



Newsletter

Hi Everyone,

Smokers and hive tools at the ready, we are up and running for the new season.

I hope there weren't too many losses over the winter. We have been lucky at the bee shed, all of the hives seemed to have survived but we are not out of the woods yet. I will feel happier when I see the frames full of brood and the nectar filling up the frames.

Hopefully at the next meeting David will be able to show you how the hives should be looking?

Thank you Peter for the chairs and bench seat you have given to the bee shed, also to those who have donated plants for the garden.

The toilet is in place so anyone who didn't come will have to find another excuse for not coming.

The library will now be kept at the bee shed during the summer so any one who wants some reading will know where to come.

The microscopes are now held by Ian Roberts and there will be courses run by Ian. Ian also asked if there is anything that you would like regarding microscopes? please let us know.

Happy Easter!

John

John Priestley.

In this month's issue:

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This Month's Meeting is Early - 8th April, 3pm

This month's meeting is at Dave Keene's apiary, one of our most experienced beekeepers.

The address is:

Wheelgate Nursery

Orchard House

Spenny Lane

Claygate

Collier Street

Marden

TN12 9PJ

Dave along with Michael Cooper, our seasonal bee inspector, will be opening colonies for their spring inspection.

The first outdoor meeting of the season of the season. EXCITING!!

A fantastic opportunity to gain practical knowledge and tips from these two bee gurus.

We will also have the opportunity to look around the nursery and purchase plants, should you wish.

The nursery is not normally open to the public and grows quality hardy

perennials and ornamental grasses and a variety of bee-friendly plants.

The cost for this meeting is **£4** as Jeanette, Dave's apiary partner and nursery owner is providing all the refreshments.

Please come along and support this event.

Look forward to seeing you there

Heather Faloon

Introduction to Beekeeping Course

A one day of practical beekeeping in which we will learn how to handle live bees, exploring the main aspects involved in keeping a hive or two of bees.

Held at **Little Chart Church**, from **10.30 to 5.00**, on **Saturday 27 May, 10 June, 22 July, 12 August or Wednesday 19 July 2017**.

Bees have been around for about a 100 million years, they evolved in parallel with the flowering plants that have provided us with much of the food and material we need for life. Honeybees have developed a complex, sophisticated and social society, organised and working hard for the common good of the colony. Beekeepers need to understand the honeybee way of doing things in order to look after them, in so doing they find out about this fascinating little creature and learn why they have been so valued and admired.

In our day course, we cover the main activities required to keep a colony of bees healthy and happy. We concentrate on the practical aspects of beekeeping so we will be examining live honeybee colonies during the day (weather permitting). With guidance, we will learn how to manipulate the hive, use of hive tools and smoker, recognise and understand the bees' activities and organisation, and how to deal with common problems. We will also cover honey extraction and production. We provide a delicious lunch and refreshments through the day.

Course tutors are Nick and Jennifer Mengham. We have been involved with beekeeping since 1991. For much of this period Nick has been a commercial bee farmer, harvesting and selling honey and hiring out hives for pollination. He manages 150 hives of bees and holds the general certificate in bee husbandry and the PTTLS qualification in education.

Cost £70, or £78 if you need to hire a bee suit. Bee suits will be required. Teas and coffees, lunch and hand outs are included.

For further information, contact Nick Mengham on 01233 840660 or nickmengham@outlook.com or visit www.mrbumble.biz.

The Hyperlink to the booking form is: <https://goo.gl/forms/dBxMKhTqzHKGvjsx1>



INTERESTED IN MICROSCOPY?

Interesting in looking at bees and pollen under the microscope????

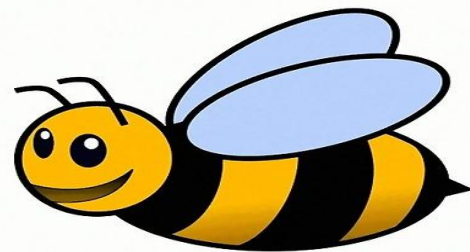
Let us know!

Either for fun or for those who may wish to progress to taking the microscopy exam module.

Email: heather@littlehareplain.co.uk

Weald Beekeepers

BEE SHOW



Saturday 30th September 2017

10AM – 3.30PM

See live honey bees and learn more about them

Sample lots of lovely local honey

Crafts Refreshments Demonstrations

Free Admission

VESTRY HALL, CRANBROOK

Honey Show News

- Bob Smith has been booked as judge for this year.
- Bob has a wealth of experience having been a bee inspector and is a widely respected lecturer in the world of Beekeeping.
- We will have trade stalls again this year, so if you see any interesting bee/nature themed goods can you please let one of the team know.
- Donations of any unwanted items that would be suitable for our tombola stall welcomed.

The Honey Show Team

Laura, Rosemary, Trudie and Heather





Dates for your Diary 2017

Bees for Sale

Club member Dave Keen is retiring from beekeeping and has several hives for sale. If you are looking for locally reared, happy, healthy bees please contact Dave for details and prices :

Tel: 01892 832768

8th April 2017

Spring inspection at Wheelgate Nursery, Marden, 3pm.

20th May 2017

Visit to a bee-related activity, venue tbc.

17th June 2017

Visit to Top Bar Hives at Sandwich.

Contacts List

Chairman and Bee Shed Organiser:

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Healthy Swarms, Healthy Bees Project

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