.47	13,098.36
Less Liabilities:		
- BBKA Research Fund	(310.75)	(310.75)
- HBA capitation	0.00	(190.00)
Net Assets	13,967.72	12,597.61

Represented by:		
Reserves brought forward	12,597.61	10,965.72
Excess income for year	1,370.11	1,631.89
Reserves Carried Forward	13,967.72	12,597.61

I have examined the above accounts and compared them with the records kept by the Association's treasurer. I can confirm that no matters have come to my attention which give me cause to believe that, in any material sense, the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

Nicola Miller 19/1/22
Nicola Miller, retired Chartered Accountant

APIARY MANAGER'S REPORT

The 2021 season continued to be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Custodians had a meeting and divided the work. We lost 4 colonies over winter so started off the season with 6 colonies.

During April we added a nucleus colony. The Apiary was opened to new beekeepers on the 11th April. There were a very large number of beekeepers to accommodate. In order to comply with the government Covid guidelines, the beekeepers were split into eight groups each with an instructor and named after bee forage. This meant a morning and afternoon session on both a Sunday and a Wednesday. To maintain the interest of intermediate beekeepers a double queen colony was established. On 26th April we bought 3 more colonies from the university of Surrey.

In mid-May, EFB was found in the Apiary and confirmed in the double queen colony. At this point we had 10 colonies at the Apiary. A standstill order was issued by the Seasonal Bee Inspector on 17th May. We burnt the infected colony and hive parts. The Committee decided that the best way forward was to do shook swarms on every colony in the Apiary, burning all the old frames. This was completed but we lost one colony.

On 9th December, Peter Reader and Chris Clark treated the hives at the apiary with oxalic acid. He used the sublimation method. A few crystals of oxalic acid are put in a small cup which is a heating element attached to a car battery. The heated element warms the crystals which vapourise. Once vapourisation has started the heated cup is whisked through the hive entrance and the oxalic acid vapours drift through the hive knocking out the phoretic varroa mites (attached to the bees' bodies). This only takes a few minutes until all the crystals are vapourised. Oxalic acid treatment for varroa should only be used during broodless periods in the hives which is about December through to early January.



In June the bees were regularly fed by Custodians.

In early July all the hives were reinspected by the Bee Inspector and the standstill order was lifted. Bee Basic exams then took place with 6 candidates successfully taking the exam

At its peak in August the Apiary had 10 colonies including one from Graham Pearson who had left the Association his colony after he died.

The apiary was treated with MAQS for varroa in late September.

Mouse guards and woodpecker protection were put on in October, and the apiary was closed to members for the season. The hives were treated with an oxalic acid vapouriser in December (see article below)

We are taking 8 colonies into winter.

A thank you to all the custodians for their hard work, and a big thank you to Chris and Peter for each completing 3 years as a Custodian.

Rowan Roberts

EDUCATION SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Association started the 2021 education programme with the New Beekeepers' Course. This year however, due to Covid, all the sessions were conducted over zoom.

25 people became associate members, but numbers were increased to over 40 by the previous year's intake, as their course had been cut short by COVID and they were invited to the talks and the practical sessions they had missed.

Tom Blackburn gave an overview of beekeeping, and the other trainers were Brian Herbert, Hilary Hayward and, David Parkinson and Elizabeth Eveleigh. Percy and Shelagh Phelps did a splendid job of hosting zoom and managing the question-and-answer sessions. The face-to-face interaction between established members and the new beekeepers was missed but a positive note was not having to face the winter weather on a Sunday afternoon!

The practical stage of the course was affected by COVID rule of 6 regulations leading to the formation of eight groups of five each led by an experienced beekeeper, namely, Tom, Richard Williams, Brian, Graham Rowden, Peter Reader, Hilary, David, Brad Davis and me. This took place at the Association Apiary and was organized by Rowan Roberts and the custodians who demonstrated the building of frames, hive parts and uses, shook swarm and Bailey comb change techniques and much more. Feedback from students was very positive although colony inspection was difficult and limited to once every two weeks per group due to the adverse weather.

Sadly, at the beginning of May, an outbreak of European Foul Brood, EFB, was confirmed in one colony and the Apiary was put under a standstill order for 6 weeks. The 6 people that had shown interest in doing the Bee Basic Assessment and attended 3 study sessions before the 2020 lock down, continued with zoom meetings to complete the topics of the Bee Basic syllabus led by Brad. This included practical sessions at his own apiary due to our standstill. The candidates did their bit, by all passing the assessment.....congratulations to all.

