



Ulster
Beekeepers
Association

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Friday 17th to Saturday 18th February 2023

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SUSIE HILL *UBKA President*

I am delighted to welcome you to the return of the UBKA Annual Conference in the excellent facilities of the CAFRE Greenmount Campus.

The UBKA's Webinars were a conspicuous success during Covid, with record number of beekeepers linking to them from across the globe. However, it's hard to beat a face-to-face conference. Whilst the video sessions were most informative, they couldn't fully replicate the dynamism and networking opportunities of the Greenmount conference.

This year's conference theme is 'Back to the future - building sustainable beekeeping', a topic dear to our hearts. We live in a time when climate change, agri-business and the loss of countryside are putting increasing pressures on our bees.

It is important that we see our role as extending beyond the apiary to champion the wider welfare of bees, promoting best environmental practices and the sustainable re-greening of our environment.

It is time for us to reach out to convey the importance of bees to the health and well-being our community, and challenge poor practice, whether it is the careless use of dangerous insecticides or the loss of habitat and food sources for bees and other vital pollinators.

Our bees are an important asset to the agricultural and horticultural industries in Northern Ireland. But they are a fragile resource, too easily be damaged by poor environmental practices or the unthinking import of foreign pathogens and predators.

The health of Northern Ireland's bees is a good barometer of the quality of our local environment. Our role, as custodians and champions of our bees must be to adopt good husbandry practices within our apiaries, and to campaign for the reduction in the use of pesticides and an increase in the planting of wild meadows and other bee-friendly initiatives.

This year's conference has an exciting programme, bring together a first-rate mix of expert from near and far to explore the difference aspects of sustainable beekeeping. The conference, as always has something for everyone, from beginner and recent beekeeper to the most experienced. Its varied programme caters for the scientific aspects of beekeeping to the more practical skills necessary to manage our bees.

As always, the most important part of the conference is bringing together beekeepers to exchange information, anecdotes and practical knowledge – something which has been much more difficult to maintain in an era of Covid!

Enjoy the conference and make sure that you participate fully to get the most out of the experience.



UBKA President

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

Professor Juliana Rangel

Born in Colombia, South America, Juliana Rangel, Ph. D. is Associate Professor of Apiculture in the Department of Entomology at Texas A&M University (TAMU).

Juliana's research program focuses on the biological and environmental factors that affect the reproductive quality of honey bee queens and drones, the behavioural ecology and population genetics of unmanaged honey bees, and the quality and diversity of honey bee nutrition in a changing landscape. She is an active member of the Texas Beekeepers Association and is a much sought after speaker, addressing dozens of beekeeping associations across the USA and internationally.

Juliana teaches the courses Honey Bee Biology, Introduction to Beekeeping, and Professional Grant and Contract Writing. Since 2014 she has been the coach of TAMU's undergraduate and graduate teams of the Entomology Games at the branch and national games of the. She is the 2022 Secretary for the Southwestern Branch of the Entomological Society of America (ESA) and is the past elected chair of the National ESA's Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

In 2021 she received the James I. Hambleton Memorial Award, which was established by the Eastern Apicultural Society of North America. She received the 2019 Dean's award for Excellence in Diversity and, in 2016, for Excellence in Early Career Research.

Juliana's research into honey bees and the effect of their environment on their lives is well known and her research is extensively published in relevant scientific journals.



Kirsty Stainton

Kirsty is the Science advisor to the Bee Health Advisory Forum, UK. The BHAF is a stakeholder group that provides advice to honey bee health policy development in the UK.

Previously, as a Senior Scientist in Bee Health in Fera Science Ltd, Kirsty was responsible for delivery of scientific research, drafting funding bids, stakeholder engagement and dissemination of results through peer-reviewed articles and popular press. She also provided scientific advice to Defra Bee Health Policy.

In addition to designing Loop mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP) assays for detection of the honey bee pests, Asian hornet and the Small hive beetle, Kirsty developed a methodology to assess the larval diet of the Asian hornet through DNA metabarcoding of larval gut contents. Her role involved



CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

presentations to DEFRA, venture capitalists, colleagues within Fera Science, to stakeholder groups across the UK and the EURL (EU Reference Laboratory) for Bee Health.

Kirsty has published widely on brood disorders and pathogens, and is popular public speaker on bee health issues.

Lynfa Davies

Lynfa lives near Aberystwyth in mid Wales and has kept bees with her husband, Rob, for 18 years. She is a Master Beekeeper and in 2019 was awarded the National Diploma in Beekeeping.

