



KENT BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

County Newsletter No. 88 December 2017

EDITORIAL

December is a grim, damp month and beginning to turn very cold. So perhaps it's as well that the national and association honey shows are over, as are those of most of the branches, and the talks (several are listed below) are yet to begin.

Assuming our bees are fed and prepared for winter, and our equipment is all clean and mended and neatly stored, there's almost nothing to do but enjoy the upcoming festivities. In which spirit, I hope you enjoy yours.

NATIONAL HONEY SHOW 2017

The National Honey Show returned to Sandown Park this year. It is a very good space for the show and, occasionally, the low October sun shone across the parade ring, lighting the exhibits wonderfully.

The Kent Cups were mostly won by **Peter Bashford** (Bromley). Sadly, we have not found a photograph, but our reporter caught up with him at the Show Desk, pocketing the returns for nine first places (also one fourth place, a very highly commended and a commended).

"It could have been better" he said, while waiting to be presented with the Commemoration Cup, Coronation Cup, Kent Wax Cup, Barnes Cup, Vincent Cup and The Frank Crow Trophy. I'm sure none of us will begrudge him the dusting.

The other Kent Cups awarded were the Smith Cup (for a frame of honey for extraction) which went to **Anthony Edwards** (Medway), and the Coronation Mead Mazer, won by **Paul Abbott** (Sevenoaks & Tunbridge Wells). Neither the Beeswax Cup nor the Bee Cup were awarded this year.

NATIONAL BEE UNIT NEWS

The National Bee Unit has reported, following a sighting of an Asian Hornet in Devon in September, the discovery and destruction of a single nest in October.

Nobody knows if other colonies are already here, but they are likely to appear, and we're encouraged to keep an eye out and be prepared, if possible, to take a picture. Sightings can be reported by email to alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk or through the '**Asian Hornet Watch**' app available for Apple and Android devices.

It's also the time of year when the NBU would like us to update our BeeBase records, if we have any. Links to the Hive Count are on the <http://www.nationalbeeunit.com/> homepage.

COUNTY AND OTHER EVENTS

Ashford

Fri 2nd Feb 2018 – 7pm – St Mary's Community Centre
Talk by Dr Stuart Andrews (Canterbury) of *Bees Abroad*

Fri 2nd Feb 2018 – 7pm – St Mary's Community Centre
Talk by Roger Patterson (West Sussex) subject TBC

Mid Kent, Maidstone and Swale

Tue 23rd Jan - 7:45pm - Detling Village Hall
Bob Smith: *Staying on top of varroa, chemical and non-chemical approaches*

Tue 20th Feb - 7:45pm – Detling Village Hall
Kay Wreford: *A Year in the Life of a Bee Inspector*

Tue 20th Mar - 7:45pm – Detling Village Hall
Talk by Ian Gower on pesticides

Mid Kent, Maidstone and Swale (continued)

Beekeeping Beginners' Course (Detling and East Malling)

7 weeks, plus weekend practical session, with option to take the BBKA Basic Assessment. £80 (couples £100).

Tuesday evenings, 7.30pm - 10pm, starting 27th March 2018

Introduction to Beekeeping (East Malling)

7th/8th April 2018 (£80)

Bee Breeding & Queen Rearing (East Malling)

2nd/3rd June 2018 (£50)

For further details see <http://www.kbka.org.uk/courses>

Sidcup

See www.ruxleybeekeepers.org.uk for further details.

Sun 14 Jan 2018 - 2 pm – Orpington Village Hall

Talk by Dr Karl Crailsheim (Graz, Austria) on *Bee Nutrition*

Tickets £7 (£5 in advance)

Sat 27 & Sun 28 Jan 2018 10am – 4pm

All-day workshops by the Apimondia 2017 Gold Medals Winners, Sue Carter and Bill Fisher, on beeswax preparation, award-winning candle-making and the production of other beeswax products.

Venue and admission details TBC.

Westerham

Members of other branches are asked to advise the Chair, Jane Rosam 01732 868085 or westerhambeekeepers@gmail.com if they wish to attend.

Wed 24th Jan 2018– Westerham Hall

Talk by Daisy Day, Master Beekeeper

Wed, 21 Feb 2018 - Westerham Hall

Talk by Dr Nikki Gammans, Manager of the Short-haired Bumblebee Project

BBKA EVENTS

Annual Delegates Meeting

Sat 13th Jan 2018

Only open to Association Delegates, including from the KBKA

BBKA Spring Convention

Fri 13th April – Sun 15th April 2018

Harper Adams University , Newport, TF10 8NB

Further details will be advertised in BBKA News & Bee Craft, and on

<http://www.bbka.org.uk>.

BBKA EXAMINATION DATES

Closing dates for BBKA exams are given below. These are the dates by which the BBKA has to have your entry, so please ensure your Branch exam secretary has your form a week beforehand.

Modules	10 th Feb 2018 (for exams on 24 th Mar)
General & Advanced Husbandry	28 th Feb 2018
Bee Breeding Certificate	28 th Feb 2018
Bee Health Certificate	31 st Feb 2018

REGIONAL BEE INSPECTOR

As it's no longer the season, the Regional Bee Inspector is currently the first contact for notifiable pests and diseases. Her details are:

Sandra Gray

email: sandra.gray@apha.gsi.gov.uk

tel: 01787 211531

mobile: 07775 119430

DON'T FORGET to advise your Branch Secretary and the County Membership Secretary of any change to your e-mail address, postal address or telephone numbers.

If you have **any** branch information or articles you would like included in the Newsletter, please e-mail newsletter@kbka.org.uk