

1923 - 2018



Medway
Beekeepers
Association

Medway Beekeepers Association

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



Newsletter October 2018

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 joining a course to help develop your skills and understanding or attending a lecture at the National Honey Show. 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 **Supper and Prizegiving Evening**.

Past Events:

8th-9th September 2018 MBKA Honey Show

This year's show had the largest number of entries since 2010 and was also very busy especially on Saturday.

Thank you to the 16 members of the association who took the time and put in the effort to prepare entries and to everyone who helped 'man' the show over the weekend.



Tex Garbutt, our judge, was kept busy on Saturday morning working his way through 94 entries, even stopping off from time to time to explain what he was doing to interested members of the public (see photo). Sonia Belsey acted as his steward and recorded all the results very efficiently.

Full results and details of the award winners are on the website. Special congratulations to Elaine Laight who won both the novice and photography cups and to Daphne Blaxland who was delighted to win the Rose Bowl for the best cake after many attempts.



Elm Court Garden Centre put the show in an excellent position this year - between the restaurant and the plant sales area - so we had a steady stream of interested visitors all weekend. Sales of honey and hive products were very good and totalled £680 over the two days.



As usual we were kept busy chatting to visitors and answering their questions, the virtual hive was opened many times especially for the children to have a go at finding the queen. Several people expressed interest in joining the association or taking part in the beginner's course. All useful public relations.

Setting up the show and putting it all away takes time and needs muscle power so thank you to the Friday set up crew and everyone who helped on Sunday afternoon.

Sue Chapman

The Cup Winners are listed below:

A full set of results may be viewed at: www.medwaybeekeepers.co.uk/honey-show

MEDWAY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

HONEY SHOW 2018

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)	Mark Ballard
The Bryden Memorial Cup (best composite entry in class 6)	Mark Ballard
The Gowar Memorial Cup (best mead)	Simon Marshall
The Blaxland Silver Salver (best sections in class 8)	Sue Chapman
The Rose Bowl (best cake)	Daphne Blaxland
The Novice Cup (best exhibit in the novice classes)	Elaine Laight
The Holland Bowl (best honey in class 17 - commercial)	Mark Ballard
The Chapman Cup (best photograph)	Elaine Laight
The Clueit Cup (best honey in show)	Mark Ballard
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)	Elaine Laight

Saturday 22nd September 2018

Ploughing Match

Venue: Tudor Farm, Upper Stoke



Eight intrepid helpers turned out to setup and run our stall at this year's ploughing match. To start with the weather was kind to us all, but unfortunately, by mid-day the heavens opened and everything in the old corn field became rather muddy. We managed a good range of products on the stall including wax candles and models, wax wraps, hand knitted bees, drizzle sticks and of course honey, including soft set, runny, chunk, and cut comb. The footfall was, as you would expect, well down on previous years but we still had quite a successful day taking a total of £400 in sales and £68.70 in the ever-popular candle-rolling. As well as talking to the locals about bees and our work. We also picked up the details of one volunteer, who is interested in giving a home to a colony of honeybees!



So well done to all of those who helped especially at the end when everything became rather wet as we dismantled the pitch. We also had a nice verbal thank you from the organisers, for our attendance and for maintaining a presence until the very end!

Paul Lawrence

A late reminder!

Kent Beekeepers Autumn Lecture

Saturday 29th September 2018 from 1.15pm

Venue: Lenham Community Centre, 4 Church Square, Lenham, Maidstone, ME17 2PJ
Tickets are £7 on the door.

October's Events and Meetings:

**Please note that the Apiary is now closed for the winter.
Weather permitting it will reopen in March 2019.**

Save this date! Book your places now!

Saturday 13th October 2018

MBKA Annual Supper and Prizegiving Evening

Time: 6 – 11pm

Venue: Wainscott Community Hall, 16 – 18 Holly Road, Wainscott, ME2 4LG

Plans are well advanced for the Annual Supper and Prize Giving, the Certificates are printed and the Quiz is being written. Bookings are coming in but to aid with the planning please forward your monies and any dietary requirement to John Hendrie - £25 per head. A fun evening with friends old and new is planned - please do come along and join in celebrating the success of our members over the last year.

Booking is through The Treasurer John Hendrie. For MBKA account details please refer to Jen's email sent out a few weeks ago.

Jen Ferry



Saturday 20th October 2018

MBKA Autumn Bee Fair

Time: 2pm onwards

Venue: Wainscott Community Hall, 16 – 18 Holly Road, Wainscott, ME2 4L

Don't forget to bring your 'signed super frame' for judging.

Following on from the success of last year's Autumn Bee Fair we will once again have our October meeting as a Bee Fair open to the public, free of charge. We have lots planned, but we could do with a bit more help! If you or your partner could please give an hour on the day I would love to hear from you!! Also - last year we had a very successful plant stall, informing people about bee friendly plants and selling plant, if you have any spare plants do please bring them along. There will also be excellent refreshments and a tombola.

Could you provide a prize or two for the 'Tombola'? Sonia is organising this and if anyone has anything they'd like to donate booze, books, honey, candles, sweets, gift sets etc they can email her at sbelsey@aol.com. She will collect locally or bring them to the prize giving supper for collection.

Just let me know if you want to get involved.

