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Beekeepers  
Association



# ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Friday 14th and Saturday 15th February

# 2020

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# FOREWORD

## James McCreight

### UBKA President



**May I take this opportunity to offer you a very warm welcome to the 2020 UBKA Annual Conference at these excellent facilities at CAFRE Greenmount Campus.**

I have been keeping bees for 6 years, a relatively short time compared to many of you. I have discovered an interest that is both a source of great pleasure as well as of great concern for the future.

Phillipa and I have taken the preservation of the native Irish honey bee close to our hearts in what I see as a life long passion. We are always keen to develop the practical side of this through queen rearing and sharing our experiences.

There is a real concern for the future of insects in general and honey bees in particular. This has been repeatedly highlighted in recent research - there is now so much evidence that the harm done to the environment must be a major issue for us all.

So this year it is appropriate that we have a number of speakers talking on the wider topics of pollinators and the challenges facing us all in working for a more sustainable future. Perhaps we all might learn something in respect to our individual contribution towards a sustainable environment that we leave future generations.

Could I close by thanking our conference speakers and contributors in what I am sure will be an informative and practical few days. I would like to offer a special thanks to everyone involved in helping to organise this year's event and to CAFRE for yet again opening their campus to the UBKA. In particular Susie and John Hill who have helped to develop the UBKA conference into one of the leading conferences in Ireland. Thanks to you all.

**James McCreight**  
UBKA President



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# 2020 Workshops

## WHAT IS BEEKEEPING ALL ABOUT

We are keen to help our beginner beekeepers who will be starting their preliminary course just before our conference. Beemaster Mark Wallace, will be hosting two tutoring sessions for these newcomers and he will be ably assisted by experienced beekeepers. This is an opportunity for beginners to have an informal Q&A session.

*(Please note discount available to 2020 registered Preliminary Course students.)*

**BOOKING ESSENTIAL**



## SKEP-MAKING

There is no end to the demand from delegates wishing to learn this ancient and fascinating craft. Louise McClean will weave her magic and impart endless advice. She will provide all the materials for her class and everyone from beginners to experienced crafters are welcome.

## MEAD MAKING

Practical demonstrations from a Mead making champion.



## HIVE BUILDING

Billy Millar returns to give a master class in hive building and will give many tips on how to build your hives easily and efficiently. This leads to a wonderful sense of achievement when you see your own hives take shape.

## MICROSCOPY

AFBI and Sam Clawson will be hosting two sessions of microscope techniques for beginners and experienced enthusiasts.

Sam will be demonstrating procedures to investigate disease diagnosis in bees. Suitable for those planning to sit Microscopy exams. Booking is essential for these sessions please contact by email: **ubkaconference@gmail.com**



## ENCAUSTIC ART

Lorraine Priestley will be hosting an Encaustic Art workshop which involves painting with bees wax using travel iron and heated tools. Learn from a master of this craft.

# Conference Speakers

## Prof. Tom Seeley

Thomas D. Seeley, biologist and writer, is a professor in the Department of Neurobiology and behaviour at Cornell University.



He teaches courses on animal behaviour and does research on the behaviour, social life, and ecology of honey bees. Tom is an avid beekeeper and began keeping bees while a high school student, when he shook a swarm into a box and brought it home. His scientific work is summarized in five books: *Honeybee Ecology* (1985), *The Wisdom of the Hive* (1995), *Honeybee Democracy* (2010), *Following the Wild Bees* (2016), and *The Lives of Bees* (2019). In recognition of his scientific contributions, he has been honoured by an Alexander von Humboldt Distinguished U.S. Scientist Award, awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship, and elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the German National Academy of Sciences. He is also recipient of the Golden Goose Award from the American Association of the Advancement of Science for his contributions to the development of the "Honey Bee Algorithm", which underlies the efficient operation of the Internet. He writes: "These awards are gratifying, but for me the most important prizes by far are the discoveries that I have made about the inner workings of honey bee colonies."

