

1923 - 2017



# MBKA

Medway  
Beekeepers  
Association

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



---

## Newsletter September 2017

Wow, where did that year go! Do not forget to get your Honey Show entries in by the end of August. Now it's time to take off the final honey crop and put on the Varroa treatments if you need to. And feed the bees up for the winter.

### Past Event:

**MBKA BBQ**  
**Saturday 19th August 2017**

Sadly this event had to be cancelled.

---

### The Meetings and Events for September:

**MBKA Apiary Open Day**  
**Saturday 9th September 2017**

**Time: 3pm to 4pm**

You can find the apiary at 215a City Way, Rochester, Kent ME1 2TL9th

---

**MBKA Honey Show**  
**9th – 10th September 2017**

Venue: Elm Court Garden Centre

We need offers of help to set up the show, from 3pm on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September for about an hour and to 'man' the sales table and to talk to visitors on the Saturday and Sunday.

The show is open during the garden centre opening hours which are Saturday 9am - 6pm and Sunday from 10.30am until we start to clear up at about 4pm. There will be the chance to sell honey and hive products (usual 10% to association funds).

Please contact Sue: by email: [susan.chapman@care4free.net](mailto:susan.chapman@care4free.net) or phone: 01634 400570.

Sue Chapman

---

**Ploughing Match**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> September 2017**

Newlands Farm, Station Road, Cliffe ME3 7RU

We need some willing volunteers to join us for the Ploughing Match to run our exhibition and shop.

If you have any honey, candles or other products please let us know if you can supply some for us to sell on our stall, there is always a good market for it with the local community.

We hope to be rolling candles during the day this is always very popular with the children.

We need to arrive at the venue on the Saturday morning at 8.30am onwards to get set-up for the 10.00am start and it finishes at about 4.00pm.

There are always lots to look at apart from the ploughing competitions, including a little gymkhana and a selection of stalls.

This event takes a few people to set up and run. So please phone John Chapman on 01634 400570 or email [john.chapman@medwaybeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:john.chapman@medwaybeekeepers.co.uk) if you are able to help.

**John Chapman**

---

## **Bee Chat**

**Wednesday 27th September 2017**

Come along and share your stories and hear everyone else's! 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month at The Pier, Lower Upnor, ME2 4XA, at 7.30pm.

---

## **Future Events**

### **MBKA Apiary Site, 'Autumn Clean-Up'**

**Saturday 7th October 2017**

**Time: 10am to Noon**

Please come and help tidy up our Apiary Site.

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

---


### **MBKA Autumn Fair:**

**This is a new venture, so please help us to make this a success:**

MBKA will be holding an Autumn Fair for both the public and association members and their families on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2017, in Wainscot Memorial Hall from 2pm until 4pm. This event replaces the usual winter meeting.

The fair is intended to showcase some of the many aspects of beekeeping that are not always seen together and it is hoped these will be of interest to beekeepers and the general public alike.

There will be numerous tables each one dealing with a different aspect of beekeeping, the tables will include, but are not limited to:

- Hive to Jar display - to include a honey extraction demonstration.
- Plants for Bees – a collection of plants and pictures of pollinator friendly plants. 
- Bees in Buildings – a photographic display.
- Honey tasting - a variety of different but local honeys will be available.
- Association Shop - with honey, wax products, cards, crafts and bee related items from association members.
- Kids corner - badge making, candle rolling, bee-house building.
- Bumblebees and swarms - identifying bees and swarms.
- Demo hive, kit & posters - becoming a beekeeper.
- Being a better beekeeper - support, courses & study for beekeepers.
- Raffle and Refreshments.

Please let us know if you have any further suggestions, can support this new venture and get involved. We will need lots of help with manning the tables so please give us some time and help look after a table, the more people we have the better it is!

Please get in touch if you are able to help. Email: [jen.ferry@medwaybeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:jen.ferry@medwaybeekeepers.co.uk) or phone: 07990 581858. You are welcome to choose the table you would like to man!

We also have a small working party pulling this together and if you would like to be involved the next meeting is on, Tuesday 19th September 2017, 2pm at 32 Moat Lane, Lower Upnor. ME2 4GP.

With the summer season coming to a close, it would be good to use the winter to celebrate our beekeeping skills and hobbies and even learn something new.

