

1923 - 2018



M KA

Medway Beekeepers Association

Medway
Beekeepers
Association



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

Newsletter June 2018

The new season is now in full swing so keep checking for signs of congestion and don't forget to put on those supers when required. Wasps are now about so set traps where necessary.

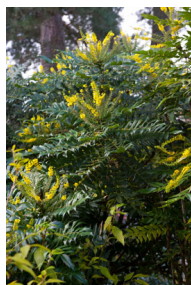
Past Events:

Saturday 28th April 2018

A Talk by Celia Rudland – Spring Flowers for Colony Health

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

Celia explained that, although not from Kent; her apiaries are a little further to the west, much of what she would talk about was still applicable to our area.



Her topic, 'Essential forage early in the year', was wide ranging, from early spring and back into winter. I made notes where I could, but many of the Latin names were "all Greek to me", if you see what I mean. However, names I could identify with as being honeybee friendly and useful, such as Mahonia 'Charity', which flowers late November and into January or later, and Christmas Box, which flowers from December through to January. However, this caused us to pause for thought; do bees really forage in the middle of winter? But she did go into the mechanisms of why this should be.



Viburnums 'Dawn' was quoted as having a good scent and the blooms are available throughout the winter. Some varieties of Prunus and the Winter Aconite were also listed as a good early source of food. She suggested a good check to determine if there was a nectar flow that time of the year was to see if bees were using a water source.



She then moved on to plants that I can identify by sight the Willow was honourably mentioned, but the MALE variety specifically which produce the characteristics honey bees need, notably early pollen. If there is a water source, for example a pond or slow moving stream, Marsh Marigolds, come into their own, but they must be in water. Slightly later, in the early spring Celia talked about the usefulness of the Aubrietias, Berberis, a New Zealand plant called 'Sophera' and of course, the Cowslips.

My note taking then stopped and I just enjoyed listening. I must confess, that I found the lecture fascinating, opening up a whole area, which I normally delegate to the gardener in the house, namely my wife, having simply specified that planting must be pollinator friendly where possible. There is no doubt Celia had a great grasp of the subject, was a very good presenter of the material, which for non-gardeners could have been daunting, and gave an

entertaining and very thought provoking and informative session, with the promise of blooms later in the year for another lecture.

Paul Newman

June's Events and Meetings:

Saturday 2nd June 2018

MBKA Apiary Open Day

2 – 4pm Association Apiary Site

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

Saturday 16th June 2018

Outdoor Meeting

John and Roma Potter's Apiary

Time: 2 – 4pm

Venue: Wayside, Amsbury Road, Hunton, Maidstone, ME15 0QH

Wednesday 27th June 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.

Welcome to New Members:

Since the last newsletter the following have joined the Association:

Jane Eames, Darren Wake, Nataly May, Daisy Clement, Helen Nichols, and Nigel Rawlins.

From all at MBKA, a big welcome to you all!

Beekeeper Achievements;

BBKA Written Examination March 2017:

Huge congratulations to Sue Payne from Gravesend who passed Module 2 with a distinction!

Sue is not a member of MBKA but has studied with us on the improvers and other courses. Very well done from all at MBKA.

Future Events:



6th-8th July 2018
Kent County Show

6th July 2018
Kent Bees and Honey Show



Venue: The Kent Agricultural Showground, Detling

See below for details of the 2018 Honey Show, to be held at the Kent Agricultural Showground, Detling on 6th July.

If you wish to exhibit please remember that entry forms with **S.A.E.** must reach the Show Secretary by the Friday 29th June 2018.

Can you help steward at the show? Contact Bob Smith: phone 07714213738 or email bsmith12@ntlworld.com

John Chapman



A Visit to Chapel Down Winery

Sunday 22nd July 2018, at 11.00am.
Small Hythe, Tenterden, Kent, TN30 7NG

If you would like to join us on this visit, the cost is £10 per person (non-refundable), partners & friends welcome. To book places please contact John Hendrie to pay and copy me in so that I can add you to the list. For bank transfers please contact one of us if you need bank details but if paying by cheque, John's address is 26 Coldharbour Lane, Hildenborough, Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 9JT. In this case will you also let me know you are coming so that I can keep an accurate list.

Chapel Down Winery is at Small Hythe, Tenterden, Kent, TN30 7NG and their website is <https://www.chapeldown.com/>

I'm looking forward to the tour and I hope you are too. If there is anywhere else you think would make a good location for us to visit, please do let me know.

Jen Ferry

jen.ferry@medwaybeekeepers.co.uk



Would you like to purchase an MBKA Polo or Sweatshirt?

Both are available from Jen Ferry: email jen.ferry@medwaybeekeepers.co.uk

Polo shirts: £14.40, Sweatshirts: £16.20, please quote size required (all common sizes available).

Are you short of honey or would you just like to buy some.

We have some honey from the Association apiary for sale. 1lb jars at £5 each, to members contact Jen Ferry for details if you are interested.

