

1923 - 2017



MBKA

Medway
Beekeepers
Association

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



Newsletter November 2017

So now we can all have a rest! Start planning for next season and maybe think about attending a course to help develop our skills and understanding. We have now moved inside for our winter meetings, see the website for more details.

Past Events:

MBKA Apiary Site, 'Autumn Clean-Up'

Saturday 7th October 2017

Helped along with bacon butties, tea and coffee, nine members turned up for our Autumn Clean-up. We cleared the site of stones, skimmed the pond, trimmed the bushes and stacked the pre-cut down vegetation. The site has never looked so good so a big thanks to all who helped. Thanks too, to Jen and Sheila for the sustenance.

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



Our first Autumn Fair had 12 stands including photos, bee friendly plants and information on bumble bees. We also covered 'hive to jar', covering the hive, the tools and the clothing we use to keep and tend our bees as well as honey extraction and packaging and finally honey tasting. For the youngsters and the not so young, we had 'make a bug hotel' as well as candle making, including, wax casting with moulds and the ever-popular candle rolling.



Tea, coffee and of course cake were provided and we had around 40 visitors, many from beekeeping families but quite a few locals also came along and were very impressed with the extraction demonstration and how simple the basic processes were.

We also made just over £150, for our funds by way of refreshments, candle making, shop sales and a successful raffle.



The quote of the afternoon came from one of our newer beekeepers, when thanked for his support, said, "No problem, glad to assist. Tea, cake, chat to friends about bees, spend a couple of hours with others, what more do you want!"

Our thanks go to all who helped make this a successful first time experience and particularly to Jen Ferry for all her hard work in co-ordinating and putting this not insignificant event together.

Paul Lawrence

The Meetings and Events for November:

MBKA Annual Dinner and Prize Presentation

Saturday 4th November 2017

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

Autumn Study Group

6th November 2017

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

Course in a Case for Improvers:

We are excited that our first Improvers Course, based on the BBKA Course in a Case and led by Bob Smith will be starting on **6th November**. Eleven people have registered to take part but there is always room for just one or two more! If you are at or above Basic level and you think you would enjoy and learn from this 10-session course its not too late to join.

The fee is a one off **£20**, which will go towards costs, and the course takes place on alternate **Monday evenings** 7.30 – 9.30pm at Wainscott Memorial Hall, Holly Road, Wainscott, ME2 4LG. There is no examination, this is an enjoyable way to learn, improve your beekeeping and meet other beekeepers. Please contact me for more information or just turn up on the night.

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

Jen Ferry

Saturday 18th November 2017

Kay Wreford talking on the topic of Bee Diseases

Time: 2pm to 5pm

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

Bee Chat

Wednesday 22nd November 2017

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

Future Events:

Saturday 16th December 2017

Bob Smith – A Review of Varroa Controls

Time: 2pm to 5pm

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

MBKA on Social Media:

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

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

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

And Finally:

Many thanks, to all of those who have contributed to this newsletter.

Looking forward to seeing you at this winter's meetings, the information for which is available at: www.medwaybeekeepers.co.uk/events

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

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Newsletter and Website Enquiries

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