

# the Petersfield Beekeeper

Notice is hereby given to all members that  
the  
82nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
of the  
Petersfield and District Beekeeping Association  
will be held on  
Saturday 11 th February 2023 at 7.30pm  
at the  
Petersfield Community Centre, Love Lane, Petersfield, GU31 4BW

YOUR PDBKA COMMITTEE	
Hilary Hayward	Chair
Ian Neilson	Treasurer
Anne Ballard	Education Officer
Ali Hollingbery	Publicity Officer
Martin Smyth	Events Coordinator/Librarian/Safeguarding
Peter Reader	Custodian Coordinator
Brad Davis	Training/Basic Assessment
David Parkinson	Honey Show Manager/Constitution

APIARY CUSTODIANS	
David Parkinson	Head Custodian
Ali Hollingbery	
Dean Gregory	
Peter Reader	
Derek Beesley	
Phil Gurney	
James Crawford	

Swarm Coordinator: Rowan Roberts 07531 901767  
Newsletter Editor: Helen de Peyrecave depeyrecave@gmail.com

**BEGINNERS COURSE** Sunday 19 February, 26 February, 5 March, 12 March, 26 March at 1:30pm at Petersfield Community Centre.

**APIARY CLEAN-UP DAY** 2nd April.

**APIARY OPENING** 16th April (weather permitting).

## AGENDA

1. Present
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Approval of the Minutes of the 81st Annual General Meeting
4. Matters Arising from the 81st Annual General Meeting
5. Chair's Report
6. Treasurer's Report and Accounts
  - to adopt a new Junior membership fee of £9.50
  - Approval of 2023 membership fees
7. Education Report
8. Apiary Custodians' Report
9. Honey Show Report
10. Events Report
11. Librarian's and Newsletter Report
12. Election of Officers
  - a. Chair
  - b. Treasurer
  - c. Secretary
13. Election of the Committee
  - a. Education
  - b. Honey Show
  - c. Events
  - d. Apiary Custodian Representative
  - e. General Association Activities
14. Appointment of Delegates to the National Honey Show
15. Appointment of Delegates to the Hampshire Beekeepers Association
16. Date of the next PDBKA Honey Show
17. Presentation of BBKA Certificates
18. Presentation of Tresallier Unsung Hero Award
19. Close of Meeting to be followed by Talk by David Parkinson on 2023 Plans for the Apiary

## Minutes of the 81<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting

Held by Zoom at 7.30pm on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2022

### Present:

Tom Blackburn            President  
Graham Rowden        Chairman  
Ian Neilson              Treasurer

**Committee:** Anne Chantal Ballard, Pippa Barker, Hilary Hayward, Ali Hollingbery, David Parkinson and Martin Smyth.

**Members:** Derek Beesley, Chris Clark, Brad Davis, Theresa Kennedy, Neil Mariner, Nick Norman and Peter Reader

The Chairman opened the annual general meeting by welcoming all those present and attending the meeting. All members of the Petersfield and District Association ("PDBKA") entitled to attend and vote at a general meeting of PDBKA had been given the requisite notice of 14 days for the annual general meeting. The Secretary had not received any Proxy forms from members unable to attend the annual general meeting. The Chairman noted that a quorum of 10 members was present in accordance with the PDBKA Constitution.

### 1. Apologies For Absence

Apologies for absence were received from the following members Mel Espin, Elizabeth Eveleigh and Richard Williams.

### 2. Approval of the Minutes of the 80<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

The Minutes of the 80<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting having previously been circulated to all the members were hereby approved by the meeting as a true and accurate record of the annual general meeting held on the 6 February 2021.

### 3. Matters Arising for the last Annual General Meeting Minutes

There were no matters arising or any questions from members concerning the minutes for the 80<sup>th</sup> annual general meeting.