Summer Meetings:

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

Please find below the Schedule and Entry Form for this year's 2018 Kent Honey Show:

RULES

- 1 All exhibitors must be members of Dover, Kent, Medway or Thanet BKAs and the honey and wax must be the produce of the exhibitor's own bees.
- 2 Entry forms with S.A.E. must reach the Show Secretary by the Friday 29th June.
- 3 Exhibitors may make more than one entry in any class, but will **only receive** one award per class. Awards for classes 1 to 15 will be counted for points for Challenge Trophies.
- 4 Honey must be exhibited in clear 454g (1 lb) squat jars of British Standard Pattern with standard lacquered or plastic screw tops (gold or white).
- 5 Labels will be supplied and must be affixed to exhibits as follows:
jars and mead bottles – 15mm (½ in) from the bottom
frame – one label on the top bar and the other on the glass of the case.
candles – one on each candle fixed near the base of the candle.
blocks of wax – a label on the top of the block and one on the container.
photographs – mounted colour print photograph about bees or beekeeping, for the general public (non-beekeeper). There should be a title or caption. Photographs to have been taken by the exhibitor and mounted on plain card of any colour (160gsm grade), A4 size. Photographs to be labelled on the bottom left-hand corner of the mount.
cakes – a label on the top of the cake and the other on the plastic bag.
biscuits – a label on the plate and the other on the plastic bag.
6 Beeswax must be plainly moulded and not exhibited in boxes. All entries will be placed in a display case.
- 7 Mead to be shown in a clear punted bottle with little or no lettering or ornamentation containing approximately 750ml (27 fluid oz). Only cork stoppers with white plastic flanges to be used (supplied at the show).
- 8 Candles must be displayed upright in a suitable holder.
- 9 Cakes and Biscuits will be exhibited on a white paper plate in a plastic bag.
- 10 Exhibits will only be accepted at the Show from 2pm – 6pm on the day prior to the Show opening or delivered to the Show Secretary during the week. They will be staged by the appointed stewards. **Judging starts at 10.00am and exhibits may only be removed after 5.30pm on the last day of the Show.**
- 11 All exhibits except those in the Gift Classes will remain the property of the exhibitor. All reasonable care will be taken with the exhibits but the Show Committee cannot be responsible for any loss or damage.
- 12 Any points not covered in the above rules will be referred to the rules applying to the National Honey Show. A copy of these rules will be available for scrutiny.
- 13 Any appeals should be addressed to the Show Secretary by 4pm on 6th July 2018.
- 14 A Novice is any exhibitor, who has never won a First Prize at the Kent Honey Show.

Points awarded: First – 6, Second – 5, Third – 4, VHC – 3, HC – 2, C – 1
CAN YOU HELP AS A STEWARD AT THE SHOW?
Please contact Bob Smith on 07714213738 or bsmith12@ntlworld.com
Or at 28 Well Hall Road, Eatham SE9 6SF



Kent Bees and Honey Show

Organised by the Kent Beekeepers' Association
in conjunction with Dover, Medway and Thanet Beekeepers'
Associations

**Friday, Saturday & Sunday
6th, 7th & 8th July, 2018**
(entries close 29th June)

**Kent County Showground
Detling, Maidstone**

Judge: Mr. Bill. Fisher.

Show Secretary: Mr. John Chapman
28 Wallace Road, Rochester, Kent ME1 2TB
01634 400570

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

OPEN TO ALL BEEKEEPERS

Entry forms must reach the Show Secretary by Friday 29th June 2018

OPEN CLASSES

- Open to any Kent beekeeper.
- Two jars of Light Coloured Honey. (Sponsored by Kent Beekeepers Association) First -£15, Second - £10, Third - £5
 - Two jars of Medium Coloured Honey (Sponsored by Thornes) First - £15, Second - £10, Third - £5.
 - Two jars of Dark Coloured Honey. (Sponsored by Kent Beekeepers Association) First -£15, Second - £10, Third - £5.
 - Two jars of Naturally Crystallised or Soft Set Honey. (Sponsored by Kent Beekeepers Association) First - £15, Second - £10, Third - £5.
 - Six jars of one type of Honey (Light, Medium, Dark, Crystallised or Soft Set), labelled as offered for retail sale including Country of origin and best before date (*Rule 4 does not apply. If used tamperproof labels will be broken for judging.*)
 - One Frame of Honey, any size, suitable for extracting. Must be on wired foundation. (Sponsored by Sheppey Honey Producers Ltd.) First - £15, Second - £10, Third - £5.
 - One cake of Beeswax, weight between 200-255g (7-9oz) and not less than 20mm (¾ in) thick.
 - One bottle of Dry Mead (*Rules 5 & 7*)
 - One bottle of Sweet Mead (*Rules 5 & 7*)
 - 3 Beeswax Candles. Candles need not necessarily be the same size or style. The display will be judged on its artistic merits. They will **not** be lit. (*Rules 1 & 6 do not apply*)
 - Three Plain Beeswax Candles, not patterned, up to and including 38mm(1.5in) in diameter. One to be lit by the judge.
 - Two Beeswax Models, moulded, matching in all respects.
 - Six 27g (1oz) Wax blocks.
 - Exhibition Class. A display of Honey and Hive Products. - to be selected from the following list - 2 jars of Clear Honey of any colour, 2 jars of Naturally Crystallised or Soft Set Honey, Frame for Extraction, one cake of Beeswax (as for entry to class 7), bottle of Mead, Honey Cake, Polish or Furniture Cream, Cosmetics. Displayed flat on the bench in an area not to exceed 500mm X 500mm and 350mm high.
 - Mounted Colour Print Photograph with Title relating to Bees or Beekeeping. Picture can be of any size, but must be taken by the exhibitor and mounted on plain card any colour (160gsm), A4 size. Digital images are permitted. (sponsored by Medway Beekeepers Association) First - £15, Second - £10, third - £5

NOVICE CLASSES.