I do hope you are able to join in.  
Jen Ferry

---

## Education and Training:

### Winter Study Session 2017/18

The winter study this year will be the Improvers course based on 'Course in a Case' provided by BBKA. This is a 'post basic' course designed to help beekeepers to manage their colonies and will start in October 2017. It will run for 10 weeks with the meetings taking place fortnightly. This is a learning course but will not have an examination at the end.

We will be meeting at Wainscot Memorial Hall and as yet we have not confirmed a day so if you have a preference please let Jen Ferry or Sheila Stunell know as early as possible so that we can try to arrange the best day for all. Bob Smith will be co-ordinating the course. There will be a charge of £20 to cover the cost of the hall. If you are interested please contact Jen Ferry 07990581858 or Sheila Stunell 07399462493

---

### Kimber's Corner:



Hi everyone,

My queen has finally started to lay, which is excellent news. But the brood doesn't look very good. There are larvae but, some of the brood is not fully capped, there is a little bit of sac brood and others look un-kept, I also couldn't find any eggs. I will need to monitor them closely over the next few weeks.

I still need to find and mark the queen for this will make it much easier to find her during inspections. As there are very few bees in the colony now, I decided to reduce the number of frames to 7, particularly as I noticed that the outer frames had a little wax moth larvae on them. These were removed and put into the freezer for a few days to kill them off. By reducing the number of frames, the bees will have less to look after and can concentrate on raising brood. I also added a new frame of foundation to the centre of the brood area and continued to feed them syrup. Hopefully this will help to encourage the queen to lay her eggs. As the frames no longer fill the brood box, I added some insulation on either side to stop anything else taking up residence or the bees building brace comb.

Interestingly when I checked through my records I was surprised to find that I have been keeping bees for a year now. My how time flies.

Having bees in my garden over this past year has been amazing I still have lots to learn though.

Talk you all again next month, Peter

## Beekeepers Bazarre:

### The following Bee equipment is for sale:

- 1x Thorne Red Cedar W.B.C. Hive (painted white) with 4 lifts (including one porch and 2 entrance slides), 14x12 Brood box with Dummy Board, Queen Excluder, Super and Crown Board £150.
- 3x Thorne Red Cedar W.B.C. Hives (painted white) with 3 lifts (including one porch and 2 entrance slides), 14x12 Brood box with Dummy Board, Queen Excluder, 2 Supers and Crown Board £125 each
- 1x Thorne Red Cedar Nucleus Hive (takes 5 14x12 frames) £50
- 1x W.B.C. Super £7
- 1x Ashforth Feeder for W.B.C. Hive £15
- 5x Rapid Feeders £1.50 each
- 14x Porter Bee Escapes £2 for all
- 1x Hive Tool £3
- 3x Small white plastic buckets (1 with feeder gauze lid) £1 each
- 4x 10 litre white plastic buckets with valve £6 each
- 1x Super Show Case (unused) £10

Please contact Ruth Fagg telephone: 01580 850837 or email: [randafagg@gmail.com](mailto:randafagg@gmail.com)

---

### 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 available to members at £25 per box of 72 jars. (Freeman & Hardings price is £31.50). There are only a 7 boxes left so if you want some be quick - 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](mailto:jen.ferry@medwaybeekeepers.co.uk).

---

## We end this month's newsletter with some great news!



### Just Married:

**Roma Beasley Martin** and **John Potter** were married on Monday 7th August.

The MBKA and all its members wish you both all the very best for the future and may your marriage be full of joy and happiness!

---



### Beekeeper Achievements;

BBKA Written Examination March 2017:

Congratulations to the following members who passed Module 7:

**Jennifer Ferry**, **Richard Joy**, **Elaine Laight** (with a credit) and **George Cole** (with a credit)

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

Looking forward to seeing you at this winter's meetings, which are available at:

[www.medwaybeekeepers.co.uk/events](http://www.medwaybeekeepers.co.uk/events)

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

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

John Chapman

[john.chapman@medwaybeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:john.chapman@medwaybeekeepers.co.uk)

### Newsletter and Website Enquiries

Paul Lawrence

[paul.lawrence@medwaybeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:paul.lawrence@medwaybeekeepers.co.uk)

## **And finally see below:**

A communication from the BBKA:



GM 13 2017

2<sup>nd</sup> August 2017

Communication sent by email to all Association & Branch Secretaries

Dear Members,

Six months have passed since the ADM and the BBKA has been busy working hard for the benefit of the membership. So we thought we would let you all know some of the good things that have been achieved whilst we have been Trustees and the things that are still in the development stage for this year.

