

Brighton & Lewes Beekeepers



A DIVISION OF THE SUSSEX BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2025

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EDITORIAL



Honey judge Gerald Legg at work.

What an AGM and Honey Show! It was—in my opinion—a great evening, run smoothly by our outgoing Meetings Secretary Nigel Kermodé, and Bob Curtis who managed the complexities of the Honey Show as if he'd done it dozens of times before. Which of course, he has. Big

thanks are due to both men.

We saw BBKA education certificates being awarded to successful candidates by our estimable Training Co-ordinator Jude New who, in addition to running our education programme, has now taken on the role of Meetings Secretary, alongside new committee member Joy Garnsey.

There were other changes too, but you'll have to read about those in our AGM/Honey Show report inside. In addition to those changes, the Honey Show saw some great entries, with stunning photos, a couple of excellent and inventive gadgets, plus honey cakes and products of the hive galore. Well done everybody! Competition results and photos are on [page 4](#) onwards.

Manek Dubash, Editor

Winter meetings

Date	Topic
Wednesday 19 Mar	The role of drones and drone congregation areas, by Stephen Fleming
Wednesday 16 April	The special language of bees, by Margaret Murdin

All meetings are LIVE and start at 19.15 for 19.30 at Eastgate Baptist Church Hall, Lewes BN7 2LR
 Next Bee Chat: see social media

Spring/summer meetings

Date	Event	Location
Saturday 17 May	Sussex BKA Bee Market	Uckfield College
Sunday 22 June	Out-apiary meeting with Jeff Rodrigues	Rottingdean Apiary

Other events will be added as we get nearer the time. The season starts here!

EVENTS

- Massive AGM & Honey Show reportback!
- See this and back page for details

NEXT MONTH

- Seasonal hints and tips
- Asian hornet update
- News news news!
- Latest events
- Meetings & more

SHARE YOUR PHOTOS & STORIES

Do you have interesting photos or video links you'd like to share? Or an insight from your beekeeping that would could enhance the hobby for others? Do you have skills that could be useful to other members? Anything else you'd like to see in this newsletter?

Ideas and contributions welcome; all contact details are on the back page.

ONLINE

- [B&L website](#)
- [Facebook group](#)



QR link to B&L website

Notes from the Chair



Manek Dubash
Chairman

Welcome to the monthly ponderings of this newly-elected B&L Chairman—the first time in a year this column has appeared.

My first column has to be about how I perceive my role. And in this, I want to give thanks to my predecessor, Graham Bubloz, whose success in the job until he stepped back at the 2024 AGM I shall aim to emulate.

Looking to the future

It's fairly easy to point to the obvious bits of the job: chairing meetings and speaking for the association as and when required. I hope I can bring something useful to that part of the role.

But having seen others do the job, it's clear there's lots of other bits and pieces, such as helping get things and people to be in the right place at the right time, and liaising with other organisations such as the BBKA and the Sussex BKA. As well as the public and press.

And in this, Graham's quiet, collaborative energy during his three-year tenure gave a lot to B&L.

Finances and apiaries

So what are my thoughts on issues we could address in the coming year?

While our finances are in fairly good shape, I think they could be better. If we were for example to focus on one or two activities that will raise more cash, I think that's something that would provide benefits. The more money we have, the more we can do for members.

Apiary management is a costly business, as any beekeeper knows, and we have four of them. And four is way more than most of our neighbouring associations deploy: most have one or maybe two.

Do they all turn a profit in honey sales? No. Not that we should want to think of them as profit centres but making more of the honey potential would be helpful.

We do think of our apiaries as places

where benefits are provided to the membership: tuition, primarily especially for new beekeepers but also for more experienced members. The provision of benefits by B&L for more experienced beekeepers has been a long-standing issue at B&L (and elsewhere), so if you have any ideas as to what more we could do, please let me know.

Website

There are other areas where we could do a bit of tidying and I would hope that, with committee's help, we might get the website a bit more current by the end of 2025—some of it contains information and images that are out of date. Maybe this will be the year of the website.