Open to Beekeepers who have never won a First Prize Card in the Kent Honey Show.

- Clear Honey. Two jars of Honey, any one colour.
- Naturally Crystallised or Soft Set Honey. Two jars of honey.

HONEY GIFT CLASSES.

- Clear Honey. One jar of clear honey of any colour.
- Naturally Crystallised or Soft Set Honey. One jar of either. (For classes 18 and 19, Please supply one of your own labels in an envelope with your entry number, labels will be applied when the honey is sold.)
- Gift Class. Lemon Honey Cake. Exhibits must be made to the recipe on the opposite page. Cakes are to be displayed on white paper plates inside a plastic bag. Labels to be put on the top of the cake and on the bag. Cakes will be donated to Catering after judging.
- Gift Class. Honey Biscuits. A plate of six biscuits made to the exhibitors own Recipe. The recipe to be displayed with the biscuits.

BRANCH OR ASSOCIATION APIARY CLASSES.

22 Branch or Association Apiary Class. Two jars of honey of any one colour. (Sponsored by Freeman & Harding.) First - £10.

SPECIAL AWARDS

The Agricultural Society's Trophy.
Exhibitor with the highest points in classes 1 – 15.

Clive Watson Memorial Trophy.
Winner of Class 2 for Medium Coloured Honey

Mead Cup.
Overall Winner of classes 8 and 9

Reginald Tower Rose Bowl.
Best exhibit of candles
(Classes 11 and 12)

Subscribers Cup
Exhibition Class (Class 14).

Novice Cup.
Overall Winner of classes 16 & 17

Branch or Association Apiary Class.
Geoffrey Dixon Trophy.

Best Honey Exhibit in Show.
(Blue Ribbon may be awarded for the Best in Show)

Best Exhibit in the Cookery Classes.
Margaret Calder Plate.

Branch or Association Winning the Most points in Classes 1 – 15.
Central Division Cup.

Trophy Presentation is on Sunday 8th July at 11.00am by John Coultrip, Governor of the Kent Agricultural Society.

Lemon Honey Cake.

Ingredients: 170g/6oz butter or margarine, 60g/2oz caster sugar, 140g(5oz) honey, 3 large eggs, 225g (8oz) self-raising flour, Grated rind of a lemon, Juice of half a Lemon.

Preparation: Cream butter or margarine, sugar and honey. Mix in lemon rind, beat eggs lightly and gradually add to the mixture. Stir in lemon juice. Fold in the sieved flour, transfer to a greased and lined 900g (2lb) loaf tin. Bake for 1hr-1hr 10mins at 160 °C/325 °F/gas mark 3. Cool on a wire rack.

**KENT COUNTY BEEKEEPING EXHIBITION
AND HONEY SHOW 2018.**

Entry form must reach the Entries Secretary by the 29th June 2018.

Steward use		Class no.	CLASSES Open Classes	Classes entered X
IN	OUT			
		1	Light honey	
		2	Medium honey	
		3	Dark honey	
		4	Crystallised or Soft Set honey	
		5	Six jars of one type of honey	
		6	Comb of Honey on wired foundation.	
		7	Cake of Beeswax.	
		8	One bottle of Dry Mead	
		9	One bottle of Sweet Mead	
		10	3 Beeswax Candles	
		11	Three Plain Beeswax Candles	
		12	Two Beeswax Models	
		13	Six 27g (1oz) blocks	
		14	Exhibition Class	
		15	Mounted Colour Print Photograph End of Open Classes	
		16	Novice – Honey, any colour	
		17	Novice –Crystallised or Soft Set honey	
		18	Gift – clear honey	
		19	Gift – Crystallised or soft set honey	
		20	Gift – Date and Honey Fruit Loaf.	
		21	Gift – 6 Biscuits.	
		22	Branch or Association Apiary Class.	

I declare the above entries conform to the Rules by which I agree to abide and that my honey and wax exhibits have been produced by my bees.

Class labels can be posted if a sae (1st class) is enclosed.

I will bring my entries on Thursday afternoon/ sending my entries with DELETE AS APPROPRIATE.

PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS

Branch/Association.....

Name.....

Address.....

..... Postcode.....

Phone Number Mobile

Signed..... Date

And Finally:

If anyone has any news, ideas, amusing stories or comments or 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.

Contact Details:

Chairman

John Chapman
john.chapman@medwaybeekeepers.co.uk

Newsletter and Website Enquiries

Paul Lawrence
paul.lawrence@medwaybeekeepers.co.uk