Lynfa is an active member of Aberystwyth and District BKA where she is involved with training new beekeepers. She is also a member of the Welsh Beekeepers' Association's Learning and Development Committee and regularly gives talks and leads training sessions on practical aspects of beekeeping. Lynfa is a regular speaker at events and association meetings and her articles regularly appear in the beekeeping press.

Lynfa currently has approximately 30 colonies which she manages for honey production and for the joy of looking after bees! She raises her own queens and uses these to produce nucleus colonies and to replace her own stock. In Spring 2022, Lynfa's first book, *The Miller method of queen rearing*, was published by Northern Bee Books.

Outside of beekeeping, Lynfa works for Menter a Busnes on the Farming Connect contract, a support and advisory programme for farmers in Wales. She brings her expertise on insects to this work, advising on the value of biodiverse ecosystems in a farmed landscape. She also provides online training modules for intermediate beekeepers on behalf of the Animal and Plant Health Agency.

Lynfa has a keen interest in the factors that affect the health of bees and in her lecture titled 'Future management for healthy colonies' she will investigate some of these factors and how beekeepers can influence them.

Her second talk will be on 'Swarm management – thinking ahead' where she will outline how we can be prepared for the swarm season and how early manipulations can help us to manage our colonies better.





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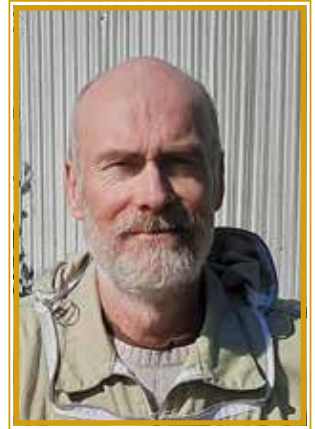
Eoghan Mac Giolla Coda

Eoghan Mac Giolla Coda is a commercial beekeeper based in Co. Louth. As a fourth-generation beekeeper, he learned his craft through helping his father with the famous Galtee black bees of Co. Tipperary. After settling in Co. Louth, he embarked on his own beekeeping enterprise using local strains of native Irish honey bee (*Apis mellifera mellifera*).

Eoghan manages around 180 colonies of black bees, distributed across Co. Louth, in environments ranging from rolling grassland pastures to areas of flat tillage to the small upland fields and hillsides of the Cooley Mountains.

Eoghan's primary interest is in honey production, and over the 12 years he has worked as a full-time beekeeper, his colonies have averaged close to 80 lbs per year. Given Ireland's cool and damp climate, he believes that to achieve good yields, it is important to work with locally adapted bees that can best take advantage of the generally short periods of good weather. In addition, a good management system is needed that minimizes the labour and time involved in inspections.

As a former scientist, Eoghan emphasizes the need to continuously collect data on colonies' behaviour and characteristics. Using these data for selection, he breeds native queens, mostly for his own use. He is also involved in the conservation of the native Irish honey bee, both on the island of Ireland and locally, helping to establish Co. Louth as a voluntary conservation area for the black bee.



Esther Ross

Esther Ross has been a member of Belfast and District Beekeepers' Association for over 20 years. She has fulfilled many roles within the Association including Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Education Officer. At UBKA level, she has served on the Education Team for over 10 years bringing with her many years of experience as a teacher and as a teacher trainer in the Curriculum and Advisory Service of the former Southern Education and Library Board.

Esther personally maintains 12 hives, co-ordinates the teaching of Introduction and Proficiency courses within Belfast, is an active member of the Belfast Apiary Maintenance Team and the Belfast Queen Rearing Group. She has been a part of the development of the Belfast Association from around 30 members in 1999 to almost 270 members in 2022, embracing the expertise and challenges that a growing club presents.



CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

Dr Archie Murchie - *Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute*

Dr Archie Murchie is head of Pest and Plant Pathogen Surveillance in the Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute in Belfast. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society, and Honorary Senior Lecturer at Queen's University Belfast.

Archie is in entomology with 25 years' post-doctoral experience of project managing research projects in agriculture and environmental sciences. His research is concerned with surveillance and monitoring of pests and pathogens, the use of functional biodiversity in sustainable agricultural production and the targeted management of pest species.

Archie's laboratory is responsible for bee health diagnoses in Northern Ireland. He also sits on the steering group of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and chairs its honeybee strategy component.



Melina Quinn

Melina is the National Trust's Nature Conservation Adviser for Northern Ireland. She leading on NT's Land, Outdoors and Nature programme and has been in post since 2018.

Melina works across Northern Ireland to provide guidance and support to properties on nature conservation management. She works with teams to identify opportunities to increase the value of National Trust land for nature, carbon and people.