Oh yes, and we need some more B&L branded mugs!

Thank you!

Finally, thank you to everyone on the committee and to other volunteers: you give their time freely and without need or thought for recompense.

I particularly want to highlight the hard work that many committee members put in—thinking about the bulk procurement (Tony) and training programmes (Jude), for example, as well as the apiary managers who in addition to managing their own bees are running programmes for B&L's members.

We welcome some new faces this year which is great: Joy Garnsey joins us and will be working with Jude on organising events, Rachel Ramaker has taken on the AHAT Co-ordinator mantle, and Adrien Parker will be managing the Hove apiary. There are plenty of other, unsung heroes who make B&L tick and I'm looking forward to working with all of you.

And any thoughts as to how we could do better will be gratefully received.

Happy beekeeping for 2025!

Seasonal tips for March

I hope your bees survived the cold dreary days of February. I was so fed up, I went to Madeira for a couple of weeks. But well done on getting your bees this far, So what is next?

Feeding the growing brood

As the days lengthen and the temperature rises the queen will start to increase her laying rate, building a new foraging force for the approaching spring. The fondant you've been using is a source of carbohydrate that helped the bees maintain the hive temperature. It will need to be supplemented with a source of protein to help with the development of the new brood.

In the absence of stored pollen in the hive you can use pollen patties either home-made or shop-bought. They can be either substitutes (without pollen) or supplements (with pollen)

Here's one I dragged off of the internet:

Home-made pollen patty recipe

- 226g (8oz) soy flour
- 340g (12oz) granulated sugar
- 28g (1oz) Brewer's yeast
- 340g (12oz) sugar syrup (2:1) or your honey

Add water as needed to mix.

BeeBase provides a similar one [here](#) [pdf]. Or you can use a fondant mixed with pollen such a Candipolline Gold (other brands are available).

On warmer still days, later on in the month when the temperature is getting towards about 12°C you can do a limited examination of the hive to see how things are going. Does the queen have enough spare space to lay



Choose a sunny day for your first inspection

new brood? If not, move a frame of empty drawn comb nearer the centre of the brood to help her along.

Check if they need feeding. If the cluster is low down on the comb and there is plenty of sealed stores, good. If they are clustered on the top of the frames and there is little sign of stores, then feed. Use a contact feeder filled with thick syrup. Sugar and water mixed in the ratio of 2:1 or commercial syrup. Caution, do not feed too much as the bees will store it and reduce the space available for the queen to lay.

Varroa, treatment & hygiene

Check varroa mite drop rate. If you're not sure what it should be, BeeBase provides a calculator or leaflet [here](#) [pdf]. If the measurement is high you can treat with oxalic acid by the trickle method or Formic Pro. It should be noted that the latter should only be used in temperatures above 10°C and with a strong full-sized colonies. Please read the manufacturer's instructions.

Even at this stage in the year, it's necessary to keep a record of any approved medicines that you've given or going to give to your bees. Approved means, those approved by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD). Current legislation requires that you keep a record of the



If you see this many varroa on your Correx board, it's too many

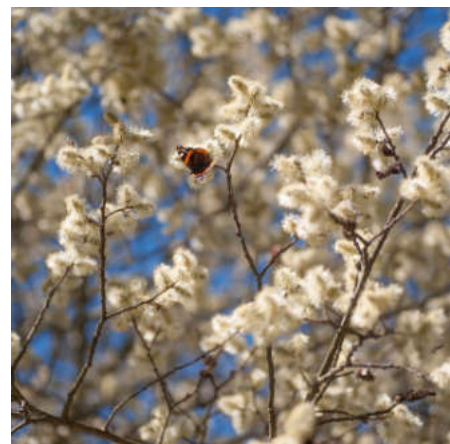
purchase, use and disposal of these medicines. Records should be kept for a minimum of five years. Again a helpful leaflet is available to download from BeeBase.

Now may also be the opportunity to change the floor and get rid of all the debris that has accumulated of the winter and take the nadired super out from underneath, as this should be empty of stores now.


