

1923 - 2017



MBKA

Medway
Beekeepers
Association

Celebrating over 90 years of support for beekeeping
And beekeepers in and around the Medway Towns



Newsletter October 2017

We are well into winter preparations now so get the mouse guards on, store away the supers, start planning for next season and maybe think about attending a lecture at **the National Honey Show**, or join **A Course In A Box** to help develop your skills and understanding. We now move inside for our winter meetings, which we start this year with an **Autumn Fair**, see below for details. Don't forget the **Annual Dinner** book your place early and win a hamper!

Past Event:

MBKA Honey Show

9th – 10th September 2017

Venue: Elm Court Garden Centre



Entries to the Honey Show were slightly up on last year 75 entries from 15 members – thank you for taking the time to prepare entries.

Our judge was Sue Lang from Bedfordshire. She is an experienced and successful exhibitor and is part way through her training to be a judge. Sue was impressed by the overall quality of the exhibits and the large entries in the classes for medium honey, sections and honey labelled for sale. She also enjoyed the variety in the photographic and craft classes.



The novice class provided my personal favourite moment of the show – Paul Lawrence being completely lost for words when he found out that not only had he won the novice class but also the award for best honey in show! (the judges comment slip reads: Really nicely prepared jars, lovely flavour! Well done)

Full results and details of the award winners are on the website.



The honey show needs a lot of help to get the 'show on the road' so thank you to the set up crew on Friday afternoon, all who stewarded and chatted to visitors over the weekend and everyone who helped clear up on Sunday.

Sales of honey, cut comb and candles over the weekend came to £189.

Sue Chapman

MEDWAY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

HONEY SHOW 2017

CUP AND AWARD WINNERS

The Neves Silver Memorial Cup (highest aggregate number of points)	Mark Ballard
The Chairman's Silver Challenge Cup (best frame in class 5)	Tony Edwards
The Bryden Memorial Cup (best composite entry in class 6)	Mark Ballard
The Gowar Memorial Cup (best mead)	Pip Blaxland
The Blaxland Silver Salver (best sections in class 8)	Sue Chapman
The Rose Bowl (best cake)	Sue chapman
The Novice Cup (best exhibit in the novice classes)	Paul Lawrence
The Holland Bowl (best honey in class 17 - commercial)	Mark Ballard
The Chapman Cup (best photograph)	Mark Ballard
The Clueit Cup (best honey in show)	Paul Lawrence
The Wax Cup (best wax in class 7)	John Chapman
The Dennis Harvey memorial Award (best entry in the Novice class and takes the form of a beekeeping book of the winner's choice)	Paul Lawrence

The Meetings and Events for October:

MBKA Apiary Site, 'Autumn Clean-Up'

Saturday 7th October 2017

Time: 10am to Noon

Please come and help tidy up our Apiary Site. Even bacon butties are supplied!
You can find the apiary at 215a City Way, Rochester, Kent ME1 2TL

MBKA Autumn Fair:

Saturday 14th October 2017

Venue: Wainscott Memorial Hall, Holly Road, Wainscott, ME2 4LG

Time: 2 to 4pm

This year for our first indoor meeting we will be holding an Autumn Bee Fair. This fun afternoon will showcase some of the many different facets of beekeeping and will hopefully be of interest to you and your family and friends. Admission is free and refreshments and a raffle will be on offer.

The Fair will include candle making, both rolled and moulded, honey extraction – frame to jar, plants for bees, photographic display, bumble bees and swarms, demo hive & beekeeping, honey tasting and a kids corner that will include our young beekeepers who will be helping make bug hotels and other crafts.

There will also be the honey shop with honey, wax products and bee related items for sale – excellent for Christmas presents!

The Autumn Bee Fair is free and open to all but we could do with a bit of help:

- Can any of you please help out for an hour or so on the afternoon? Particularly with the refreshments and honey tasting.
- Also, we are after your best bee related photos to add to the display – either printed or emailed to me to print would be fine.
- We would love to put on a display of bee friendly plants – if any of you have any in pots you could loan us for the afternoon please bring them along.
- Finally, **please spread the word** – we want as many people to come as possible.
- For offers of help or any queries please contact me on: 07990 581858
Or you can contact any other committee member.

Thank you, Jen Ferry

Autumn Study Group

23rd October 2017

Venue: Wainscott Memorial Hall, Holly Road, Wainscott, ME2 4LG

Course in a Case for Improvers:

I am pleased to tell you that we have had sufficient interest and that MBKA Improvers Course will be going ahead. We have a team that includes three Master Beekeepers and ten beekeepers with practical & theoretical expertise ready to deliver this course.