We have produced books specific to tasks within the apiary, one for the beginners, one for those taking up Microscopy and another one for those taking General Husbandry, all written by members of the BBKA and given freely by the authors to be printed and used for the members. There are three more in the making, the first is 'Feeding Honey Bees' and we are hoping that one will be ready for the National Honey Show.

There are two more exams being set up to bridge the gap between the Basic Assessment and the General Husbandry: 'Breeding Honey Bees' and 'Honeybee Health'. These are purely practical assessments and will help beekeepers have a better awareness of the needs of honey bees and the management of them. We are still in the 'testing stage' but it all looks good. There is a lot of work in designing new courses, then 'test driving' them to be sure that they are fit for purpose.

All materials from the four Courses in a Case have been transferred onto one memory stick, much easier to use and cheaper to send out. They are being sold at little more than the cost price.

On education, we have managed to get some financial support from DEFRA to part fund Advanced and General Husbandry training. This is the second year that we have been successful with our grant application and this allows us to teach and train without it breaking the bank.

The Vice-Chair sought to improve the insurance cover for the membership, getting better cover than previously and at a saving in the region of £16K, this has helped us to keep costs down avoiding the need for a capitation increase.

Bees in the Curriculum, which has been around for a while was seen to need upgrading, photographs, information and layouts on the pages all being improved. This has been the brain-



British Beekeepers Association, National Beekeeping Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG  
www.bbka.org.uk  
Registered Charity No: 212025



child of the E & H Committee and as with all committees there are several Trustees involved. It should be noted that many trustees are involved in the activities of more than one committee.

Another project we have been busy with is for Schools. We are getting together a memory stick and a pack of items to go out to Schools where there is an interest in Beekeeping for their pupils. It will consist of a haversack, filled with educational material following the National Curriculum, a bee game, pictures and photographs, quizzes and much, much more. This again is in the development stage as we needed to upgrade the information on the memory stick. This pack will also be ideal for members who are invited into schools to take an assembly or speak to pupils in a classroom.

We have just launched the new Schools Membership category and this has been well received. Some schools have already entered pupils to take the Junior Certificate or Basic Examinations.

The Trustee with responsibility for HR initiated a review of the staff employed by the BBKA. There have been quite a few changes with two leaving to pursue other interests, and one retiring it was important to recruit suitable replacements. This has been done with careful regard to the budgets. This reorganisation including the appointment of a staff member with day to day responsibility for the accounts should lead to a better service for members with little increase in costs.

We felt that someone in the office working on accounts daily was a must for an organisation like the BBKA so we are pleased that Jacqueline Vagg started with us in May and supported by Anna is providing more detailed financial support to the Trustees and office. We recruited Leigh Sidaway as General Manager who has taken to the task very well.

We also started the Pension Scheme for the staff and have managed to give some pay increases to those on honoraria as they really deserve it and have been neglected for quite a few years.

The office at Stoneleigh was in need of upgrading so when looking to clear out the stock room all kinds of odds and ends were discovered, these were taken out to shows or events where they were sold, the proceeds going back into the BBKA bank.

With a new Chair of Governance, Standing Orders have been reviewed, and some other policies have either been improved or returned to their original state.

We have covered two major shows this year, with Trustees working alongside the shows committee. For RHS Chatsworth, four Trustees (plus the partner of one of the Trustees) gave two days each to work and support. Country File Live will be held at Blenheim Palace this weekend, where again there will be Trustees attending to support the Shows Committee.





and with continued good management we look as though we may also come in with a surplus again this year, so once again no request for an increase in capitation.

Quite a large percentage of the Trustees also volunteer to travel the country giving talks not only on beekeeping but what the Exec is doing on your behalf.

The Chair has calculated that the work done as a Trustee, unpaid, is the equivalent to working full time in an office for four months a year, there are some who do less but also some who do more. Trustees give this time freely, the reward being the satisfaction of improving services for the members and of course maintaining the beekeeping population. The nice thing about being a Trustee, is that you are with likeminded people, giving time and effort with a free will for the benefit of others. The reward is a job well done, better services for the membership, keeping the books balanced, working as a team with other Trustees and looking after the staff who work on behalf of the BBKA. It does not get better than that!

Yours faithfully

John Hendrie  
President

Margaret Murdin  
Chair

Margaret Wilson  
Vice Chair

Stephen Barnes  
Chair of Governance



British Beekeepers Association, National Beekeeping Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG  
[www.bbka.org.uk](http://www.bbka.org.uk)  
Registered Charity No: 212025