## Assoc. Prof. Deborah Delaney

Deborah Delaney is an associate professor in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware where she mentors graduate and undergraduate students working on various aspects of pollinator health and productivity.



She teaches *Insects and Society*, *Apiculture*, *Pollination Ecology*, *Aquatic Entomology* and *Bridging Art and Science: Environmental Communication*. She has over 20 years of experience working with pollinators, specifically honey bees and maintains between 50-100 colonies throughout Delaware, Pennsylvania and Maryland. Her research program has four main focal areas:

1. genetic identity and diversity of US honey bees;
2. temporal stability of pollinator populations;
3. best management solutions for creating sustainable managed pollinator populations;
4. pollinator nutrition and forage mapping.

# UBKA Conference 2020

## Dr. Úna Fitzpatrick

Úna Fitzpatrick has a PhD in botany. She worked on a project on the conservation of Irish bees before joining the National Biodiversity Data Centre in 2007. She is responsible for the plant, vegetation and pollinator work programmes of the Centre. She is the chair of the steering group that produced the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020 and oversees its implementation.



## Juanita Browne

Juanita Browne is Community and Engagement Officer with the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. Juanita combined a degree in Zoology with a Masters degree in Media Studies and has a background in communications, print and natural history documentaries.



## Prof. Jane Stout

Jane Stout is an Ecologist, and is Professor in Botany at Trinity College Dublin. She completed her PhD on bumble bee foraging ecology at Southampton University in 1999 with Professor Dave Goulson, and she moved to Trinity in 2001, taking up a lectureship in 2003. Jane's research explores the relationships between plants, animals and people. She focuses on pollination ecology, exploring how interactions shape ecological processes at individual, community and ecosystem scales. She leads the Plant-Animal Interactions Research Group at Trinity, which addresses global challenges associated with climate change, food security, biodiversity conservation and human health. Jane's work evaluates drivers of pollinator decline, explores the value of pollination to society, and provides the evidence-base for national conservation strategies. She is co-lead of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, which relies on this underlying research. Since 2016, Jane has co-led the Irish Pollinator Research Network, an interdisciplinary group that conducts topical research to inform policy. By disentangling the relationships between pollinators and habitat management, her research contributes to the development of sustainable landscapes and livelihoods across the world.



# Conference Speakers Continued...

## Flemming Vejsnæs

Flemming Vejsnæs is Beekeeper adviser for the Danish Beekeepers Association. Biologist and beekeeper himself.

For the past 30 years the focus has been on diseases and practical varroa-treatment in the organic way, keeping Danish honey as a high value product. He is very focused on the quality and importance of the queen in a colony. As he said: "Beekeepers need to take part in varroa tolerance work in the future".

Flemming is a globetrotter in the sense of beekeeping. Visiting congresses and beekeepers all over, to exchange ideas and get inspired. Enjoying the hospitality of beekeepers. He is involved in the international COLOSS network, focusing on the widespread losses of colonies in the last 10 years worldwide.

Flemming started his beekeeping career in 1987. He has 25 colonies at present and is involved in advisory work for Danish beekeepers. He uses his experience with his own hives to challenge and update the advice he gives to beekeepers.

Latest project has been the development of a free hivelog program [www.myhivelog.org](http://www.myhivelog.org) and soon he will finish a bee disease app [www.bisygdom.dk](http://www.bisygdom.dk).

Keep bees alive, healthy and honey clean are the keywords for modern beekeeping.



## Chris Hodges

Chris Hodges lives in Greyabbey on the Ards Peninsula where together with his wife Valentine they look after up to 100 colonies of native Irish Black Bees.

Chris has been keeping bees for 14 years and has forged very close links with the National Trust at Mount Stewart Estate who share the quest to develop the benefits of supporting indigenous species and they provide land to house several of their colonies including a teaching apiary. Indeed plans are "Afoot" to develop a visitors centre where subject to funding, members of the public and special interest groups can safely watch the bees and the beekeepers interacting together.

