

# GENSEC REVIEW

Autumn 2012



Early Autumn  
Sunshine.

Pic: J Moseley

## Another year of change it's been an eventful year

It has been a busy autumn here at the BBKA and although you may not see exactly what is going on, this is my opportunity to advise you of the some of the work that has been and is being undertaken.

What has become apparent, is that not everyone has received copies of the previous editions of GenSec Review which are now posted on line in the Members Area. I would appreciate it if you could share this publication with your fellow BBKA members.

It is an exciting time of change and development, as we just like you endeavour to cope with the influx of interest in all things bees and beekeeping. In order to achieve this we have to look at the systems in place and how we work. In order meet the expectation of both members and the public.

Feedback from you is always welcome, as is physical support and I acknowledge the army of beekeeping volunteers within this edition.

We have tough targets in lean times, so your support in helping us to achieve them would be very much appreciated.

I take this opportunity to wish you and yours all the best for Christmas, the New Year and forthcoming beekeeping season.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Moseley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jane Moseley  
Operations Director & General  
Secretary

# BBKA Volunteers

## our greatest asset - thank you

I should like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank all those of you who not only Volunteer directly with the BBKA; but are actively giving your time within all Associations.

Without the body of volunteers who give their time freely, much of what happens within the Beekeeping Community just wouldn't happen and we are all silently grateful.

Sometimes it is easy just to accept that stuff just happens and that people do. Well I recognise that this just isn't the case and having now been in post for almost two years I am still astounded by the commitment our membership has. When I talk to people outside the beekeeping world they are always amazed at what we achieve with so little professional resource and that is ALL down to you.

This is my platform to thank all of those of you who represent beekeepers and the BBKA in your everyday and in your special areas of interest.

From the moment we join our local association we encounter Volunteers - the **Membership Secretary** who gets us signed up; the **Trainers** who give up their evenings to prepare and present courses; **Association Secretaries** who ensure we receive both local and national information and good administration; the **Treasurers** who make sure funds are safeguarded and used wisely; the **Chairmen/Chairwomen** who provide direction. All of these roles are fulfilled across the nation with additional volunteers in support.

Once we move into the Apiary we benefit from the **Apiary Manager's** experience and knowledge. While also learning from our **Mentor**, who seems to be on permanent call to new beekeepers. Continuing our education it's easy to take for granted those **Education Co-ordinators, Assessors, Moderators** and **Tutors** all of whom are supported by BBKA Volunteers; Val Francis, Margaret Thomas, John Hendrie Gerry Collins and **Exam Board Members**.

When attending shows someone always takes the lead and pulls the whole thing

together. At your area conference a **Conference Manager** pulls it together and invites the Speakers. Exhibits have to be gathered, the stands put together and once again there is usually an **Exhibition Organiser** who will pull it off, much to the pleasure of the visiting public/members.

BBKA is no different, our volunteers are you and the results of your labour is enjoyed by you, your fellow beekeepers as well as the public. So what do we do that is supported by a volunteer network?

The BBKA **Membership Register** is administered by Jan Davis, once Jan has done her job you then become entitled to the following: **BBKA News** - Sharon Blake Editor & Volunteer. Access to the **Spring Convention** which is wholly put together by a strong team - Terry Clare, June & Norman Hughes, Ivor Davis, Ruth Homer and Christine & John Hayward. Supported by beekeeping **Stewards**

All of the BBKA public **Shows** are created installed and managed by the Stoneleigh shows Committee - Clive Joyce, Bruce Roberts, Brian Dennis, Maurice West, Andrew Caine, Val & Terry Dillon, Liz & Stephen Bates, Doug Nethercroft & Barry Thorne

As well as those who volunteer their time and expertise serving on the **Technical & Environmental** Committee like Norman Carreck, Chris Deaves, Paul Metcalfe and Peter Martin. Not forgetting the sterling work of **Governance** who keep us in line such Mike Somers. Not forgetting our **Press Officer** Gill Maclean.

