



# Newsletter

*Hi Everyone,*

*Just to bring everyone up to date on what has happened following our January meeting.*

*Our meeting fee has gone up to £2.00 per meeting. This is to pay for the hall and any guest speakers, we also make a small donation to anyone who is willing to have a meeting at their house. In addition to the meeting there is tea, coffee and cake. The object is to break even over the year and not to make a profit out of the meetings.*

*We are also asking members to sign in at the door at the same time as paying the entrance fee, this helps us to know what type of meetings you prefer so in future we can structure the program to suit the most people.*

*We have been asked if a toilet of some kind could be provided at the Bee Shed, this is being organised and will hopefully be in place by the time you get this news letter.*

## The Bee Shed

John has been asked when the bee shed will start again. It is now open but there is not a lot of beekeeping happening at the moment but we do have hive parts to be cleaned and prepared for the start of the beekeeping season.

We have also started to make a "garden" so that members who are not active beekeepers will be able to sit and see what is happening. Help is also required with this project if anyone feels like a bit of gardening. Also if you have any spare plants when you are sorting out your own garden, they could be used in our new garden.

John Priestley will be at the bee shed from 2pm each Thursday until 5pm and hopes to see some of you there.

Directions for anyone who has not been to the Bee Shed before:

**Heading east from Frittenden on the Biddenden Rd, the entrance is just past the turning to Bubhurst Lane on the RHS just after the Oast at 'Ponds Farm'. Please park considerably keeping the access clear.**

*As you can guess the number of things which were suggested are considerable and we are working our way through them, it will take some time.*

*Keep an eye on the food in the hive as there is not a lot of nectar about yet and the pollen being brought in means that the bees are on the increase. By mid March if the temperature increases we will be able to feed with a strong syrup but until then make sure that there is some fondant available for them to feed on.*

*A spare brood box may also be useful to have at hand as April may see the start of swarming and being prepared is always the best policy.*

*John*

*John Priestley.*

In this month's issue:

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# Baiting Your NEW Hornet Trap

The following article was taken from The Telegraph 04.11.16

British beekeepers have suggested an unlikely weapon in the battle against the current invasion of killer Asian hornets – prawns.

People are being advised to bait their home-made traps with the seafood, as the foreign species is particularly partial to protein-rich morsels during its current breeding season.

Asian hornets, which can wipe out a hive of native bees in just one or two hours, have in recent months been sighted in Gloucestershire, Somerset and the Channel Islands.

*“The whole thing about baiting for these creatures is to meet their particular needs and that is slightly seasonal.”* Tim Lovett, British Beekeepers Association

Experts say traps made out of plastic bottles and baited with prawns can help stop the spread.

In September Prince Charles’ beloved bee collection was thought to be under threat after Asian hornets, which decapitate their prey, were spotted only a few miles from his Highgrove estate in Gloucestershire.

A giant nest was later found and destroyed, and yesterday the

Government said the current outbreak had been contained.

Tim Lovett, public affairs director for the British Beekeepers Association, said prawns was the right bait for the hornet at the moment, but that their tastes would change.

*“The whole thing about baiting for these creatures is to meet their particular needs and that is slightly seasonal,”* he said.

*“There are times when they are breeding like mad when they need protein, such as prawns and carbohydrate, and as things calm down they need to be fattened up on just carbohydrate.”*

*“In the spring they need protein and sugar.”*

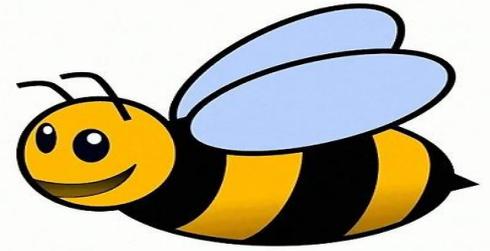
The Asian hornet is now common across Europe, having been introduced to France by accident in 2004 in a shipment of pottery from China.

Nicola Spence, from the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, said the eradication protocols had so far worked well.

*“We remain vigilant, however, and will continue to monitor the situation and encourage people to look out for any Asian hornet nests,”* she said.

Weald Beekeepers

## BEE SHOW



Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> 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**

This year our showcase event the “Bee Show” will be in Cranbrook Vestry Hall on the 30th September.

Please reserve this date in your diary.

We need as many volunteers as possible and any would be grateful for donations to the tombola stall.

We aim to build on last year’s success.

Thanks to all who supported the event.

Cranbrook will be buzzing!!

**The Honey Show Team**

Laura, Rosemary, Trudie and Heather

## Meeting Summary - 18th Feb. 2017

This was a well attended practical meeting which gave members the opportunity to make a hornet trap following the instructions issued by the National Bee Unit.

There were various levels of success, but on the whole anyone making one ended up with a serviceable trap and a better knowledge on how to make more in the future. Despite the use of scissors, knives, tin snips and heated nails, the only person to get a slight injury was myself.

Lessons learned: The 2 litre soft drinks bottle must have a waste to it and the cutting of the mesh needs to be quite accurate. The plastic bottle is really the weakness in the design and I wonder how many have survived the strong winds since that day.

Here is the link for those who did not attend:

[www.nationalbeeunit.com/downloadNews.cfm?id=122](http://www.nationalbeeunit.com/downloadNews.cfm?id=122)

I also see on the internet that there is suddenly a lot of ready-made traps available from suppliers.

Gavin Rees





# 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

## Contacts List

### Chairman and Bee Shed Organiser:

John Priestley  
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### Meetings Committee Chairman:

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### Disease Control:

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### 18th March 2017

Talk by Bob Smith on Swarm Control Followed by input on the Bailey comb change. Sissinghurst Parish Room, 3pm.

### 8th April 2017

Spring inspection at member's apiary, venue tbc.

### 20th May 2017

Visit to a bee-related activity, venue tbc.

### 17th June 2017

Visit to Top Bar Hives at Sandwich.

### Vice Chair and Honey Show Secretary:

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## Healthy Swarms, Healthy Bees Project

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