Melina champions the work of the Trust and works in partnership with volunteers, government and partner non-government organisations. She also sits on the Steering Group of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.



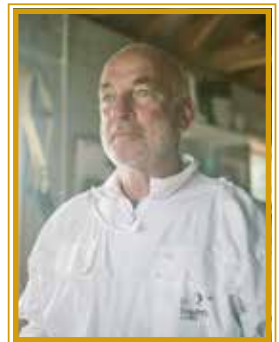
John Greenaway

John is the Conservation Officer for the NIHBS.

He enjoyed a long career in Retail, Sales and Marketing, particularly of Residential property. Happily retired, he now wonders why he ever did anything other than his conservation work.

John is relative new to beekeeper, living on the Dingle Peninsula, Co.Kerry with a few garden Hives. He is a member and currently Secretary of the Kingdom Beekeepers Association

He is an enthusiastic member of the Native Irish Honey Bee Society, an NIHBS Committee Member and its Conservation Area Officer.



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LECTURES

FRIDAY 17TH FEBRUARY		
1.30	Reception	Registration and Trade Show open
2.30	Main Hall	John Greenaway - Conservation of the Native Black Bee
4.45	Main Hall	Opening Ceremony
5.00	Main Hall	Prof Juliana Rangel - Understanding Swarm Behaviour.
6.00		<i>Comfort Break</i>
6.05	Main Hall	Esther Ross - Belfast Beekeepers' Year.
7.00	<i>Main Canteen</i>	<i>Conference Supper and Entertainment (booking essential)</i>

SATURDAY 18TH FEBRUARY		
9.30	Main Hall	Lynfa Davies - Management of Healthy Colonies.
9.30	Lecture Theatre	Dr Archie Murchie - All Ireland Pollinator Plan, Past and Future.
10.20		<i>Tea/Coffee</i>
10.50	Main Hall	Dr Kirsty Stainton - Varroa ----The battle continues.
10.50	Lecture Theatre	Prof Juliana Rangel - The Future Queens. Factors affecting mating biology & quality of Honey Bee Queens.
11.40		<i>Break</i>
12.10	Main Hall	Melina Quinn - Sustainable Biodiversity for Plants and Pollinators.
12.10	Lecture Theatre	Eoghan Mac Giolla Coda - A Good Start: Spring Management for a Successful Beekeeping Season.
13.00		<i>Lunch (booking essential)</i>
14.30	Main Hall	Eoghan Mac Giolla Coda - A Simple Approach to Queen Rearing
14.30	Lecture Theatre	Dr Kirsty Stainton - The Foulbroods. Know your Enemy. .
15.20		<i>Break</i>
16.00	Main Hall	Prof Juliana Rangel - Nutritional Future for the Honey Bee.
16.00	Lecture Theatre	Lynfa Davies - Swarm Management - Thinking Ahead.
16.50	Main Hall	Close

WORKSHOPS

SATURDAY 18TH FEBRUARY	
10.30	Microscopy – TBC
10.50	Beekeeping – Starting Off – Jackie Barry/Mark Wallace
10.50	Candle Making for Beginners – Una McNeill
10.50	Skep Making – Louise McLean
10.50	Encaustic Art – Lorraine Priestley
10.50	Mead Making – Trevor Dawson

14.30	Microscopy – TBC
14.30	Beekeeping – Starting Off – Jackie Barry/Mark Wallace
14.30	Candle Making for Beginners – Una McNeill
14.30	Skep Making – Louise McLean
14.30	Encaustic Art – Lorraine Priestley
14.30	Mead Making – Trevor Dawson

*The **Young People in beekeeping** workshop is still to be assigned a time and it will be signposted in the Main Reception on Saturday 18 February.*

TRADERS AND SUPPLIERS

An extensive Traders and Suppliers Show will be held on Friday and Saturday in the main sports hall of the College.

Entrance is included in Conference Tickets but can be bought separately for those who wish to attend the trade show but not the conference.

2023 WORKSHOPS

INTRODUCING MODERN BEEKEEPING

This workshop is focused on helping beginners and those recent entrants to beekeeping to gain a fuller appreciation of the joys of beekeeping, offering participants practical advice, tips and insights into what it takes become a successful beekeeper.

Jackie Barry and Mark Wallace, both experienced beekeepers, will be providing a stimulating and practical workshop for everyone who is new to the game or who would benefit from a back-to-basics refresher.

SKEP-MAKING

This fascinating craft is a great favourite at UBKA Conferences. As in previous years, Louise McLean will, once again, weave her magic in creating skeps out of straw and rushes. This is an ancient tradition which links participant back to the foundations of beekeeping in the UK and Ireland.