Many of the people detailed above assist in more than one area to support our Trustees - David Aston, Martin Tovey, Julian Routh, Margaret Murdin, Doug Brown, Ian Homer, Roger Patterson, Tim Lovett, Pete Sutcliffe Ken Basterfield, Michael Sheasby, David Teasdale - also volunteers, who are also actively involved in the aforementioned areas.

### Thank you

A volunteer guide will be available in January 2013.

*If you would like to learn more about volunteering as a Trustee or in another capacity please [contact me](#).*

# Fundraising Initiatives

## generating funds for research & more

At the ADM this year a number of Associations took the **Mini WBC Collection Box** and the supporting booklet 'Pocket Guide to the Honey Bee' as a BBKA Fundraising tool. So far the greatest amount raised at an event is **£1197.15** at Hampton Court. Followed by **Ormskirk** at Tatton & Southport flower show **£560**. The highest amount raised from an Association is **£296.85** well done **Shropshire**.

Acknowledgements and thanks go to:  
 Alnwick: £109.30, Bishops Stortford: £50, Cambridgeshire £44.10, Chalfont: £57.41, Cheshire:£192.06, Dorset West: £198.49, Braintree: £151, Hampshire: £18.45, Middx:£109.61, Northumberland: £197, Peterborough: £134.02, Petersfield: £35, Suffolk: £110.96, Surrey £44.80, Twickenham: £29.50, Welwyn:£167, Warwickshire: £21.80  
 A grand total of £4238.90

If your association has a collection box then please bank your monies with us using the documentation provided. If you don't have a collection box and would like to raise funds then please contact [Letita Hammon](#). Collection boxes ordered by

17th December can be collected at the ADM.

### Corporate Member Activity

The Jean Luc Colombo Vineyard joined us as a Corporate Member earlier this year and they have a special offer on their 'Les Abeilles' wine collection for BBKA Members. To order this great quality French Wine at a reduced rate go to [www.cellarviewines.com](http://www.cellarviewines.com) quote BBKA to claim your 10% dicount. You'll also be raising funds for BBKA at the same time.

Q Hotels have once again given us the ADM venue as part of their Corporate Membership. They are offering a range of beekeeping and spa weekends. So, if you know someone who would enjoy an alternative beekeeping taster then now is the time to buy.

We are still signed up to **Just Giving**, **EasyFundraising**, **Give as You Live** and **Ebay** to make it easy for individuals and groups wishing to fundraise on our behalf We are continuing our sales activities through these channels. So why not take part?!



# What goes on at the NBC?

## activity supporting your membership

As you are probably aware Julie Marples joined us earlier this year as Administration Manager and is supported by Jan Alcock, Letita Hammon, Julie Slegg and Anna Blythe. This team are responsible for all aspects of the running of the BBKA on a day to day basis.

### So what do they do?

They are on hand to answer queries from all Associations, Members and the public. Within the Swarm season, just like you, we take calls on all matters relating to bees. In 2012 over 3000 calls were handled from the public alone within the 3 month period April - June.

Examination applications are processed, New Member Packs and cards produced and sent for all Members.

Our webshop and Adopt a beehive are both administered from the office; with some orders being fulfilled from there too.

The day to day management of the facility, our accounts and processes are undertaken in the office. This includes all our accounts, invoice processing and ensuring that the building operates

smoothly and within the law. It is important that the building be maintained and upheld for our administration and the meetings which are often staged there.

Did you know that you can use the NBC if you want to to hold a meeting?

We are currently in the process of reviewing our systems to ensure that we operate as efficiently as possible and we are pleased to advise you as part of this we will be installing a new telephone system to improve our levels of customer service with an additional line. Obviously we have done this as cost efficiently as possible. of service to members and the general public.

In support of this we are reviewing our data management, to safeguard all of the information that we hold.

While doing this we are also in the process of collating as much historical information as possible to preserve the history of the organisation.

I hope that this gives you an insight as to the day to day activities of the team and please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.



questions and answers  
at the BBKA Forum 2012

## BBKA Forum

On Saturday 6th October 40 delegates from various Associations met at the National Beekeeping Centre (NBC).

The agenda items were a meld of local and national interests which are detailed below. Due to the Scouts Jamboree being staged on the site, we started a little late, which enabled networking at the outset. The atmosphere was positive yet relaxed and set the tone for the rest day.

