

1923 - 2017



MBKA

Medway
Beekeepers
Association

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



Newsletter May 2017

The new season is now in full swing, keep checking for early signs of congestion and don't forget to put on those supers when necessary.

Past Events:

22nd April 2017 English Festival

Venue: Riverside Country Park, Rainham



Our thanks go to the members who helped set up and run our stall at the very successful English Festival held at the Riverside Country Park. The weather was overcast and drizzling when we started to set up at 9am, but by mid-day that all changed as the sun shone and the crowds turned out in large numbers.



The honey sales were steady and good and we rolled quite a few wax candles with the children. The hair dryer was used extensively throughout the morning. But as the sun came out and warmed the wax up, it was dispatched to the box under the bench!

The total sales for honey, wax products and candle rolling was £478 not bad considering the poor weather at the start of the day.



As well as selling and making we also spent quite a lot of time talking to members of the public about our role as an Association and about bees in general. It is always a surprise to see how interested people are when discussing the plight and the various life cycles of bees. We also gathered the details of a few new names of potential beekeepers and others who were keen to offer a home to bees in their gardens and orchards.

Paul Lawrence

Next Outdoor Meetings:

29th April 2017

A practical session with Tony and Mark

2.30pm – 4.30pm Association Apiary Site

You can find the apiary at 215a City Way, Rochester, Kent ME1 2TL

Saturday 13th May 2017

MBKA Apiary Open Day

3 – 4pm Association Apiary Site

You can find the apiary at 215a City Way, Rochester, Kent ME1 2TL

Kimber's Corner:



Hi everyone,

Having completed my first full inspection successfully, this month it was time to tackle my second. This was undertaken under a cloud of apprehension and with a fair degree of suspicion. I had found a wax moth Larva under my hive!

I have been using some trays under the hive to help monitor what is falling out of the open mesh floor and low and behold there it was!

This gave me some worrying moments thinking that my hive was over run with wax moth. So a full inspection was planned with extra frames of foundation ready for replacement if required. As it turned out no wax moth was found, deep breath time. Everything was in full flow, brood, stores and larvae, all good, feeling very excited now that the panic is over.

Now that spring has finally arrived, I have stopped feeding sugar syrup. I have seen plenty of stores in the hive and as I'm now inspecting the bees every 7 days, I can add a feeder if and when they may need it.

I recently helped a friend in his apiary, he had decided to have a spring clean and change the floors and some comb in his colonies. But on opening up we found 1 colony absolutely crammed full of bees and quite a few queen cells! More space was needed quickly so we shipped one colony out to another apiary and completed an artificial swarm on the full one.

So you can never be absolutely sure what you are going to find until you start your inspections. Everything is now in full flow, happy days I think things are going to get very interesting over the next few months!

Good luck with your own inspections.

Talk to you all next month.

Peter

Bee Chat:

With the season having got off to a flying start there is lots to talk about with swam prevention and catching, queen rearing & achieving a honey crop so why not come along to **The Pier, Lower Upnor, ME2 4XA**, on the **4th Wednesday of the month, at 7.30pm** to share your stories and hear everyone else's!

Future dates are 24th May, 28th June and 23rd July.

All members new and old are very welcome, and if any of you want to collect a box or two of Honey jars from me while you are in the village then this can be arranged too!

Please call Jen Ferry for further details. 07990 581858.

See you there.
Jen Ferry

Swarm Collection in the Medway Area

Collaboration between MBKA and Medway Council concerning honeybee swarm collections has unfortunately come to an end due to cost cutting. We are therefore in the process of devising our own Swarm Collection Service.

In order to do this the Committee would like to know of any members who would be prepared:

- To collect swarms.
- To man a mobile phone and take calls for a short time.
- To accept swarms and give them a home.

We are trying to provide cover in Medway postal areas and wish to place members in their own areas to avoid travelling and over use of personnel.

Please contact John Chapman if you are willing to help us in one or more of these regards. The more we have the less each member has to do.

Beekeepers Bazaar

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 now available to members at £25 per box of 72 jars. (Freeman & Hardings price is £31.50). These will be sold on a first come first served basis - 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.

The boxes are at Jens home in Upnor and can be collected by arrangement.

For Sale:



Due to health problems I am, sadly having to give up my bees and wish to sell my 2 hives and other general beekeeping equipment.

The hives are complete nationals and both are in good condition. One is empty, but one comes complete with bees and 2 supers in place. This hive has not been opened for almost a year and comes complete with honey.



Buyer collects and any reasonable offer of approximately £100 is acceptable.

If interested or for further information please contact:

Mai Monk: phone 01634 581647 or email:
mjmonk@blueyonder.co.uk

The 2017 summer meetings program is on the website:

www.medwaybeekeepers.co.uk/events

Many thanks, to all of those who have contributed to this newsletter. Looking forward to seeing you at the spring and summer meetings, more will be posted soon.

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

Whether you are old or new members, If you have any news, ideas or comments about the website or for future newsletters, 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