The course will be run on a Monday evening, 7.30 - 9.30, once a fortnight starting on the 6th November at Wainscott Memorial Hall, Holly Road, Wainscott, ME2 4LG.

The entry requirement is that you are at or above Basic level – however, you do not have to demonstrate this, it is just a method of communicating the level.

If you would like to participate please get in touch with me on the number shown below.

At the first session we will discuss the proposed course content and find out what from this list you would like to cover. The topics include Apiary Location & Management, Natural History and Biology, Foraging, Pests and Diseases, Honey Removal & Processing, Swarm Prevention and Control, Other Products, Nuclei and Packages and Advanced Beekeeping Procedures, with a final Review & Discussion session.

There will be no examination or certificates of achievement but there will be a certificate of attendance. We will use 'Dropbox' to share any information, material and notes. There will also be a library of books available. Refreshments also form a vital part of the evening as this is the time to chat & eat cake!!!

The cost for the course will be £20 to cover consumables – including the cakes!!!

The dates are:

Study Group 1	- 6 November 17	Study Group 6	- 5 February 18
Study Group 2	- 20 November 17	Study Group 7	- 19 February 18
Study Group 3	- 11 December 17	Study Group 8	- 5 March 18
Study Group 4	- 8 January 18	Study Group 9	- 19 March 18
Study Group 5	- 22 January 18	Study Group 10	- 9 April 18

To register your interest or for more information please contact Jen Ferry on: 07990 581858 or any committee member.

Jen Ferry

Bee Chat

Wednesday 25th October 2017

Why not come along and share your stories and hear everyone else's! 4th Wednesday of the month at The Pier, Lower Upnor, ME2 4XA, at 7.30pm.

The National Honey Show

Thursday 26th to Saturday 28th October 2017

Venue: Sandown Race Course, Esher, Surrey, KT10 9AJ

Contact The Show at: www.honeyshow.co.uk

Future Events:

MBKA Annual Dinner and Prize Presentation

Saturday 4th November 2017

Venue: Hoo Masonic Hall, 95 Main Road, Hoo t Werburgh, Rochester, ME3 9EU

The dinner will be buffet style and the cost is £28 per head. For Menu and Booking Forms please see September Circular. Booking forms can also be downloaded from:

www.medwaybeekeepers.co.uk/latest-news

Please Note: We have to inform our caterers by **16th October 2017** of the exact numbers, so ensure this form and your money reaches John Hendrie by **16th October 2017**.

All bookings received by Monday 9th October will be eligible for the 'Early Bird Hamper Draw'.

Please complete the form (make your cheque payable to Medway Beekeeping Association)

Then post or email your form as soon as possible to: 

Mr. J. Hendrie, 26, Coldharbour Lane, Hildenborough, Tonbridge, Kent. TN11 9JT

Email: john.hendrie@medwaybeekeepers.co.uk

Launch of MBKA on Social Media:

Over the next few months, we will be working to raise the profile of The Association by having a presence on social media.

We will start this by inviting those of you who use Facebook to like our Facebook page. Once we get some engagement we will use this and other platforms to publicise activities and events and as a discussion forum. There is no longer a 'one size fits all' solution to communicating and engaging with both our members and the public. So we will broaden our offering! If you have any other suggestions please get in touch.

If you would like to join us on Facebook please go to:

www.fb.com/medwaybka and click 'like'.

We will slowly start to get more content on to the page but feel free to add more.

Kimber's Corner:



Hi everyone.

Well my colony didn't make it. I have ended up with a colony containing no more than a cupful of bees and quite a few of them are very black and shiny. It appears to be a virus. I've purchased another colony and was hoping to combine the two together. However on finding the problem I decided to terminate them with soapy water rather than to spread a possible virus to the new colony.

On the up side they did managed over the summer to produce 10lbs of lovely set honey, an unexpected bonus for a beginner I am thinking. Despite this year's swarming issues, lessons have been well learnt for next year. The new colony is doing brilliantly, they have just cleaned up a super and are a good size going into the winter. I only have time for a few more inspections before the weather gets too cold and wet and I need to leave them to their own devices. I will weigh them as we go into the winter and then monitor them every few weeks. I have the fondant and oxalic acid treatment at hand ready for the New Year! Probably the best lesson any new beekeeper can learn is to plan ahead and be ready to act when necessary.