Meanwhile, there were three candidates for the Bee Health certificate requiring two hives each for the assessment and an Association Apiary that was under a standstill order. Other local Associations all had their own problems with colony availability, due to poor colony build up (weather) and EFB (Farnham). Luckily, Lorraine Ragosa-Rout of Surrey Bees kindly made available suitable hives and all the equipment, without which the assessments would have been impossible. The good news - the candidates all passed.

We had two winter talks:

25th October - End of season review lead by Graham and including topics ranging from communication to members about events etc, to advice on overwintering hives and nucs.

27th November – Queen rearing by Brad giving very helpful information to encourage local queen rearing rather than importing.

Anne-Chantal Ballard

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

The library continues to be run by Martin Smyth and we have purchased 8 new books in 2021. The library is generally taken along to all physical PDBKA meetings and kept at the Apiary during the Summer opening months for anyone attending to take out and also return books. During Winter months they are dry-stored and an audit completed ready for the following year. The library listing can be found on our web site located here: [Library – Petersfield and District Beekeepers Association \(petersfieldbeekeepers.org.uk\)](http://Library – Petersfield and District Beekeepers Association (petersfieldbeekeepers.org.uk)).

There are a large number of library books from the PDBKA library checked out to members. There has never been a timescale for lending, but please can members that have finished with library books, kindly return them to the PDBKA librarian (Martin Smyth) in the coming months, at meetings or arrange directly with Martin thelibrarian.pbka@gmail.com

Martin Smyth

NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT

Five PDBKA Newsletters were distributed to Members in 2021. The decision was made to produce fewer but slightly more substantial Newsletters each year. These will be published to reflect the busier times during our beekeeping year and to coincide with major events in the Association's calendar such as the AGM and the Honey Show.

I am, as always, very grateful to those who send me photographs and articles for inclusion in the Newsletter.

Helen de Peyrecave



"That is the direction we have to take"...he knew the road by some beehives in the trees, too high, unfortunately, for us to reach. ...In Poland, Lithuania and a part of Russia, large trees are chosen; and about ten feet from the ground a hole about a foot deep and wide is made. Here the bees deposit their honey, and often it is stolen by the bears, who are very numerous in these forests, and very greedy. Thus, the hives frequently become traps to take them."

from **The Retreat From Moscow 1812 - 1813** The Memoirs of Sergeant Bourgogne.

It's probably fair to say that most beekeepers are becoming more aware of the place honeybees occupy within the wider context of our native pollinators and other wildlife. With that in mind, I hope the following items may be of interest.

RECORDING GARDEN WILDLIFE IN RAKE: 2021

As the old year ends and we prepare for the new it seems like a perfect time to assess my records for 2021. I have been writing down in a notebook all the different animals, birds and insects that I can identify in the garden, so just the land between the borders, and in the air above. My garden is long and thin, going down a steep south east facing slope with acid soil. It is surrounded by gardens, woods and heathland. I am not an expert, and many of these identifications are with a field guide and hope. A camera and the internet do help.

So, in no particular order:

Birds – 23 varieties have landed and a further 10 have been seen or heard. I may have never seen a cuckoo but get very excited when I hear one. The nightjars call over a large range but if I can hear it as I sit out in the evening in the garden it counts. And I expect that having the raven land to look at me could be worrying.

Butterflies - My small wildflower (weed) rich non-lawn and flower beds have drawn in 20 species which is remarkable to me. Moths are beyond me. I have a book, and there are pages and pages of brown winged things.

Bumblebees – Using my FSC sheet and the internet with a photo, I have identified 7 species feeding in the garden. Solitary bees look remarkably similar, but the block of oak drilled with holes of different sizes has leaf cutters and mason bees, while the potter wasp has chosen to fill the holes with caterpillars as her offspring's food. I also watched parasitic and cuckoo raiders but have no chance of identification for those, they go too fast.

Amphibians – frogs, toads, newts and slow worms enjoyed the compost heap, and the grass snake laid her eggs for me to find in the autumn.

Bats – This year I treated myself to a bat detector as all I can do is see a flash of black in the gloom. The Echo Touch 2 identified 11 species of bat, mainly in the front garden by the road and street lights. I find this hard to believe, but if the dark skies and varied woods, heaths and ponds can't support these bats few other places can. My neighbours' large old houses are probably helping but I won't tell them that.