MEAD MAKING

Mead is a drink widely considered to have been discovered prior to the advent of both agriculture and ceramic pottery in Neolithic China. This workshop introduces participants to the art and craft of mead making. Led by expert mead-maker, Trevor Dawson, it goes through the steps to producing a very palatable mead and points out some of the pitfalls along the way. A popular session which may include an opportunity to sample some of Trevor's delightful meads!

MICROSCOPY

AFBI will be hosting two sessions of microscopy techniques for beginners and experienced beekeepers. It will include demonstrations of the procedures to investigate disease diagnosis in bees. The session is also suitable for those planning to sit microscopy exams. Booking is essential – please contact ubkaconference@gmail.com by 1 February if you wish to secure a place.

ENCAUSTIC ART

Encaustic art, also known as wax painting, is a fascinating art form. The basic technique of encaustic art has a very long history that goes back even further than oil painting. The word “encaustic” alone has been around for over two and a half thousand years, and dates back to Greek-Roman antiquity.

This workshop will provide participants with an encaustic definition along with a detailed step-by-step guide to encaustic art from artist, Lorraine Priestly.

At the workshop you will have the opportunity to produce at least one encaustic art picture, using the techniques demonstrated by Lorraine.

CANDLE MAKING

Candle making is a traditional craft which offers a practical use for all of that used wax which beekeepers tend to amass in the course of the year. Una McNeill, an experienced candle maker, will demonstrate candle-making techniques and provide participants with the basic do's and don'ts of candle making. She will also offer practical advice on getting started and how to produce beautiful candles with that unmistakable beeswax scent.

YOUNG PEOPLE IN BEEKEEPING

Our young people are the future of beekeeping. In recent years we have sent young participants to the International Meeting of Young Beekeepers (IMYB) events in France (2018) & Slovakia (2019). These were excellent opportunities for our young beekeepers to mix with their contemporaries from across Europe and gain a broader perspective on the practice of beekeeping.

Whilst our thinking is still at an early stage, our experiences from the IMYB show just what can be achieved with a bit of effort.

To help us develop this work Valentine Hodges will be leading a small workshop at the conference where we explore the possibilities, answer questions and gauge interest, with a view to turning this concept into a reality by summer of '23!



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WORKSHOP DEMONSTRATORS

Trevor Dawson - Mead Making

Trevor is a well known figure at local honey shows - where his mead-making, and the quality of his labours, is very much appreciated.

Trevor, has been keeping honey bees for five years, currently managing 15 colonies. He was awarded his Preliminary Beekeeping Certificate in 2017 and has been working his way through the Intermediate Course Certificates since then.

Trevor is Current Secretary of Randalstown And District Beekeepers' Association (RanDBKA). He recently finished his term as Secretary of the UBKA, and now edits the UBKA Newsletter.

Trevor was awarded UBKA 'Beekeeper of the Year' 2021/2022.



Lorraine Priestley – Encaustic Art

Lorraine Priestley lives in the South of Scotland where she works as an Occupational Therapist. An enthusiastic beekeeper, she is keen to use beeswax creatively, and her workshop introduces participants to techniques in painting with beeswax using a travel iron and other heated tools.

At the workshop you will have the opportunity to produce at least one encaustic art picture, using the techniques demonstrated by Lorraine.



Jackie Barry – Beekeeping – Starting Off

Jackie has been keeping bees for more than 15 years, starting off by helping her father in his apiary after her retirement.

She was quickly hooked, becoming both intrigued and fascinated by beekeeping. This hobby has made her more aware of nature, seasons and the environment that we live in today. Jackie appreciates that we all need to live our lives in a sustainable way, respecting and being conscious of our impact on the environment in our daily activities.

Jackie thoroughly enjoys beekeeping and, as a chemistry graduate who worked in the pharmaceutical industry, is particularly interested in the scientific aspects of beekeeping. She is a tutor with the Fermanagh beekeepers and enjoys encouraging new beekeepers to develop their knowledge and skills.



Mark Wallace - Beekeeping – Starting Off

Mark, a County Tyrone Beekeeper began beekeeping as a teenager and has been making his own equipment since the age of 16. A member of the Three Rivers Beekeepers' Association he describes his role as being a 'bee problem fixer'.

Mark has been heavily involved in teaching the art of beekeeping at both Preliminary and intermediate levels and very much enjoys hand-on tutoring in the field. He brings a wealth of practical experience to this workshop.



WORKSHOP DEMONSTRATORS

Louise McLean – Skep Making

Louise McLean is a 3D willow artist/designer of bespoke and traditional baskets with a workshop and studio on the outskirts of Portrush.