With such a lot of bees Chris has had the opportunity to work very closely with the colonies and take time to reflect on the lessons that we can learn from the occupants and practices of the hive. Chris plans to share these observations in his presentation at Greenmount.

When not looking after their bees Valentine and Chris are involved with youth work, scuba diving and teaching both the preliminary and intermediate beekeeping syllabus. Together they work every week in a local prison teaching and mentoring an enthusiastic group of both resident and staff students keen to understand the world of our honeybee.





# UBKA Conference 2020

## Mark Wallace

Mark is from County Tyrone and is affiliated to Three Rivers Beekeepers' Association, a fledgling club with a membership of 100, located on the Tyrone - County Donegal border. Mark would say he performs many roles in his Association, the chief one being 'bee problem fixer'.



Mark began beekeeping as a teenager, helping manage a number of bad-tempered colonies, and from this realised the importance of having a gentle, productive dark strain - a trait he endeavours to maintain in his own colonies through selective queen rearing. He has been making his own equipment since the age of 16, having served an apprenticeship as a joiner. Mark has been heavily involved in teaching at preliminary and intermediate level at his Association and especially enjoys the hands-on side of tutoring in the field. He has a particular interest in heather honey, migrating a number of colonies to the ling heather most years. He regularly takes his produce to Honey Shows up and down the country collecting prizes along the way. Mark realises that at the end of the day, it's all about the bees as they are the ones who do all the hard work.

## Saorla Kavanagh

Saorla Kavanagh graduated from Blanchardstown Institute of Technology in 2010 with a BSc in Horticulture. She then went to Trinity College Dublin and obtained a first-class degree in Botany in 2012. She completed her PhD at DCU, on "Honey chemical constituents from apiaries in different landscapes in Ireland", supervised by Blánaid White and co-supervised by Jane Stout. She worked on the EPA-funded POLLIVAL project, which involved developing and accessing methodologies to evaluate pollination services in an economic context. She is currently the Project Manager on the Protecting Farmland Pollinators EIP Project in the National Biodiversity Data Centre. Saorla is a beginner beekeeper with expertise in the fields of chemistry and ecology.



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# Conference Speakers Continued...

## Nigel Semmence

Nigel Semmence is a Contingency Planning and Science Officer for the National Bee Unit, Animal and Plant Health Agency.



Nigel started beekeeping whilst he was a teenager in Norfolk learning from his uncle and grandfather who were both bee farmers. After university Nigel worked in scientific sales before joining the Oxford Bee Company where he worked for three years on pollination projects in the UK and California using solitary bees. In 2009 Nigel joined the National Bee Unit (NBU) as Regional Bee Inspector (RBI) for Southern region running a team of seven Seasonal bee inspectors (SBIs). In 2015 Nigel became the Contingency planning and science officer for the NBU with responsibility for developing contingency plans for exotic pests and diseases of honeybees such as the Asian hornet, Small hive beetle and Tropilaelaps mites. Nigel is also involved closely with Defra policy colleagues and stakeholders (BBKA, WBKA, BFA, BBVA, etc) as a member of the Bee Health Advisory Forum.

## Prof. Dara Kilmartin

Dara Kilmartin is a hobbyist beekeeper with 10 years experience managing 20-30 colonies in 6 apiaries between central and suburban Dublin, rural Wexford and a remote island in Connemara. He is a Beemaster and was awarded the CFL qualification of FIBKA in 2016 following exam lectures on Bee Stings and Bee Vision. He is the Bee Health Officer of the County Dublin Beekeepers Association and is an active member of the Native Irish Honey Bee Society. He regularly gives pollen microscopy workshops and bee dissection/disease analysis and has attended most NDB short courses. Particular beekeeping interests include bee diseases, pollen nutrition effects on bee immunity and comparative bee vision.



