

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 November 2018

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:

Saturday 13th October 2018

MBKA Annual Supper and Prizegiving Evening

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

46 members old and new attended our Annual Supper. This was a new approach by the Committee this year and the informal inclusive nature of the event was very well received.



The room was arranged in 6 tables of 8 each beautifully decorated with an autumn theme. The food was excellent and those with special dietary needs were well catered for. We even had our very own Announcer in Brandon, complete with a lovely American accent, who helped the evening run smoothly.

Comments ranged from “It hit the note at the right level - smart casual, light humoured, good food and good company. Very enjoyable. A good way to get everyone mixing and talking” to, “an excellent evening spent with old and new friends”, “loved the more informal approach” and “hope we can do this again next year”.

Cups and Prizes were presented by our very own Regional Bee Inspector Kay Wreford. Who had just arrived hot foot from **Dungeness**, where she had been hunting down and astonishingly, had captured and killed an Asian Hornet. The critter had been reported a day or two previously. It is hoped that it was a lone individual which had been blown across the channel on the recent very strong winds. We were the first to hear the news!

Mark Ballard virtually cleared the table of cups and we were all worried that his dining table might collapse under the weight! Very well-done Mark. The rest of us must try harder to wrestle a few of these from you next year.

We also welcomed a number of new members who attended our Introduction to Beekeeping Course earlier in the year. Along with those who had taken part in last year Winter Studies Course. Kay presented each one with their Certificates.

As well as these we also had a record number of members taking their Basic Assessment they too received their BBKA Certificates and Badges.

The evening was rounded off with a light hearted and fun quiz. This was something new and was entered into by all. Well done Bob and Brandon for putting it together.

Special thanks to Jen, Gill, Mona and Sheila for the catering and to Bella and Maddi for assisting the waitressing.

Paul Lawrence

Saturday 20th October 2018

MBKA Autumn Bee Fair

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

This year's Autumn Fair was also a great success. The foot-fall was up on last year and the shop was busy all afternoon. Jen's 'Wax Wrap' demonstration was well received and at one stage everyone was at her table watching! Sheila and her team were demonstrating how we get the honey from the 'Hive to a Jar' and Sue had her hands full giving away free honey at the honey tasting table. Along with plant sales and a pretty useful Tombola the event was well received and well worth doing.



We also had the final judging of the 'Top-Bar Competition'. We handed out around 120 top-bars at the beginning of the year and just 7 brave souls brought them back with a full frame of comb underneath! Rosettes were awarded to the best 4 and the overall winner was presented with a Thorne's Voucher worth £20. The winner was Bob Smith, well done Bob. The runner up was Neil Byhurst, a very good effort Neil, well done to you too.



Many thanks for the time and effort put in by to all of those who helped and supported this event with particular thanks to Jen for pulling it all together and doing such a great job again!

Paul Lawrence

November's Events and Meetings:

Monday 5th November 2018

Winter Study Group 2

Time: 7.00pm (7.30pm start)

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



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.

Monday 19th November 2018

Winter Study Group 3

Time: 7.00pm (7.30pm start)

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

Wednesday 28th November 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.

Future Events:

Saturday 15th December 2018

Indoor Meeting – Showing Products plus a Christmas tea.

Time: 2 – 5pm

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

Saturday 16th February 2019

MBKA Annual General Meeting

Time: 2pm to 5pm

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

Monday 11th March 2019

Introduction to Beekeeping 1

Time: 7.00pm (7.30pm start)

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

Notes from The Apiary:

The final apiary inspection took place at the end of September and all was well for the coming winter. The apiary is now closed for the winter. We have a team who will undertake monthly inspections to check on food, hive condition and site security. Normal inspections will begin next March / April depending on the weather conditions.

Asian Hornet Update:



The National Bee Unit is investigating a confirmed sighting of the Asian hornet in Dungeness. The hornets have been seen foraging on Ivy. Please keep up your vigilance by continuing to monitor for any hornet activity, especially on flowering forage. Further information will become available as and when the situation develops.

It is hoped that it may have been blown across the channel by the very high winds earlier in the month.

Visit: www.nationalbeeunit.com for the latest updates.

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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