Do not drop litter in the apiary. Put it in bucket and dispose of it in the dustbin at home or in your garden burner. When the weather is warm enough, I will change the rest of the hive components, from floor to roof, except for the brood frames, unless they have become too black to be reused.

Stimulation & planning

Later in the month when there is little fear of freezing, you may think about stimulation feeding. This where you use a thin syrup (1:1) to simulate a nectar flow. However, if you start feeding you will need to continue until natural sources of pollen and nectar become available. A strong colony can use up to 2Kg of stores during this period. In my apiary there is a large willow tree and that comes into flower in late May early April. Bees take six weeks to grow from egg to flying forager; so, if the cluster is small when you start feeding, they may not be able to maintain the correct temperature for rearing the new brood if you stop.



Willow tree in flower



Animal & Plant Health Agency

National Bee Unit

Best Practice Guideline No. 11.

April 2024

Varroa

It is important to be able to recognise and manage Varroa mites in honey bee colonies. If mite numbers are not controlled, a colony may collapse within two to three years. The purpose of this factsheet is to provide an overview of Varroa biology and the best practices for Varroa management.

Seasonal tips for March



Splitting the hive

It's also time to think about what you want to do with your bees this year. Replacing or rebuilding your stock of bees and how you'll go about it. You could pick the biggest and best hive that you have identified from your hive records (ha, ha, ha).

More bees please

But back to that nice healthy colony, are you going to split it into three or four new nuclei/hives, letting the bees develop new queens in the process?

You could wait until swarms become available and go and collect them. This has some element of risk as they may be carrying some disease and unless you have somewhere to quarantine them, you don't want them mixing freely with your bees (does this sound familiar?). Whatever you're planning to do with them, also check whether you have enough equipment

to carry out this adventurous programme of bee husbandry.

Or you could buy them. If you do buy them, make sure it's from a known dealer or that they have an inspection certificate from the Bee Inspector.

There is a guide on the BBKA website, according to which the colony should:

- Have a combination of adult and flying bees, brood in all stages of development over 3-8 frames
- Have this year's or last year's marked queen.
- Be in the position to be able to start to expand immediately.
- Include frames constructed properly, new or last season's at the least.
- Enough stores to last about two weeks, as the bees may not be able to fly due to bad weather.

If at all possible, buy bees that have been bred locally; they are used to the climate.

If you are new to beekeeping, remember to secure the nuc/hive for the journey home. Really secure it. You don't want to stop suddenly and then have a car full of bees.

Make sure the nuc/hive is out of the sun and that there's enough ventilation so they don't overheat.



Free bees: but is a swarm worth it?

Recording for the future

Keeping records, no matter the size of your operation, will make your life easier. I still struggle to write everything down, even now after all the years I been keeping bees.

When I first started with just one hive, it was easy to remember everything I saw and did. However, as the number of hives increased, and the manipulations got more involved it all became a little confusing. Several types of record cards are available, including paper-based or computer-based ones, and cards can be designed by yourself; as long as they meet your needs, they will be fine.

Writing this has whetted my appetite and after last year's poor spring, I can't wait to go and see my bees.

Another veiled beekeeper

Annual General Meeting and Honey Show

Wednesday 19 February was an important gathering in our Winter Programme as we held our AGM, ran an awards ceremony for our newly qualified beekeepers and held our Honey Show, where a tremendous array of hive products competed for best in show awards.

You'll find the Honey Show results later (see [page 7](#)) while this is a look back on a tremendous 2024 and a look forward to 2025, led by a new-look committee.

I volunteered to take on the role of

temporary chairman at the AGM and we began with a brief introduction. As we did not have a chairman in 2024, each of the committee members gave a short report of their activities over the past year. All reports are available on the website.

Finance and education

Norman prepared a set of accounts for the Association for 2024. The good news is that we made a small profit on the previous year, even though typical revenue sources such as honey sales

were less than previous years.

Our training and education programme, led by Jude, continues to



Nigel opens the AGM

Annual General Meeting and Honey Show

provide an income too. Jude expanded on the plans for the year ahead.