In his day job Dara is a Consultant Eye Surgeon.

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# Workshop Demonstrators

## Sam Clawson

Sam Clawson has worked for 40 years in the Department of Agriculture and AFBI mostly in the Entomology Department monitoring forestry pests, invertebrate vectors of disease and environmental health pests. He has provided a disease diagnosis service for beekeepers for many years.

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## Ivan Forsythe

Ivan Forsythe carries out a honey bee pest and disease diagnostic service for Northern Ireland. He is also responsible for reporting test results to DAERA bee inspectors and beekeepers, preparation and distribution of an annual honey bee husbandry survey questionnaire for Northern Ireland beekeepers and collaboration with COLOSS (a European honey bee research organisation), as part of a Europe-wide bee health survey.

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## Carol Hall

Carol Hall has 35 years' experience as a plant scientist. She has been working in entomology on forestry and bee health issues for the past 3 years. She has an extensive knowledge of plant growth and production, including flowering plants for pollination.

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## Dr Archie Murchie

Archie Murchie manages the statutory bee disease identification service for Northern Ireland. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society and has research interests in surveillance and monitoring of insects and associated pathogens. He has an ongoing DAERA research project on foulbrood diseases in Northern Ireland.

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## Lorraine Priestley

Lorraine Priestley lives in the South of Scotland where she works as an Occupational Therapist. She keeps her bees in the garden and enjoys using beeswax in different crafts. Encaustic Art involves painting with bees wax using a travel iron and heated tools. Learn from a master of this craft.

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# UBKA Conference 2020

## LECTURES

### Friday 14th February 2020

1.30pm		Registration and Trade Show open.
2.30pm	<b>Main Hall</b>	<b>Debbie Delaney</b> - Honey Bee Nutrition.
4.45pm		Opening Ceremony, CAFRE and the Mayor.
5.00pm	<b>Main Hall</b>	<b>The Sam Millar Memorial Lecture</b> <i>Sponsored by Donegal Bees</i> <b>Tom Seeley</b> - The lives of Bees.
6.00pm		Comfort Break
6.15pm	<b>Main Hall</b>	<b>Jane Stout</b> - Wild Bees: Diversity, Importance and Conservation.

### Saturday 15th February 2020

8.30am		Tea / Coffee and Scone
9.30am	<b>Main Hall</b>	<b>Tom Seeley</b> - Bee Hives as an Information Centre. <i>Sponsored by Donegal Bees</i>
9.30am	<b>Lecture Theatre</b>	<b>Debbie Delaney</b> - Honey Bee Biology: the individual. <i>Sponsored by Burkes Bee Supplies</i>
10.20am		Tea / Coffee
10.50am	<b>Main Hall</b>	<b>Flemming Vejsnæs</b> - Varroa Management and the continuing challenge.
10.50am	<b>Lecture Theatre</b>	<b>Nigel Semmence</b> - The Asian Hornet.
11.40am		Break
12.10pm	<b>Main Hall</b>	<b>Dara Kilmartin</b> - Swarm Control: why and how.
12.10pm	<b>Lecture Theatre</b>	<b>Chris Hodges</b> - Secrets of the Hive: how bees can help us all. <i>Sponsored by the Mayor - Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council</i>
1.00pm		Lunch ( <i>booking essential</i> )
2.30pm	<b>Main Hall</b>	<b>Debbie Delaney</b> - Queen rearing for the Backyard Beekeeper.
2.30pm	<b>Lecture Theatre</b>	<b>Nigel Semmence</b> - Small Hive Beetle.
3.20pm		Break
4.00pm	<b>Main Hall</b>	<b>Tom Seeley</b> - The dance language of Honey Bees. <i>Sponsored by the Mayor - Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council</i>
4.00pm	<b>Lecture Theatre</b>	<b>Flemming Vejsnæs</b> - Hive Log Project.
4.50pm		Close in Main Hall