I am trying to garden for wildlife; mow the grass only a few times a year, never use pesticides and encourage the weeds, but none of these species came into existence because of me. They were all there already. I just looked for them and wrote down what I saw. I would encourage you all to do the same. It is amazing what we have here and now. All it takes is a notebook or piece of paper you won't lose, and to remember to write down what you see. The creatures I have seen are not exotic, I just had never realised how many there were.

Elizabeth Eveleigh

GUILDFORD BEEKEEPERS CHRISTMAS LECTURE: DAVE GOULSON



Being a bit of a fangirl and having just read Prof Goulson's recent book, "*Silent Earth: averting the insect apocalypse*" (and having hardly been out for years) I thoroughly enjoyed this lecture.

Professor Goulson gave a compelling account of the importance of insects to every aspect of life on earth, supported by some astonishing and beautiful photographs, before presenting the shocking evidence for the accelerating decline in insect numbers, particularly since WWII. Causes include: habitat loss, agricultural chemical use, "prairie farming", light pollution, importation of non-native species and climate change.

The solutions he proposes requires a radical overhaul of our food systems at the level of international and national agricultural policy. However, this is unlikely to happen without a change in behaviour and attitude at the level of the individual. Professor Goulson stresses that we can each have an impact on the biodiversity of our environment; we can support sustainable agriculture by stopping the disgraceful waste of food, eating less red meat and buying locally produced food with minimal packaging.

Prof Goulson also pointed out that beekeepers must be mindful that our honeybees' foraging activities have an impact on the availability of food to other insect species. Food for thought...

Helen de Peyrecave

BUMBLEBEES HAVE SMELLY FEET

The first PDBKA meeting of 2022 was via zoom. Gill Perkins, CEO of the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, joined us to talk about "The Plight of the bumblebee". Gill acknowledged that, as beekeepers, we are aware of the importance of pollination to our lives and the importance of all bees in that process but she suggested that the 24 species of native bumblebees have the edge on the honeybee where efficiency and industry are concerned.

Able to work in cooler temperatures than honeybees, bumblebees rise earlier in the year and earlier in the day; With longer tongues and the ability to vibrate their bodies they can reach pollen honeybees can't enabling them to work horticultural crops unattractive to honeybeesand, to save their fellows visiting flowers already stripped of their food prize, they leave a 'footprint' scent on each flower visited.

Gill encouraged us to do two things to help the bumblebee:

- Grow nut trees to encourage mice and voles, abandoned mouse holes being the perfect bumblebee home. Apparently, early in the Spring when emerging from hibernation, the queens can sniff out a mouse hole.
- Talk to children about bees and pollination.

The session was videoed and will be on the PDBKA Website. There is a link to the website at the bottom of every page in this Newsletter.

Pippa Barker

Your Committee for 2021/2

Chairman: **Graham Rowden**
Honorary Secretary: **Melanie Espin 01730 823405 petersfieldbees@gmail.com**
Hon Treasurer/Membership Secretary: **Ian Neilson 01428 643954 Treasurerpetersfieldbees@gmail.com**
Committee Members: **Anne Chantal Ballard (Education), Elizabeth Eveleigh (Minutes sec), David Parkinson (Honey Show Mngr), Martin Smyth, Ali Hollinbery, Pippa Barker**
Apiary Custodians: **Rowan Roberts, Peter Reader, Chris Clark, Dean Gregory, Ali Hollinbery**
Librarian: **Martin Smyth**
Newsletter Editor: **Helen de Peyrecave depeyrecave@gmail.com 01420 588675**

NOMINATION FORM

Please support PDBKA by offering your help as a Committee Member or by encouraging another member to do so.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING -12th February 2022

Nomination Form

I wish to nominate the following member to become a member of the committee of the Petersfield and District Beekeepers Association. My nominee has agreed that his/her name may be submitted.

Nominee _____ (please print)

Signature of Nominee _____

Signature of proposer _____ date _____

(Please print your name here) _____

Send nominations to: Mel Espin, 4 Barrow Hill Cottages, Ramsdean, Petersfield, GU32 1RP to arrive NO LATER THAN 10 th February 2022

Or. By e-mail to Melanie.espin@btinternet.com