### 4. Annual Report by the Chairman

4.1. The Chairman's Report had been circulated to the members before the meeting and was taken as read.

- 4.2. In the Chairman's report he had outlined that it had been a difficult and unusual year for beekeeping. The Government restriction imposed to control the Covid-19 pandemic and then the infection of European foul brood in the Apiary with consequent standstill order issued by the bee inspector. The weather had also not been good resulting in a poor honey crop.
- 4.3. The Chairman thanked all those members who had contributed, during the year to keep the Association functioning despite the difficulties during the year. He also thanked Pippa Barker and Elizabeth Eveleigh for their past years of service to the Association. They had both decided not to stand for re-election to the Committee this year.
- 4.4. Most of the training had been given online due to Apiary and winter meetings in person being cancelled due to the restrictions of the pandemic. We look forward to a better season in 2022.
- 4.5. In conclusion the Chairman stated that he would not be standing for re-election.

## **5. Treasures Report and Accounts**

- 5.1. The Report and Accounts had been circulated to all members for the year ending 31 December 2021. The Association has increased its reserves during the year from £12,597 to £13,967 despite the pandemic. The surplus income amounted to £1,370 this did however include a gift aid claim of £800. A donation of £310 collected for the BBKA research fund was also paid.
- 5.2. There was an increase in members from 179 to 193 during the year of which 120 were registered members.
- 5.3. A new BBKA membership online renewal system was implemented during the year. The BBKA fees had increased from £19 to £21 but the BDI insurance remained the same. HBA had re-introduced a levy of £5 per member. These increases amount to an additional £7 per registered member.
- 5.4. The treasurer recommends that the PDBKA fees are not increased this year and remain at £8.50 per member.

## **6. Education Report**

- 6.1. The Education report had been circulated to the members.

- 6.2. The training for new beekeepers had been conducted by zoom due the restrictions imposed by the pandemic. There were 25 new trainees attending the training course. For the practical sessions, the trainees were organised into 8 groups of 5. This include trainees from the previous year as they had not been able to complete their training due the pandemic. Unfortunately training during 2021 was not able to conclude as there was an outbreak of EFB at the Apiary and a standstill order was imposed for 6 weeks.
- 6.3. Bee basic training was undertaken by zoom and at an external Apiary. Bee Health Certificate course was also a combined zoom sessions and practical sessions courtesy of Surrey Bees Training Apiary.
- 6.4. There were two winter session on overwintering hives and local queen rearing to avoid importing bees.

## 7. Honey Show Report

- 7.1. The Honey Show for the 79<sup>th</sup> year was held in the Rake Village Hall. Last year it was not possible to hold the Honey Show due to the restrictions and for the protection of our members. It was decided that due to the uncertainty of holding a Honey Show an informal show should be created for members only. This was mainly to keep numbers to a reasonable level. Many members unfortunately still stayed away.
- 7.2. The honey crop this year was very small. It had not been anticipated that a large number of colonies would have little or no Honey, except minimal amounts for the colony's day to day. The result was that the number of entries into the Honey classes was considerably reduced to less than 25% of the number of entries in the 2019 Honey Show.
- 7.3. Although we had planned the Honey Show it was always uncertain whether it could be held, which made it difficult to plan to far ahead and book Judges. It was decided to hold an inhouse event.
- 7.4. The Judging was divided into categories and judged by members that had the requisite knowledge to judge the category and they were as follows:

Brad Davis - Honey, Wax and Mead,

Alison Turner – Confectionery.

Melanie Espin – Other Hive Products.

Chris Clark – Forage and Anatomy.

## **8. Newsletter Editors Report**

- 8.1. Five Newsletters were distributed to Members in 2021, but with a slightly more substantial content. The Newsletters were published to reflect and to coincide with the major events in the Association's calendar such as the AGM and the Honey Show.

## **9. Librarians Report**

- 9.1. During the year, the library was improved by the addition of 8 new books. During the year, the library had been available at all Apiary meetings. During the winter months the library is stored in a dry place and an audit completed of the books. It was established by the audit that a large number of books had been taken out by members and not returned. This was of some concern as it denied the use of these books to other members. The librarian requested that these books be returned.