Each hand-crafted piece of her work is inspired by the rugged landscape and coastlines of Ireland. Louise Integrates a wide variety of natural materials including home grown willow, and found elements such as pebbles, driftwood and even seaweed!

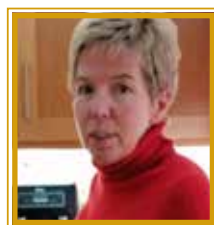
Louise teaches basketry and skep-making courses province-wide, has exhibited and sold works internationally and appeared on national television.



Una McNeill – Candle Making for Beginners

Una lives in the Stormont area of Belfast where, with her intrepid husband Jimmy, they have created an oasis of beekeeping in their Back Garden. Always one to innovate and look at new ways of promoting sustainable beekeeping, Una had been keen to make best use of all bee products, including wax.

Una's candle making is well regarded and her demonstrations of the art have been a welcome feature at this year's Belfast and District BKA's Summer Programme. In her workshop, Una will introduce the basics of candle making with helpful tips on what you need to get started and how to produce a range of beautiful beeswax candles.



Valentine Hodges

Valentine is a keen Beekeeper with a life-long interest in our environment. She works with the native black bee and is involved in the development of a conservation and protected area for our native black bee on the Ards peninsula.

Valentine also crafts skin care products from her own Bees wax and honey, for use on sensitive skin. Awarded "Beekeeper of the year for 2016/17" by both the Ulster Beekeepers Association and Northern Ireland institute Beekeepers - the first time in the history of both organisations that the same person gained this award.





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CONFERENCE BOOKINGS

To book a place etc. go online to: <https://buytickets.at/ulsterbeekeepersassociation>

If you are having a problem booking on-line seek help from your Association to complete booking or contact ubkaconference@gmail.com

The UBKA has frozen admission prices at 2020 levels but has had to pass on significant increases in costs for accommodation and food.

Please note the following:

- Saturday bookings include one free cup of tea/coffee and a scone morning and afternoon
- Under 18s are admitted free
- Preliminary students will receive an additional discount (must be registered at CAFRE and UBKA)
- Discounted prices are available on all bookings paid in full by 31 January
- Prices are in pounds Sterling. If using Euros, equivalent costs will be at exchange rate at time of booking

CONFERENCE PRICES 2023			
Event	Full Cost (£)	Early Discount Rate (£) (up to 31 January inclusive)	Preliminary Student rate (£)
Friday Includes conference and trade show	£27	£22	£15
Saturday Includes conference and trade show	£42	£34	£25
Friday and Saturday	£59	£47	£35
Trade Show Friday excludes Conference attendance	£8	£8	£8
Trade Show Saturday excludes Conference attendance	£8	£8	£8

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Ensuite accommodation
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£44

Saturday Lunch
2 courses & includes
tea/coffee
£14.50

**Conference Supper
& Social Evening**
19.15 - late
£18



- | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 Main Entrance / Gate Lodge | 6 Horticulture Development Centre | 11 Conference Centre | 15 Student Village - Birch Lodge | 20 Walled Garden |
| 2 Overflow Visitor Carpark | 7 Temple Lake, BBQ area | Manor Restaurant | 16 Student Village - Pine Lodge | 21 Walled Garden Studio |
| 3 Cyber Café | 8 The Lodge | Boyd Hall of Residence | 17 Student Village - Oak Lodge | 22 Farm Office & FDC Farm Yard |
| 4 Greenmount Resource Centre | 9 Campus Administration | 12 Fulton Hall of Residence | 18 Student Village - Maple Lodge | 23 Machinery & Buildings Centre |
| 5 Main Visitor Carpark | 10 Manor House Reception | 13 Technology Building | 19 Estate Workshop | 24 Dairy Unit |
| | | 14 Learning & Development Centre | | 25 Bus Park |

WHERE THE CONFERENCE ACTION IS

THE MAIN CONFERENCE LOCATIONS ARE:	
1	Entrance
5	Main car park
4	Main reception with Trade Hall to the right and workshop rooms and Lecture Theatre to the left
3	Cyber Café on 1st floor
11	Main Hall and main dining room (for lunch and Conference Supper)
12	Conference accommodation



Ulster Beekeepers Association

UBKA exists to support honey bees & beekeepers by:

- Enabling beekeepers to maintain healthy colonies and to practice beekeeping legally, safely, responsibly and sustainably
- Informing the wider public about the behaviour and benefits of honey bees and encouraging the growth of beekeeping
- Supporting environmental conservation, for the benefit of honey bees and other pollinators