Education galore

We have a busy programme to look forward to, and thanks to all those helping and supporting it.

Our calendar on the website highlights our apiary experiences, training courses, workshops on top of our speaker programme.

Please take a look at what's going on as there is sure to be something in there for you.

Meetings, swarms and hornets

I gave a brief overview on the success of the winter programme. With a reach of 45% of members over five events, we can justify the effort and investment in this programme. I was able to offer some data-led suggestions on how to improve the programme in the year ahead.

Ian shared his experiences as swarm co-ordinator and pointed out how social media is changing how swarms are communicated and collected is changing.

Manek then updated us on a thankfully much better than expected year in the fight against the Asian Hornet. However, we need to guard against complacency as the weather was definitely on our side in 2024.

Change at the top

We then turned our attention to a vote on the 2025 committee. Please see Table 1 (*overleaf*) which shows the changes which were agreed in the meeting.

There was some discussion prior to the meeting on the Treasurer and Membership role which passes to Graham. After over three years of service in this capacity, the meeting thanked Norman for all his efforts, particularly for carrying the club through a difficult period and for bringing the payment system into the 21st century with a card payment system.

We owe Norman huge thanks, and he was voted onto the committee. At the time of writing, the committee has yet to meet and decide precisely the roles for all the committee members in 2025, though options and plans are well developed.

Finally, thanks were expressed to all those leaving the committee in 2024 for all their hard work, and a warm welcome extended to our new committee members.

...more overleaf



Captions: (*top left*) Outgoing Treasurer and Membership Secretary Norman Dickinson explains the accounts; (*top right*) Ian White talks swarms and social media.

2024 BBKA Basic Assessment awards: (*middle row*) Peter Brooke-Ball: pass; Katherine Moore: credit; (*Bottom row*) Jessica Gould: credit; Sarah Peek: credit

Certificates in the post:
Andrew Hindell: pass
Richard Lawson-Cruttenden: credit
Alasdair Nicol: distinction
Rebecca Squier: pass

Annual General Meeting and Honey Show

Finally, we all know the apiaries are an important resource for B&L, both for education and training, and as a revenue source through honey sales. With Tony and Jose stepping back from Barcombe and Hove, respectively, Table 2 (*below*) shows who the new Apiary Managers are for the year ahead.

Education awards

If ever there was an occasion which demonstrates what this Association

does at its best, it was the presentation by Jude of our awards for new beekeepers passing their BBKA Basic Assessment.

These awards show how B&L is creating the young beekeepers of tomorrow and was an inspiring way to close the formal part of the meeting.

Receiving their basic beekeeping assessment awards at the AGM were:

- Peter Brooke-Ball
- Jessica Gould
- Sarah Peek

• Katherine Moore
Award certificates will be sent to Alasdair Nicol, Richard Lawson-Cruttenden, Rebecca Squier and Andrew Hindell. Well done to you all!

And finally, it just remains to me to thank you, the members, who attended the AGM and supported the Association in so many ways.

Nigel Kermod, Events Secretary

Table 1: Your new committee for 2025

Position	2024	2025
Chairman	-	Manek Dubash
Secretary	Mat Budgen	Mat Budgen
Treasurer/Membership Secretary	Norman Dickinson	Graham Bubloz
Newsletter Editor	Manek Dubash	Manek Dubash
Events Secretary	Nigel Kermod	Jude New & Joy Garnsey
Training Co-ordinator	Jude New	Jude New
Asian Hornet Team Co-ordinator	Manek Dubash	Rachel Ramaker
Webmaster	Gerald Legg	Gerald Legg
Swarm Co-ordinator	Ian White	Ian White
Bulk Procurement	Tony Birkbeck	Tony Birkbeck
Committee Member(s)	Felicity Alder	Norman Dickinson & Joy Garnsey
Facebook Administrator	Graham Bubloz	Graham Bubloz

Table 2: Apiary Managers for 2025

Position	2024	2025
Overall co-ordinator	Jude New	Jude New
Grassroots	Jude New	Jude New
Rottingdean	Jeff Rodrigues	Jeff Rodrigues
Barcombe	Tony Birkbeck	Ian White
Hove	Jose Manuel Reina	Adrien Parker



left: Jude describes the 2025 education programme; *middle:* Norman reports on the accounts; *right:* Nigel analyses event attendance.