## **10. Apiary Custodians Report**

- 10.1. The season started with 4 colonies having lost 4 during the winter. To increase the stock 3 additional colonies were purchased from the University of Surrey. The Apiary was opened on the 11 April 2021 but due to Covid restrictions beekeepers were divided into small groups and sessions were held on Sundays and Wednesdays.
- 10.2. In mid-May EFB was discovered to have infected the double queen rearing colony and a standstill order was issued by the Bee Inspector. The infected colony was destroyed, and hive parts burnt. The remainder of the colonies were shook-swarmed. The Bee Inspector re-examined the colonies in early July and the standstill order was removed.
- 10.3. In August there were 10 colonies including 1 donated from a deceased member. All colonies were treated for varroa with MAQS in September and again in December with Oxalic acid. The season finished with 8 colonies to overwinter.

## **11. Election of the President**

- 11.1. The current President Tom Blackburn indicated that he would stand again and was duly proposed by Anne Chantal Ballard and seconded by Pippa Barker. The meeting unanimously elected Tom Blackburn as the President for the next year.

## **12. Election of Officers**

- 12.1. The following officers were to be elected in accordance with the Associations Constitution:

- (i). Chairman – The current Chairman Graham Rowden had indicated that he would not be standing for election this year. Hilary Hayward had been nominated to stand as Chairperson and was duly proposed by David Parkinson and seconded by Martin Smyth. The Meeting unanimously elected Hilary Hayward as the Chair.
  
- (ii). Honorary Secretary – The current Secretary Melanie Espin had indicated that she would stand for re-election and was duly proposed by David Parkinson and seconded by Pippa Barker. The Meeting unanimously elected Melanie Espin as the Secretary.
  
- (iii). Honorary Treasurer - The current Treasurer Ian Neilson had indicated that he would stand for re-election and was duly proposed by Hilary Hayward and seconded by Ann Chantal Ballard. The Meeting unanimously elected Ian Neilson as the Treasurer.

### **13. Election of the Committee**

13.1. The following members had been duly nominated and consented to be Trustees were proposed to be appointed as members of the Committee and Trustees of the Association.:

- (i). Ann Chantal Ballard – Education – willing to be re-elected.
- (ii). David Parkinson – Honey Show – willing to be re-elected.
- (iii). Martin Smyth – Librarian – willing to be re-elected.
- (iv). Ali Hollingbery – Publicity - willing to be elected.
- (v). Peter Reader – Apiary Custodian - willing to be elected.
- (vi). Bard Davis – Education/Training - willing to be elected.

13.2. The above members were duly proposed by Pippa Barker and seconded by Graham Rowden to be appointed as members of the Committee. The meeting unanimously elected the above members listed above in 13.1 to be appointed to the Committee.

### **14. Appointment of Delegates to the National Honey Show**

14.1. The current delegates to the National Honey Show were Martin Smyth and David Parkinson. They had both indicated their willingness to be re-elected and the Meeting duly re-elected them as Associations representatives to National Honey Show.

### **15. Appointment of Delegates to Hampshire Beekeepers Association**

15.1. The current delegates to the Hampshire Beekeepers Association were Martin Smyth, Tom Blackburn and Pippa Barker. They had all indicated their willingness to be re-elected and the Meeting duly re-elected them as the Association's representatives to Hampshire Beekeepers Association.

#### 16. Date of the next PDBcKA Honey Show

16.1. The next Honey Show will be held on the 10 September 2022.

#### 17. Approval of PDBKA fees payable of 2022

17.1. It was agreed that the fees for 2022 would be as follows:

PDBKA Membership Categories 2022	Subscription:	Registered	Partner	Country	Associate	Family
<b>Online Renewal Item</b>	<b>Mapped Payment Item</b>					
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					
	<b>Payment Due:</b>	<b>£36.50</b>	<b>£29.00</b>	<b>£23.50</b>	<b>£8.50</b>	<b>£2.00</b>
	2021-	29.50	23.00	18.00	8.50	2.00

#### 18. Presentation of Tresallier Unsung Hero Award.

18.1. This was awarded to Rowan Roberts for his outstanding work in managing the Apiary in a difficult period.

19. The Chairman stated that all the business set out in the Notice to the meeting had been concluded and declared the meeting closed at 8.10pm.

