

## **Introducing the Speakers**

**Karl Colyer.** Karl has been keeping bees since 2003, combining his passion for beekeeping with his knack for hands-on craftsmanship by building his own hives from recycled wood. As a practical and skilled bee breeder, Karl draws on his background in engineering, quality, and production to approach beekeeping with precision and care. In his spare time, Karl set up a not-for-profit social enterprise, Bees in our Community, providing businesses and individuals with a gentle introduction to beekeeping. This initiative not only helps grow the number of colonies but also encourages more people to become beekeepers. Karl has a variable number of hives and offers his support to new (and not-so-new) beekeepers via a mentoring scheme and training events around the country.

**Julia Piggott.** Julia has been interested in bees since early childhood and has kept honeybees since 1987. She lives in Cumbria beside a Pollinator Nature Reserve that she and her husband Martin run.

Julia and Martin have a small 'not for profit' business, 'Bee Ed' to teach anyone who is interested about pollinators; the 17 acre nature reserve is managed as flower rich meadow and pasture with bee appropriate woodland. All money raised from courses & talks is used to run the nature reserve.

We both belong to Kendal and South Westmorland Beekeepers' Association, Julia is the education officer, Martin is the chairperson. We have the beekeeping equipment supply business in South Cumbria. 'In another life' Julia was a GP until 2016. From 2016 until she retired in the autumn of 2024 she worked as a seasonal bee inspector for the NBU.

**Beekeepers Lunch.** A Beekeepers Lunch has been organized at the Embleton Spa Hotel, just across the road from the venue. The cost is about £25 for 2 courses, starter and main. (We are still awaiting confirmation of the menu. A vegetarian option is available. Bookings will be taken prior to the start of the Convention.

**Cover Photography courtesy of Ian Gregory**

## **Autumn Convention – 13 Sep 25**

**Admission £15** (Card payments Accepted)

(Includes free tea/coffee)

9.00 am	Welcome/Coffee
9.30 am	Pests in the Hive – Julia Piggott
10.45 am	Tea/Coffee
11.15 am	Things I wish I had Known Earlier – Karl Colyer
12.30 pm	Lunch (This is available from the nearby Embleton Spa Hotel at a concession rate or attendees may bring their own. Free tea/coffee will be available in the venue.)
2.00 pm	Preparing for and Taking your Bees through Winter – Julia Piggott
3.00pm	Tea/Coffee
3.30 pm	Rescuing bees from Buildings and Trees – Karl Colyer
4.30 pm	Any Questions & Close