Annual General Meeting and Honey Show

Honey Show results

Another year, another show. This year the total number of entries was quite a bit lower than previously, but standards were high. Many thanks to our three experienced judges Gerald, Norman and Judith for their diligent efforts in sorting the best from the rest.

Honey

The number of honey entries was down which might reflect last year's harvest; it might, therefore, be good policy to put a few jars to one side for the honey shows. Set crystallised honey is one of the more difficult classes to plan for, though, as honeys can set very differently, with rape honey setting almost instantly and heather honey virtually never. Honey is always judged on several criteria, clarity, colour and the correct amount in the jar (with no wax, air bubbles or bits) and finally the taste.

Cakes and biscuits

The cakes (to a set recipe) were judged on the success of the bake, including the texture and colour, the distribution of fruit and, of course, the flavour; most entries did very well indeed. The biscuits needed to be of uniform size and appearance with a

good 'snap' and flavour, to any chosen recipe, and these, too, were very nicely presented as well as tasty.

Wax and candles

The wax classes have been changed slightly this year to include pairs of candles and wax blocks. The judging criteria include wax colour, cleanliness and aroma. Most honey shows will light a candle to check for a clean burn, but our hall will not allow that. Clean filtered wax is an essential starting point for candles and blocks and especially for wraps. I find that a slow melt through a fine cotton will usually take out most impurities. There is a really wide selection of candle moulds available nowadays, so if you haven't ever tried it why not be adventurous and have a go next year? Look out for the candle workshop.

Photos and gadgets

There were some fine photographs and especially excellent ones from the two winning photographers, although I was hoping to have a lot more photographs this year, as plenty of good ones have appeared on B&L Buzz over the course of the year.

The new video class was very interesting, but lost out to technology

as we could not play any sound. Hopefully these initial problems will be sorted in the future.

Our resident inventor came up with two new ideas: a good one for teaching swarm control and a special swarm collection box.

And finally...

Thank you to our judges and all those who took part. It is great to see what other people do and to learn from them. Remember, that we are not the only Honey Show around. Locally we have the South of England Agricultural Show honey show (SEAS) in September plus you could join another local association as a friend and compete there. The National Honey Show in October gives you a chance to win Sussex cups or National awards. Hilary did well at the SEAS honey show last year and we have had awards and cups at the National in the past. Just remember to put a few jars to one side for your next show. It is well worth having a go and many of our entries are certainly of an excellent standard. Well done all!

Bob Curtis, Honey Show Organiser

[Results and photos on next two pages]



above left: New chairman Manek awards the Dixon Hurst Cup to overall Honey Show winner, Bob Curtis. Well done Bob!



above middle: Bob awards the Novice Cup to Katherine Moore.

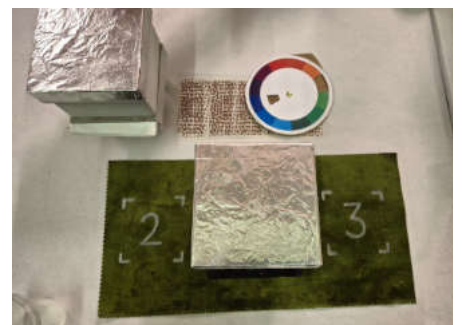
above right: Ross and Heidi share the fun of catering to eager beekeepers on the night. Thank you both! *All photos by Manek Dubash & Nigel Kermod*



Honey Show photos



From top left, clockwise: Gerald does his calculations; Jude sorts out the wax; Mat shows off his Pagden calculator; Mat's clever Pagden demo device; Bob wonders what it is; Mat shows his drainpipe-based swarm extraction gadget; Norman judges a piece of honey cake; Gerald assesses honey clarity; Mat demonstrates how the swarm capture gadget works.