## REPORTS

*Below are the Reports from the Officers and Committee of the Association*

### Chair's Report

We started the year of 2022 emerging from the Covid lockdowns with half of our new Beginners' Beekeeping Course starting on Zoom and finishing at the Petersfield Community Centre.

The Apiary had been kept running all through the lockdowns of 2021 and the beginning of 2022 gave us the opportunity to refresh and review Apiary activities post-Covid. Neil Mariner



was appointed Head Custodian and tasked with developing the Apiary to accommodate Anne Ballard's ambitious education programme for all levels of beekeeping.

The first major job of the season was to clear out the container where all the Apiary equipment is stored and to compile an inventory. 15 volunteers turned up on a bright cold but (thankfully) dry Saturday and worked tirelessly to empty the Container, to sort out useable equipment, categorise and return to the container.

Once the warm weather arrived the new beginner beekeepers were introduced to the Apiary and beekeeping activities. Alongside the beginners, the BBKA Basic Assessment course run by Brad Davis, was set up at the Apiary. In May the Apiary was open to all members every Sunday and Wednesday throughout the season.

The Apiary's beekeeping activities were kept alive and buzzing over the season by our wonderful Custodians: Peter Reader, Dean Gregory, Ali Hollingbury, Phil Gurney and Derek Beesley. The Custodians help to run the apiary in the background preparing the hives for the various educational courses and assessments.

My thanks must also go to Helen de Peyrecave who regularly produces the beautifully designed newsletter containing all the news and gossip of the Association. We are always in need of articles and contributions etc, please email me with suggestions: [petersfieldapiary@gmail.com](mailto:petersfieldapiary@gmail.com)

Throughout the spring and summer we had an extensive events programme and some of you would have seen our stand at various local fairs. Events take a lot of hard work and volunteers are always needed in pitching and striking our tents plus help to run the stand and meet the general public who are always interested in bees. Our events were expertly run by Martin Smyth who is stepping down from the committee but has agreed to help as part of an events team. I'm also very grateful and thankful for Martin's useful IT skills in helping set up useful Google pages for the Committee and Custodians.

Stepping down also is Mel Espin and Ali Hollingbery Mel has acted as Secretary to the Association for a number of years. Thank you, Mel, for your hard work over the years and for helping to run several Honey Extraction Days plus events. Ali has acted as Custodian and a Committee member for a few years. Ali has contributed in no small way to our publicity and marketing activities. Ali will be staying on as Custodian.

Neil Mariner will be stepping down as Head Custodian but will remain as a Custodian to help our replacement David Parkinson a long- serving Committee member. Thank you both for your continuing commitment to the Association.

To reflect the observations of one of our Custodian's, Peter Reader, the attendance at the Apiary was down quite considerably compared to previous pre-Covid years. Petersfield is not unique in these circumstances as, on speaking to other surrounding local beekeeping associations, attendances at apiary activities were down in numbers. A number of factors could be at play; emerging from lockdowns and participants slowly getting use to going out again, the availability of online learning and easy access to online resources and people were busy with other activities that they were not able to enjoy during lockdown. This is where I wish to emphasise with beekeeping nothing beats hands on experience and it takes a number of years to become a competent beekeeper. Just looking at your own one or two hives does not contribute greatly to your experience. This is only gained by looking at numerous hives. Beekeeping can go horribly wrong which can in some circumstances be dangerous to yourself, family and neighbours and, if disease related, to other nearby beekeepers. We received a few anxious and worried calls during the season.

David Parkinson with the Custodians has produced a solid beekeeping programme taking all levels of beekeepers throughout the 2023 season, weather permitting of course. The Apiary is a fantastic resource and offers a very practical learning opportunity and a ringside view into the wonderful world of beekeeping.