Jen Ferry
07990 581858

Monday 22nd October 2018

Winter Study Group 1

Time: 7.00pm (7.30pm start)

Venue: Wainscott Community Hall, 16 – 18 Holly Road, Wainscott, ME2 4L

Wednesday 24th October 2018

Bee Chat

Come 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 25th to Saturday 27th October 2018

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

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

Future Events:



Saturday 17th November 2018

Indoor Meeting – Bumble Bee Conservation

Making a buzz for the Coast – A talk by Lauren Kennedy

Time: 2 – 5pm

Venue: Wainscott Community Hall, 16 – 18 Holly Road, Wainscott, ME2 4

A little piece of background to Making a buzz for the Coast:

An exciting new HLF funded project by Bumblebee Conservation Trust working with partners in North Kent to safeguard the rare bumblebees found along the coastline. Many of the bumblebee species within the UK are classed as rare or threatened, this is mainly due to massive losses in wildflower meadows. Working from Dartford to Deal the project aims to create and restore habitat for bees.

Lauren Kennedy (Outreach and Volunteer Officer) will talk about the aims of the project and what they have already achieved. In addition; what rare species are found on the Kent coastline, their ecology/lifecycle and what makes Kent so special for bee populations. Lauren will also talk about how you could be involved with the project and what we can do to help protect and encourage bees.

Saturday 16th February 2019 MBKA Annual General Meeting

Time: 2pm to 5pm

Venue: Wainscott Community Hall, 16 – 18 Holly Road, Wainscott, ME2 4LG

Education Report:

The Winter Studies group, starting on Monday 22nd October, will be taking a look into many of the important aspects of what bees eat, how they process it and how we harvest those beautiful products of the hive. We will be (loosely) guided by the BBKA syllabus so that any who wish will be prepared for the Module 2 exam next March.

We have 8 MBKA members signed up, plus 4 from Mid-Kent (Swale & Maidstone) and 2 from Gravesend BKA.

If you are interested to join this group, please tell Jen Ferry, **very soon**. Just £20 for 10 enjoyable sessions.

Later this month (13th) we will be recognising the achievements of members in BBKA examinations and assessments; come along to raise a cheer!

Beyond that, the National Honey Show at Sandown Park, Esher is running from 25th-27th; there are a series of lectures for all levels and the opportunity to look at really well-prepared show exhibits, plus a full trade hall. Definitely worth a visit.

Bob Smith

Notes from The Apiary:

The Apiary is now looking normal and green after the recent rainy spell and the water level in the pond is back to full. We still have five colonies: 2 x National deep, 1 x National 14 x 12, 2 x WBC 14 x 12. However, one of the WBC's has a 14 x 12 National brood box. This will need to be sorted out next season, All the colonies have been treated with MAQS as there were signs of DWV (deformed wing virus) in some of the colonies.

After the MAQS treatment it was found that hive 1 had become queen less (possibly the result of MAQS) and had raised a lot of queen cells. As it is very late in the year we were concerned that the virgin queen might not mate properly if at all. Sheila has a spare queen in

an Apidea and has offered it to make hive 1 queenright. The queen will be introduced during week beginning 23rd Sept. The colonies are now being fed.

We had a very successful Apiary clean-up day on Saturday 1st September. The weather was very warm and ideal for gardening. We had 9 members turn up to help including Simon, one of the neighbours! It was good to see 3 of our newest members there. We managed to burn all of the old fence panels and garden trimmings. At one point I was a little concerned that the smoke from the bonfire might cause a problem for the the light aircraft coming in to land at the local airstrip.

Sheila kept everyone refreshed with tea and bacon rolls and Mel demonstrated her pruning skills – don't ask her to trim your hair!

After the clean-up, the Apiary Open Day started. Bob, Rob and Mark did the hive inspections and new members were encouraged to hold/look at frames and Bob explained what was happening and what to look for (reading the frames). All went well with 4 of the hives, but something had upset hive 5 so a very quick inspection was done. Hive 5 was very noisy and quite angry. We need to keep an eye on this.

It has been noted that the hive equipment shed is not bee/wasp proof. On several inspections members have noticed an unusual number of bees/wasps in the shed. They had found a brood frame with some stores in it. Jen has purchased 3 sealable plastic containers to put super frames in to stop robbing and wax moth

Mark Ballard

Beekeeper's Bazaar:



Ideal reading support for many modules and courses.

Practical Beekeeping by Clive de Bruyn. Published by: The Crowood Press.
Original price £24.95 As new, unused, **Price £18.**
Collection from: **46 Second Ave, Gillingham, phone: 01634 581647**

Asian Hornet Update:



A second Asian hornet nest has been found and destroyed in Fowey, close to the 1st nest site. Information about this discovery, along with surveillance activities in Hull and Liskeard can be found in the following Defra press release:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/asian-hornet-second-fowey-nest-destroyed>

The National Bee Unit

Autumn Meetings:

Please note that we now go inside for our meetings.

I look forward to seeing you at this autumn's meetings. A list of the meetings can be viewed by going to: www.medwaybeekeepers.co.uk/events

And Finally:

Thank you to all who have contributed to this month edition and remember if anyone has any news, ideas, amusing stories or comments or indeed suggestions 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.

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