Honey Show photographic competition

Class 10: A Bee-related Photograph



1st Place. Untitled, by Hilary Osman



2nd Place. CBPV and varroa, by Gerald Legg



3rd Place. Bumblebee invasion, by Katherine Moore



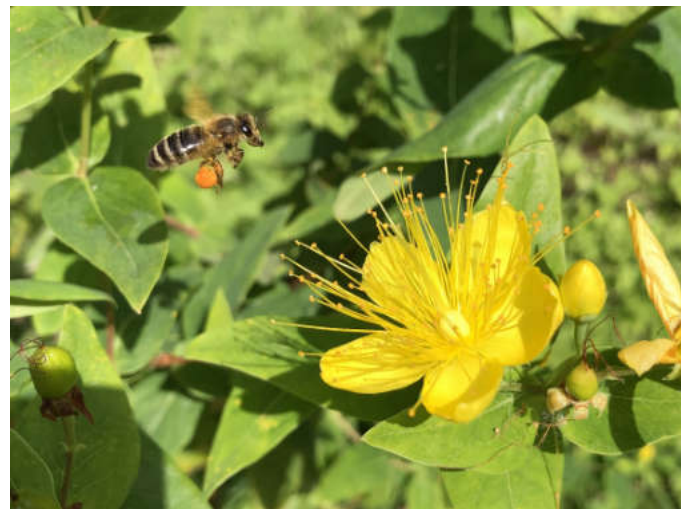
(above) Skep Bole, by Mat Budgen.

(above right) Untitled, by Rachel Ramaker.

(right) Untitled, by Hilary Osman



Class 11: A Close-up of a Bee



1st Place. Untitled, by Rachel Ramaker



2nd Place. Honey bee on window, by Gerald Legg



(above) 3rd Place. Untitled, by Katherine Moore.

(left) Echinea Bee, by Mat Budgen

Honey Show: full results

Cups & Highest Scores		Points	Winner 2024
Dixon Hurst Cup. 1st Highest Points	Bob Curtis	18	Rachel Ramaker
2nd Highest Points	Hilary Osman	17	Hilary Osman
3rd Highest Points	Mat Budgen	16	Mat Budgen
Novice Cup	Katherine Moore		Mat Budgen
Honey Cake Salver	Katherine Moore		Mat Budgen

Class	Description	1st (5 pts)	2nd (3 pts)	3rd (2 pts)	2025 Total Entries	2024 Total Entries
1	One 1lb Jar Clear honey	Rachel Ramaker	Nigel Kermode	Mat Budgen	8	11
2	1lb Jar Naturally Crystallised honey	Nigel Kermode	Bob Curtis	Bob Curtis	4	6
3	Two 1lb Jars of similar honey	Nigel Kermode	Nigel Kermode	Mat Budgen	6	9
4	Two identical candles (new)	Bob Curtis	Hilary Osman	Hilary Osman	3	-
5	One Moulded candle	Bob Curtis	Hilary Osman	Mat Budgen	6	9
6	Two 1oz block of wax (new)	Bob Curtis	Bob Curtis	Heidi Burgess	7	(7)
7	One Honey Cake.	Katherine Moore	Hilary Osman	Rachel Ramaker	5	10
8	Six Honey Biscuits.	Heidi Burgess	Katherine Moore	Mat Budgen	6	8
9	Wax Wrap of only beeswax	Mat Budgen	Hilary Osman	Rachel Ramaker	4	6
10	A bee related photograph	Hilary Osman	Mat Budgen	Katherine Moore	6	7
11	Close-up of a bee	Rachel Ramaker	Gerald Legg	Katherine Moore	4	11
12	Invention (non-competitive)	Mat Budgen	Mat Budgen		2	7
13	Bee related video (non-competitive)	Mat Budgen			3	-
						-



Apiary Reports

Rottingdean



Today, the 25th February, the sun has been peeking out and the temperature is about 12 degrees, probably for the first time in six weeks.

