

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?: BEES, LAND USE AND THE COMMUNITY

**Wednesday 28 April 2010 at the University of Sussex
11am – 6pm followed by an evening networking reception from 6.15pm – 8pm**

Why attend?:

With about 250 British species, bees are an important part of our biodiversity. They are also the most important plant pollinators. Pollination is increasingly recognized as a key “ecosystem service” and is vital in agriculture, with approximately 1/3 of the human diet coming from bee-pollinated plants. Bees are themselves under threat with declines in the numbers of honey bees, bumble bees and other wild bees in Britain and elsewhere. Although bee numbers have not yet reached crisis levels, there is a need to reverse this downward trend. How can this be done? One way is to make Britain a more bee friendly country by mobilizing the many people who are in a position to help bees, either indirectly or directly, by their work in education, science, communication, land management, conservation, agriculture, and government.

The first thing that most people who want to help bees need is better information on bees. What's the Buzz? is a one-day meeting aimed at providing this in a format for interested stakeholders. Participants will come from a wide variety of backgrounds and are united in that they all want to know more about bees, are all in a position to help bees and biodiversity either directly or indirectly, who can all contribute something to the day, and who can all benefit by meeting other people from a variety of complementary backgrounds.

What's the Buzz? takes advantage of the expertise in bee biology in the Department of Biology & Environmental Science at the University of Sussex. It will be hosted by bee researchers from the Laboratory of Apiculture and Social Insects (LASI) (Professor Francis Ratnieks, Dr. Karin Alton, Dr. Margaret Couvillon, Dr. Christoph Grüeter, Mr. Norman Carreck, Ms Fiona Riddell) and their colleagues (Professor Jeremy Field, an expert in solitary bees, Professor Susan Hartley, a plant ecologist, and Professor Jonathan Bacon, neurobiologist and beekeeper).

What's the Buzz? is by invitation only. There is no attendance fee. Morning and afternoon tea and coffee, lunch, and evening meal will all be provided free of charge. Supporting materials will also be provided, and a web page on the LASI web site (www.sussex.ac.uk/lasi) is available for more information.

EVENT PROGRAM

- 1100 Arrival, tea & coffee. Please come to the foyer of the Brighton and Sussex Medical School (BSMS Building), University of Sussex. The BSMS building is number 47 on the campus map, on the corner of Biology Road and the Southern Ring Road.
<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/aboutus/findus/documents/campusmap.pdf>
- 1130 Session 1. Morning session: Background information via special seminars.
Venue: BSMS Lecture Theatre
- Welcome and Introduction from Sharon Phillips – Business and Enterprise (5mins)
- Seminar 1 Bee basics
Seminar 2 Bees, plants & pollination
Seminar 3 Bees and humans
- 1300 Networking Lunch Venue: BSMS Foyer
- 1400 Session 2. First afternoon session: Demonstrations and hands on activities. Venue LASI
- Activity 1 Watching bees forage and pollinate (using live bees on flowers)
Activity 2 Honey bee behaviour (using observation hive and video camera)
Activity 3 The honey bee dance language (bees indicating where the flowers are)
Activity 4 Bee biodiversity (bees worldwide and in Britain)
Participants will be divided into 4 groups, with each group doing each activity in rotation.
- 1600 Afternoon tea break. Venue: BSMS Foyer
- 1630 Session 3. Second afternoon session: Workshops: Sharing knowledge and working together
Venue: BSMS Lecture Theatre
- Welcome and Introduction from Prof. Robert Allison (Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Research)
- Workshop 1 Education & Communication: teachers, visitor centres, media
Workshop 2 Land management: land owners, gardeners, growers & buyers
Workshop 3 Conservation: wildlife groups, South Downs National Park & local authorities
- In this session, delegates will have an opportunity to discuss key issues impacting on bee welfare from three different perspectives. Representatives from land management, education, communications and conservation organisations will lead the workshops, which will be coordinated on a rotational basis (20 minutes each), followed by a wrap-up of issues.
- 1815 Session 4. Evening meal in the Swan Inn, Park Street, Falmer (north)
The Swan Inn is 5 minutes walk from the University, and will provide an opportunity for informal discussion and networking, and especially how to put things into action and to build on the day. End of meeting c. 2000.

OTHER INFORMATION

- Sponsors Business and Enterprise (The University of Sussex), Rural Research and Strategy Partnership (RRSP) and the Laboratory of Apiculture & Social Insects (LASI).
- Travel By train: University of Sussex is 5 minutes walk from Falmer railway station. By road: The A27 dual carriageway passes right beside the university; please park in P4 on the campus map. <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/aboutus/findus/>
- Website For more information about the event, log onto: www.sussex.ac.uk/lasi
- Contact For further information and enquiries about the event contact Brydie Maguire (Business and Enterprise)
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