# UBKA Conference 2020

## WORKSHOPS

### Saturday 15th February 2020

10.30am	<b>Microscopy</b> - Sam Clawson and Archie Murchie ( <i>booking essential</i> )
10.50am	<b>Introduction to Beekeeping</b> - Mark Wallace ( <i>booking essential</i> ) Part 1: for beginners embarking on their preliminary course and their journey into Beekeeping.
10.50am	<b>Hive Construction</b> - Billy Millar
10.50am	<b>Skep Making</b> - Louise McClean
10.50am	<b>Encaustic Art</b> - Lorraine Priestley ( <i>booking essential</i> )
10.50am	<b>Mead making</b> - tuition from an award winner.
2.30pm	<b>Microscopy</b> - Sam Clawson and Archie Murchie ( <i>booking essential</i> )
2.30pm	<b>Introduction to Beekeeping</b> - Mark Wallace ( <i>booking essential</i> ) Part 2: for beginners embarking on their preliminary course and their journey into Beekeeping.
2.30pm	<b>Hive Construction</b> - Billy Millar
2.30pm	<b>Skep Making</b> - Louise McClean
2.30pm	<b>Encaustic Art</b> - Lorraine Priestley ( <i>booking essential</i> )
2.30pm	<b>Mead making</b> - tuition from an award winner.

## All Ireland Pollinator Plan



### Saturday 15th February 2020

9.30am	<b>Úna Fitzpatrick</b> - All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020: successes and lessons learned so far.
10.50am	<b>Saorla Kavanagh</b> - Making future farming pollinator-friendly.
12.10pm	<b>Tom Seeley</b> - Future beekeeping needs - how can they be addressed in the next Plan?
2.30pm	<b>Jane Stout</b> - Looking to 2021-2025; what can we learn from other pollinator initiatives around the world?
4.00pm	<b>Juanita Browne</b> - Interactive discussion session on ideas for the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025.

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FIBKA (Federation of Irish Beekeepers Associations)	<a href="http://www.irishbeekeeping.ie">www.irishbeekeeping.ie</a>
SBA (Scottish Beekeepers Association)	<a href="http://www.scottishbeekeepers.org.uk">www.scottishbeekeepers.org.uk</a>
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GUEST SPEAKER

**Dr Kirsten Traynor**

**Flickerwood Apiary, Maryland, USA**

Kirsten received the prestigious German Chancellor Scholarship from the Humboldt Foundation in 2006-2007. She drove over 50,000 miles throughout Western Europe to study the differences between European and American beekeeping, reporting her findings through 50+ published articles in National and International magazines. At the same time she interviewed scientists and medical doctors, gathering information for her books: *Two Million Blossoms* and *Discovering the Medicinal Benefits of Honey*. She is a past editor of *Bee World* and *The American Bee Journal*.

This Course is organised by FIBKA. It is an internationally renowned course, attracting beekeepers from all parts of the world. The range of lectures and workshops has universal appeal both for the beginner and the advanced enthusiast covering a wide programme in the practical and scientific areas.

**To book your place contact the Course Convenor**

Michael G Gleeson, Ballinakill, Enfield, Co Meath, Ireland.

Email: **[mGGLEE@eircom.net](mailto:mGGLEE@eircom.net)** or **[gormanston@irishbeekeeping.ie](mailto:gormanston@irishbeekeeping.ie)**

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# Conference Gallery

A selection of photographs taken at the 2019 UBKA Annual Conference.





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Organised by Scottish Beekeepers Association and  
Fife/Dunfermline and West Fife Beekeepers.



British Beekeepers Association



*Spring* 2020  
*Convention*

**3rd, 4th and 5th April 2020**

Harper Adams University, Newport, Shropshire TF10 8NB UK

**Three days of Lectures,  
Workshops and Seminars  
Trade Show Saturday 4 April**

Great hospitality and Accommodation

*(On-site accommodation limited this year so please book early)*

**Ticket sales and bookings open  
January 2020**

For more information visit  
[www.bbka.org.uk/event/bbka-spring-conv](http://www.bbka.org.uk/event/bbka-spring-conv)







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# Come and Browse



UBKA Conference



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## THE IBA CLG REPRESENTS BEEKEEPERS FROM ALL AROUND IRELAND.