The bees are out foraging and pollen baskets full of orangey yellow pollen are coming in. All five colonies seem to have survived the winter—for the first time in my beekeeping years, I have had no losses so far.

Ten days ago I was sliding around in the mud and the drizzle, shallow

planting woodland 'green' plants; these are natural woodland bulbs and corms with growth already evident in white shoots tapering into green. They will grow this year but their main effects will show in Spring 2026, when they will also start naturalising in this shaded habitat.

There are 50 wood anemones, thirty English bluebells, two *dicentra* ('bleeding heart'), 25 Lily of the Valley and 30 of another whose name has

disappeared to the mist that eventually enveloped me up there. They're all bee-friendly, of course.

It will be interesting to see if they take—they should, as there is good draining soil, it's always moist and dappled light penetrates the wood.

My farming mate Ben has left the farm but the farmer Jessica is still keen to host us. The polytunnels have gone and its not clear whether the container hosting our equipment will be next to go...which will pose us a storage problem. So, I might be calling on help to put up a shed (wood or metal)? *[Yes, MD]*

It's exciting to emerge from winter to a new beekeeping season, and, I guess, there is a little trepidation too about how well we will be able to manage our colonies and how well the open days will go.

It was lovely walking through the swirling mist on the Downs with everything in front of me, even the windmill, effaced until I got down to sea-level.

Jeff Rodrigues, Apiary Manager

Grassroots



The stock-take has started and the shed spring clean was not uneventful! Bags of cardboard packaging had been nested in by [a shrew](#). It left nest remains and a trail of poo. The rest

looked unsavoury, so it was burned.

No mice or wax moth in the frozen frames but the storage bags were mouse-damaged so thrown out and replaced.

There were loads of cobwebs so the dustpan and brush came out, and half the shed was cleared. More to do later. My car boot is full of rhombus clearers and crown boards to be cleaned up.

Dead-out

When I visited the apiary in December, one of the hives had died out. I sealed it to prevent robbing because honey frames remain in the brood box. I removed the dead bees, looked for queen cells and disease. To be brought

home to deal with.

I think that the queen failed: there were not enough bees so they died of starvation and cold. Sad and final. I have other colonies on site which are queenright so isolating the dead hive was as much as is required for now.

Grassroots may see queen rearing around mid-May. Keep your eyes and ears peeled and make yourself some locally adapted queens! I have an Apidea and fat dummies to clean, the Cloake board is ready, the frames are to be cleaned up and sterilised and the space to set up a queen rearing nursery at Grassroots.

Jude New, Apiary Manager

Winter meetings

Date	Topic
Wed 19 Mar	The role of drones and drone congregation areas, by Stephen Fleming
Wed 16 Apr	The special language of bees, by Margaret Murdin

All meetings are live and start at 19.15 for 19.30 at Eastgate Baptist Church Hall, Lewes BN7 2LR

Next Bee Chat: see our WhatsApp Buzz group or Facebook

Spring/summer meetings

Date	Event	Location
Saturday 17 May	Sussex BKA Bee Market	Uckfield College
Sunday 22 June	Out-apiary meeting with Jeff Rodrigues	Rottingdean Apiary

Other events will be added nearer the time. The season starts here!

Newsletter deadlines

Please send all contributions, **including photos**, to the Editor (contact details on right). Max length 500 words.

Copy deadline: 18th of the month before publication date, except 11 December. Email photos for the website to Gerald Legg (details on right).

National Bee Unit Inspectors

Seasonal Bee Inspectors

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Apiary Managers

- **Barcombe:** Ian White

- **Grassroots:** Jude New

- **Hove:** Adrien Parker

- **Rottingdean:** Julie Lawrence & Jeff Rodrigues

B&L Facebook Group

Group Administrator: Graham Bubloz

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Sussex BKA Representatives:

Ian White & Manek Dubash

National Honey Show Rep: Vacant

Disclaimer: Brighton and Lewes Division of the SBKA cannot accept any responsibility for loss, injury or damage sustained by persons in consequence of their participation in activities arranged by the Division.