It has been an interesting first year, having my own colony has been a challenge but I have learnt lots and next year will be better I am sure.

As this is my last Kimber's Corner a special thank you to the MBKA for inviting me to share my story through my first year as a beekeeper. I hope it's been interesting to some and amusing to you more experienced beekeepers. Well, we all have to start somewhere.

Wishing you all the best for the new season and the New Year.

Kind Regards
Peter Kimber

Asian hornets spray 'Drone' with venom:

A report from the BBC in Jersey, found by Bob Smith:

Click on this link to read more: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-jersey-41141330>

Special Purchase:

As a service to members and a fundraiser for the Association we have purchased a bulk order of traditional 1lb Honey Jars from Freeman & Harding.

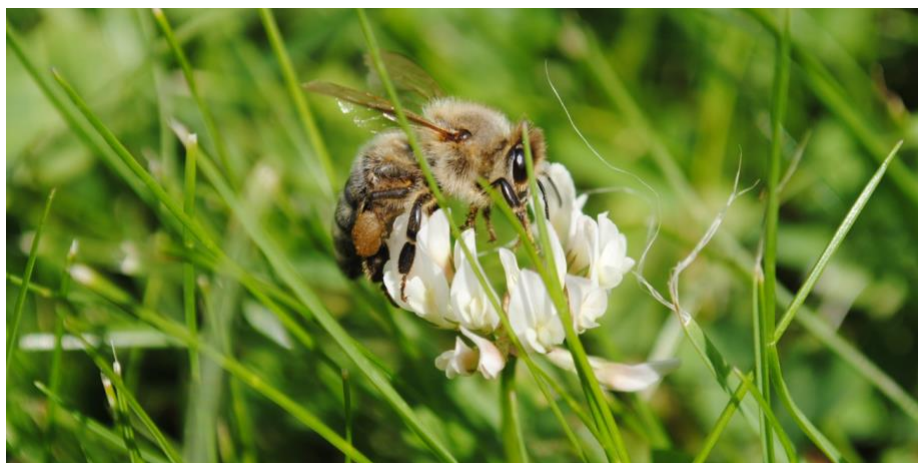
These are available to members at £25 per box of 72 jars. (Freeman & Hardings price is £31.50). There are only a few boxes left so if you want some be quick - payment by cash, cheque or BACs all accepted!!

If you would like to secure a box or two (or more!) please contact Jen Ferry on 07990 581858 or email jen.ferry@medwaybeekeepers.co.uk.

And Finally Why Not Go Along To:

Kent Beekeepers Autumn Lecture Sunday 22 October 2017 2pm

Lenham Community Hall, Groom Way, Lenham ME17 2QT (off A20)



“The Evolution of Plants and Insects”

Pam Hunter

How they have evolved together and the modifications they have made to ensure cross pollination and attract insects. Includes a variety of interesting relationships between different insects and plants.

Pam's background is in biological sciences, she has kept bees for 28 years and is a master beekeeper, a member of BIBBA and is Chairman and an assessor for the BBKA exam board.

“Beekeeping Practices in Africa”

Richard Ridler

Exploring the differences between beekeeping in the UK and Africa. Richard will explain why top bar hives are preferred, discuss approaches to swarm control and absconding, and consider the future opportunities for beekeeping in Africa.

Richard is chairman of the charity Bees Abroad which works to relieve poverty through beekeeping. He has been chairman of Essex Beekeepers and together with his wife Jane he keeps some 20 hives around Saffron Walden in Essex. They are both Master Beekeepers.

Doors open 1pm. Entry fee includes refreshments

Tickets £5 booked in advance from your KBKA Council representative or by contacting Charles Posnett by email ceposnett@yahoo.co.uk with payment by bank transfer to Kent Beekeepers Association CAF Bank

Sort Code 40 52 40 A/c no. 000123963 use surname as reference

Or payment of £7 on the door

Many thanks, to all of those who have contributed to this newsletter.
Looking forward to seeing you at this winter's meetings, which are available at:
www.medwaybeekeepers.co.uk/events

Are there any other beekeeping products / accessories you might like us to purchase in bulk next year? If you have ideas please let us know.

Whether you are old or new members, if you have any news, ideas, amusing stories or comments about the website or for any future newsletter, please get in touch with me, Paul Lawrence at the address shown below, we really do appreciate your input.

Contact Details:

Chairman

John Chapman
john.chapman@medwaybeekeepers.co.uk

Newsletter and Website Enquiries

Paul Lawrence
paul.lawrence@medwaybeekeepers.co.uk