Look forward to seeing you at the Apiary.

**Hilary Hayward**, Chair

### **Honey Show Manager's Report**

The Honey Show for the 80th year was held at Sky Park Farm in the Education Centre. The Honey Show had to be postponed, from the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2022 to the 16<sup>th</sup> October 2022; out of respect following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. A few of the original exhibitors were unable to exhibit at the later date due to holidays and other commitments. Our President Tom Blackburn very kindly came along to present the Trophies despite another engagement. Victoria Noonan who was going to present the Trophies was indisposed having just given birth to a new son. To award the Blue Ribbon the National Honey Show ("NHS") require a minimum of 100 entries in the honey, wax, confectionery, and hive products classes. On the Saturday we only had 95 entries. Two members had withdrawn 16 entries, subsequently one of these members was able to enter 6 exhibits. Together with other members making additional entries we eventually had 118 qualifying entries for the Blue Ribbon. We were then entitled to award the Blue Ribbon to Brad Davis for his Class 13 entry. It may have been a bit difficult if we had not had the qualifying entries as along with Hazel Blackburn the NHS Judge was a Trainee NHS Judge Claire O'Brien who is required to Judge at Blue Ribbon shows as part of her qualification. It may not be known but NHS Judges are becoming a rare breed these days and it essential that we assist/contribute in training new HHS Judges.

There were 37 separate show classes for members to enter and only 3 classes had no entries, Class 19 Novice class block of wax, Class 42 six honey cookies and Class 53 wax wraps. Entries for Classes 50 to 53 other hive products were consistent with previous years, but members are not expanding their exhibits beyond the traditional honey and wax classes. There was only 1 entry in Class 41 honey dressing which was disappointing. As reflected in the increase honey yields this year there were three times the number of entries in the honey classes.

The Show classes remained in a simplified format and the open and members classes continued to be integrated, which eliminated duplication. The main reason being to encourage non-members to enter the honey show. This year there were several non-compliant honey jars. The judge marks these down despite the quality of the contents, it is essential to comply with Schedule to win in the Class.

As a part of the education process of the Association the two classes for forage and anatomy were added last year. It has become increasingly important these days that we ensure there is sufficient forage existing around our Apiaries to feed our bees. It is important that we understand which are suitable forage plants for bees. To better understand bees a basic knowledge of their anatomy is useful to as to how they collect and carry nectar, pollen and propolis, also the foods and process of feeding larvae.

The interest in Classes 50 to 53, Other hive products has become increasingly popular in recent years so it is surprising that there was not a greater number of entries. These Classes which include polish, lip balm, hand cleanser and wax wraps, are included because not all members have enough honey or wax to enter the other classes.

It was disappointing that not more members of the public came to the Honey Show. As I understand from Sky Park there were quite a few enquiries on the original date but as I discovered the new date not widely known nor publicised on Sky Park website.

There were entries from only 20 members (16 in 2021) entered the Show out of a membership of about 180 members. A considerable amount of work goes into preparation for the Honey Show, and it is an opportunity for members to show their exhibits and have them professionally judged to ensure that they are of good and consistent quality and in addition that our honey is suitable for sale.

**David Parkinson**

A summary of the entries in the Honey Show were as follows:

	2022	2021	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Honey Classes	61	22	100	116	66	104	91
Wax Classes	23	14	8	9	15	6	4
Confectionery Classes	9	16	23	30	15	29	30
Mead Classes	8	4	5	9	4	7	8
Hive Products	9	9	0	0	0	0	0
Novice Classes	8	5	5	9	3	2	8
Display Class	12	23	29	23	14	12	12
Total Entries	130	93	170	196	117	160	153