Topics covered included the move of the Spring Convention, the latest papers on Pesticides, Swarm Collection and the Swarm Collectors facility with a presentation from London BKA about the changes in the capitals beekeeping fortunes.

One of the key outcomes was the desire for BBKA to communicate directly with the membership which we are embracing wholeheartedly. As well as the want to move the Forum meeting date for 2013. To read the report please go to [www.bbka.org.uk](http://www.bbka.org.uk) log into the members area, select the Forum.

# Web Activity getting on line

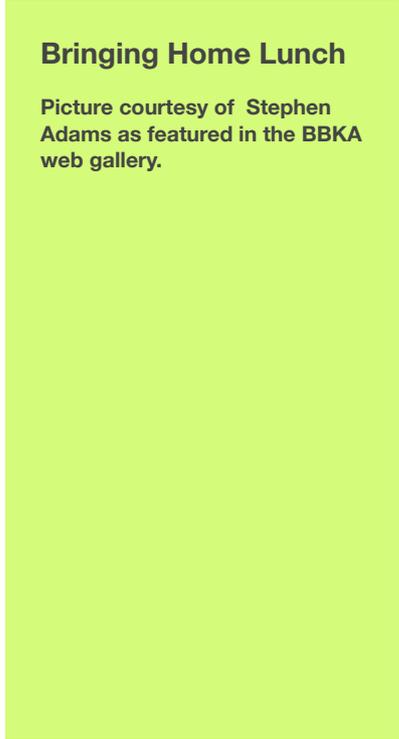
No matter your bee interest there is something for everyone on the BBKA website.

We are currently in the process of updating the site so that it is easily viewed on smartphones and tablets. It's amazing how since we launched the site the use of these devices is now the norm.

## But what is on the site for you?

There is a dedicated Members Area which provides you with [beekeeper downloads](#) in the form of guidelines and best practice documents - see page 6 for a detailed listing - to assist you in your beekeeping.

As an active participant and educator there is a wealth of information for you to share with all groups be they new beekeeper, WI lecture and more. Once again some of these are available within the members area.



### Bringing Home Lunch

Picture courtesy of Stephen Adams as featured in the BBKA web gallery.

Have you seen the new Gallery? This is an invaluable resource of photographs, which you can download and have free use of. Always something that are in short supply when doing training or giving a talk. Why not load up your photos and share the resource. Please remember to credit the source when using others photos.

As the training season is almost upon us don't forget that you can list your Association courses free of charge. For

those offering courses commercially we make a nominal charge of £20 per month for members and £25 for others.

A continued interest in bees and beekeeping comes from children and the Bees4Kids section of the website is packed with information and activities.

If you would like to see specific information and have ideas about what should be included within the website then please [contact us](#) with your ideas.



### BBKA Discussion Forum

Join the BBKA discussion, connect with other beekeepers within the beekeeping community

## BBKA Online Forum help. advice. news

Have you taken part in the BBKA Forum available to members? As the majority of us have access to a smartphone, tablet and/or computer communicating with the wider world has never been easier. The BBKA Forum has been running for a number of years and provides access to experienced beekeepers who

volunteer their time to moderate the discussions. Whether new or experienced a new community of beekeepers awaits you in the online world. Get advice or just chat and chew the wax. I introduce you to Adam Darling and Jim Norfolk who are working alongside Forum veteran Roger Patterson.

To access the forum log into the [Members Area](#).



**Wax Moth in the Apiary [L020] one of the revised guidelines now available as a both a datasheet and colour leaflet.**

## Literature Update data sheet & leaflets updated

Our P&P team have been busy updating our data sheets and guidance notes so that you are up to date. Detailed below is a comprehensive list of what's been revised and what is pending. All available as downloads from the Members Area at [www.BBKA.org.uk](http://www.BBKA.org.uk).