It was set up in 2017, by beekeepers who came together to promote the art of bee husbandry, and to secure insurance for beekeepers. We provide information and education to all. We host regular webinars during the winter months with lecturers from around the world to ensure we are kept updated on international best practice and scientific research.

A regular supply of fun and laughs is guaranteed throughout!



The IBA CLG endorses the All Ireland Pollinator Project; [www.pollinators.ie](http://www.pollinators.ie)

[www.irishbeekeepersassociation.com](http://www.irishbeekeepersassociation.com)

Follow us on twitter: @IBAClg

# Book online at: [www.ubka.org](http://www.ubka.org)

## Alternatively you can complete the Booking Form below



PLEASE NOTE: when booking online the cost in Euros may vary in accordance with the daily exchange rate at time of booking. We will use your details to send further education and training news from UBKA. If you have not previously opted in, please tick this box ☐. Visit our website to view our GDPR policy.

Name: .....

Address: .....

Postcode: .....

Telephone: ..... Email: .....

Beekeeping Association: .....

**NOTE: visitors under 18yrs - entry is free of charge.** Discounted prices on all bookings PAID IN FULL before **26th January 2020**. **\*DISCOUNT DOES NOT APPLY**

Event	£	EARLY BOOKING DISCOUNT	PRELIMINARY STUDENT 2020	€	EARLY BOOKING DISCOUNT	PRELIMINARY STUDENT 2020	✓
Friday - includes conference and trade show	£27.00	<b>£22.00</b>	<b>£15.00</b>	Exchange rate at time of booking	Exchange rate at time of booking	Exchange rate at time of booking	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saturday - includes conference and trade show	£42.00	<b>£34.00</b>	<b>£25.00</b>	Exchange rate at time of booking	Exchange rate at time of booking	Exchange rate at time of booking	<input type="checkbox"/>
Friday and Saturday	£59.00	<b>£47.00</b>	<b>£35.00</b>	Exchange rate at time of booking	Exchange rate at time of booking	Exchange rate at time of booking	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trade Show (Fri) excludes conference	£8.00*	<b>£8.00*</b>	<b>£8.00*</b>	Exchange rate at time of booking	Exchange rate at time of booking	Exchange rate at time of booking	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trade Show (Sat) excludes conference	£8.00*	<b>£8.00*</b>	<b>£8.00*</b>	Exchange rate at time of booking	Exchange rate at time of booking	Exchange rate at time of booking	<input type="checkbox"/>

NB: Preliminary Students must be registered through CAFRE and UBKA.

Greenmount B&B* - Ensuite Accommodation / Per Night	Saturday Lunch* - 2 course / includes Tea/Coffee	Friday Supper & Social Evening* - includes Tea/Coffee / 7.15pm - late
<b>£41.00</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>£14.50</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>£14.00</b> <input type="checkbox"/>

**Hotel and B&B Accommodation in Antrim and surrounding areas.** A list is available from the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council website:  
[www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk](http://www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk)

**Send your booking form with full payment to the Conference Manager;**  
Susie Hill, 7 Nutts Corner Road, Crumlin, Co. Antrim, BT29 4BW  
Tel: 07585 950703 Email: [ubkaconference@gmail.com](mailto:ubkaconference@gmail.com)

**TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE: £** .....

**PLEASE MAKE ALL CHEQUES PAYABLE TO UBKA**

**€** .....





# Ulster Beekeepers Association

## **UBKA'S OBJECTIVES ARE TO:**

- unite beekeepers in Northern Ireland for their mutual benefit in promoting apiculture;
- represent the collective interests of beekeepers;
- undertake activities which support local associations.