<b>Trophy</b>	<b>Awarded</b>
The Cocke Trophy	Brad Davis
The Steep Trophy	Brad Davis
The Kathleen Marriage Trophy	Brad Davis
The Jack Dennis Trophy	Richard Brewer
The Lady Tollemache Trophy	Brad Davis
The Sir Humphrey Tollemache Trophy	Graham Rowden
The Sid Trenchard Memorial Trophy	Brad Davis
The Rose Tankard	Brad Davis
The Trevor Stubbs Memorial Trophy	Jo Bennett/ Monty Taplin
The Cole Platter	Elizabeth Eveleigh
The Mount Pleasant Trophy	Peter Reader
The Rogate Trophy	Ali Hollingbery
Blue Ribbon	Brad Davis

**Apiary Custodians Report**

The 2022 season saw a more structured approach than in the past with the arrival of Neil Mariner as Apiary Manager. The aim was to ensure that we went into winter with a healthy number of colonies sufficient for the needs of a training apiary. By the end of the season, we had successfully expanded from 6 colonies to 14 for overwintering. Like all good beekeepers, we are currently monitoring feed levels and have also oxalic acid vapourised them to treat for varroa.

The increase in colonies was achieved through a variety of methods including creating nucs as a swarm prevention technique, a Demaree split, Miller method, Morris board and uniting, whilst also culling weaker colonies (we had one nuc with Chronic Bee Paralysis Virus). We also successfully populated the Top Bar Hive which drew much interest because of its simplicity and the ability to see bees drawing their own comb from scratch. We also now have one WBC hive.

Neil cajoled us into using cloud-based record keeping so that all custodians could see what was happening with our colonies and what the plan was at any one time. Additionally, the container was cleared out, catalogued and reorganised so we knew what inventory was needed to accommodate the expansion of apiary. Dean worked hard to expand the apiary footprint by chopping back the bracken to create desperately needed space – an ongoing task.

Jo Wade was also regularly on hand to demonstrate various practical construction techniques, from assembling hive parts for beginners, to making a DIY solar wax melter.

*With all this work and beekeeping techniques on display during the summer, it was sad that attendance was so low, to the point where Custodians often outnumbered attendees on a Sunday. This was a missed opportunity for those members looking to further (or reinforce) their knowledge.*

**Peter Reader**

### Education Secretary's Report

The Association started the 2022 education programme with the New Beekeepers' Course. This year, three of the sessions were conducted over Zoom with Percy and Shelagh Phelps hosting and for the last two, we returned to Petersfield Community Centre.

Many thanks go to our trainers, Tom, Hilary, Brian, Rowan, Elizabeth and Richard. They all give very generously of their time and produce very useful talks. Thanks too are due to the 'chatterers' and tea makers who fielded all sorts of questions from new beekeepers.

The practical stage of the course was attended by 19 people in four groups, each led by experienced beekeepers, namely, Tom, Richard, Brian, Graham and Peter. This took place at the Association Apiary and was organized by Neil Mariner, the Apiary Manager 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 sometimes difficult due to the adverse weather.

**Bee Basic** Facilitator - Brad zoom coordinator - Percy  
8 members attended on a regular basis and four took and passed the Bee Basic assessment, two of whom gained credits.

**Bee Health** 4 signed up, attending study sessions and 3 took and passed the assessment. Congratulations to all who passed the assessments and to those that followed the Bee Basic course as a refresher. The object of all these courses is to help everyone to become better beekeepers. As the season progressed, Neil Mariner and the team of custodians, Peter, Dean, Ali, Phil and Derek along with experienced beekeepers spent their Sunday afternoons inspecting the Association hives, explaining what was happening and how to care for bees to the beginners and novices. There was a lot of hands-on experience for everyone. Thank you to Neil and all the custodians who gave so generously of their time to the great benefit of all in the Association.

**Improvers** Sunday demos organised by Neil and the custodians included shook swarm, swarm control, Bailey comb change and disease inspections. These were led by various Association members such as Hilary, Brad, Brian, Richard, the custodians and others.

**Bee Shed** Practical demonstrations led by Jo Wade included the construction of a solar extractor and Bailey eke/entrance.