| Title                       | No   |
|-----------------------------|------|
| Abandoned Hives             | L016 |
| Allotment Beekeeping        | L015 |
| Apiary Hygiene              | L012 |
| Apiary Meetings             | L006 |
| Bee Stings                  | L002 |
| Bees & Neighbours           | L011 |
| Managing Bees at Live Shows | L005 |
| Care of Wooden Hives        | L007 |
| Collecting Swarms           | L004 |
| Leaving Beekeeping          | L017 |
| Nucleus Standard            | L014 |
| Bees & Pesticides           | L019 |

| Title                       | No   |
|-----------------------------|------|
| Plants for Pollinators      | IL02 |
| Selling Honey               | L010 |
| Swarm Control               | L003 |
| Wax Moth                    | L020 |
| Where & When                | L001 |
| 10 Things                   |      |
| <b>Titles being updated</b> |      |
| Bees & Wasps in Your Garden |      |
| Hive Records                |      |
| Honey Show Rules            |      |
| IPM                         |      |
| Varroa                      |      |

These guidelines are in support of the additional information available from the BBKA. Thank you to our team of experts who maintain them.

# Christmas Inspiration

[www.bbka.org.uk/shop](http://www.bbka.org.uk/shop)

As the fire crackles and the early evening darkness falls, you can pause for breath confident in the knowledge that the girls are tucked up for winter.

With Christmas just a few weeks away, you should stop by and see what's in store. From Christmas cards to novelty bakeware. We have searched high and low to bring you a collection of bee inspired quality giftware.

For those with a need to feed the bees we have a wide range of gardening products from pocket gardens to exquisite hand tools. So whether you are looking for inspiration for the budding gardener or seasoned professional we have something for you.

So, what to read by the fire? Browse our book collection which has a wide range to prepare you for the forthcoming season.

**“Just wanted to say that my cards arrived last week and they're great, I am really pleased with them, great designs and sentiments”**

Sharon Davies, BBKA Customer



**Limited Edition**  
Christmas Cards to raise a smile. Have you got yours yet?



## Additional Items of Interest and project news

So what else has been happening and what other projects are under way.

**Junior membership** is being taken up across the country and as a consequence the Junior guidelines are currently under review due to the feedback received from you, our members.

**Bees in the Curriculum** is an invaluable resource to schools and educational groups. Since it's launch in 1999 it has been reviewed once and it is now time for this to be updated. A working group has been set up which will take this forward. With the regained interest in bees and beekeeping within schools and other children's activity groups, the timing of this is right.

Other institutions have also expressed an interest in taking up the craft. I have been to visit two prisons with a view to supporting their introduction of beekeeping. There are many benefits to the **prisons** and prisoners alike by keeping bees within their grounds.

Should this take off, support from the Local Associations would be required. I am being realistic in my approach to the time this would involve and am advising them that costs would be involved in the provision of training and time.

In the early autumn I attended a couple of meetings with the **London BKA**. An interesting session learning about the issues they face locally and about their plans for a permanent home.

Meetings with Local Associations have been limited this year unfortunately. Not for the lack of interest on my part but there have been few invitations for me to attend meetings with you. I would very much like to come and meet you, so please do let me know if you are

interested in me attending a meeting to bring you up to date with what's happening.

The **Swarm Collectors Database** will soon be underway as will our preparations for the promotion of the list. The education of what's a honey bee, what's a swarm all form part of that promotion which is currently in the planning process.

This year the **Year Book** was published much later than usual to accommodate the AGM's that take place in early Spring. Although this valuable resource is highly regarded we are reviewing its format and content, with Associations. It will still be published and information updates from each branch will be required as usual.

As you may have noted within the Volunteer article, we will be publishing a **Volunteer Handbook**. We hope that this will inform and inspire new and existing Volunteers, across all areas

Anyone who has been involved in beekeeping over the last few year will recognise that some new beekeepers do not continue with their local group after a certain period of time. BBKA acknowledges this transient membership and is undertaking a survey to identify the reasons as to why they give up. This is a project in conjunction with **Lancaster University** and I look forward to providing you with our findings.

Lastly, we were invited to attend the opening of the National Beekeeping Centre of Wales in September. Martin Tovey and I found the day very interesting. We look forward to working with them and identifying joint initiatives.

If you wish to contact me about any content herewith please do so at: [jane.moseley@bbka.org.uk](mailto:jane.moseley@bbka.org.uk)