**Winter events** End of season review led by Brad  
Swarm management by Brian  
Skep workshop led by Louise Arthur and Martin

### Plans for 2023

Courses for beginners, novices and improvers as in previous years. Additionally, customized courses for juniors with their parent(s) and for those with distancing requirements, with the proviso that we can expand the number of experienced beekeepers willing to give five days of their time to leading a course.

**Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time to pass on knowledge and experience in the art of beekeeping.**

A-C Ballard

## PDBKA Events Report

The PDBKA Events Team attended some 13 shows in 2022. Many thanks to those that helped out both onsite and all the preparatory work too, with candle rolling prep, information board prep, dummy hive repair work, marquee and gazebo prep, observation hive prep work, Sumup machine, cash float prep, new leaflets and trailer transportation. This involved a lot of work for each show, so many thanks.

The shows that we attended were:

- Greatham Environment Day
- Petersfield Phsyhic Garden – Pollinator Day
- Fernhurst Revels
- Holme Primary School Summer Fair
- Petersfield Eco Fair (Petersfield Heath)
- Bordon Fun Day
- South Down Show (2 Day Event)
- Buriton Show
- Hambledon Village Show
- PDBKA Honey Show
- Hampshire Country Sports Day
- Headley Village Fete
- Blackmoor Apple Day

The new Sumup machine has worked well, taking credit and debit card transactions for both honey and candle rolling. A must for the modern day, with many other stallholders also using this service these days. The transactions can easily be seen, including the days takings at the end of the event. Battery charging is key along with good signal coverage for the machine, which is a standalone device. The new PDBKA leaflets and business cards that were produced this year are excellent and a vast improvement from our old ones, which had become almost a historical record.



In 2023 we will be looking at further improvements such as reviewing the gazebo and potential feather flags for the events. We will also review and possibly start to use an online volunteer response form, whereby for each event, a list of items that need doing before and on the days are created and helpers can sign up for, so that we all know what each of us are doing and that we have plenty of helpers to share the fun of the events.

The event days are always great fun, with plenty to see and do, as well as helping out, discussing bees and anything associated.

I'm sure 2023 will be another super events year.

**Martin Smyth**

### Publicity

PR provided for events such as the Pollinator Day, Honey Show and for the New Members' talks. Working with members Lillie Weaver and Nick Norman new information cards and business cards have been designed and printed, primarily aimed at the shows. Many thanks to both - particularly to Lillie for her brilliant artistic and design input! We are in the middle of re-designing the honey labels for the PDBKA honey.

### Asian Hornets

The Association Apiary was 'trapped' in early spring to check for the presence of any emerging foundress Queens. At this time of the year we used a sweet solution based on apple juice as emerging Queens need to feed quickly following winter hibernation. The traps were adapted to ensure that bi-catch did not drown and the traps checked daily to release this bi-catch (mostly slugs and tiny flies!) In the autumn the Apiary was monitored visually over a number of weeks for the presence of Asian Hornets hawking in front of the hives.

In line with BBKA recommendations, the association has an Asian Hornet Action Team who will assist the National Bee Unit and Bee Inspectors in the event of any Asian Hornets being found in our area or neighbouring vicinities. The team of Mel Espin, Martin Smyth, Rowan Roberts and Ali Hollingbery also ensure that the apiary is regularly checked or monitored for Asian Hornets at critical times of the year, and helps provide education and publicity services on Asian Hornets to the other members. There is a wider group of eight ("REACT") who have also offered to provide "boots on the ground" in the case of any local Asian Hornet sightings to help the National Bee Unit. If anyone is interested in finding out more about Asian Hornets or offering their assistance with the groups, please contact Ali on [alihbery@googlemail.com](mailto:alihbery@googlemail.com)

Nationally in 2022, there were 2 confirmed sightings of Asian Hornets in the UK - one single hornet in Felixstowe, Suffolk in April and hornets and a nest in Rayleigh, Essex in September. This brings the total of confirmed sightings in the UK to 23 since 2016.

**Ali Hollingbery**