



# Newsletter

## Hi Everyone

In accordance with the authority given to the committee at the A.G.M. we have made the following appointments;

Kim Fletcher Vice Chairman.

Jane Wood Branch Secretary.

May I welcome them into their new positions on the committee and look forward to working with them over the coming months. I am sure that they will be an asset to the branch.

Now all we need is a Treasurer, Trudie is doing an excellent job in keeping the records in the meantime but she is desperate to be replaced. THERE MUST BE SOMEONE OUT THERE WHO CAN HELP. YOUR BRNCH NEEDS YOU!!

Thank you, Gavin, for the last interesting meeting, it was good to have the views of the members who attended.

The committee had the opportunity the following Tuesday evening to consider and act on the points raised. We are always interested in hearing your comments, good or bad, as it helps us to know the direction the members wish the branch to go. We will be having a meeting regarding Tractorfest during this coming month so any comments will be appreciated.

This warm weather that we have just had will have got the bees up and flying but I feel that it is a bit early especially as we are due for some cold weather. CHECK THE FOOD STORES, the bees will have been out and flying and using up valuable stores and not replacing it as there is very little nectar to be had. The Queen will have started to lay and the new young bees will need feeding, this is the time of the year when you can lose a hive due to starvation and £5 worth of food is a lot cheaper than new hive of bees.

John

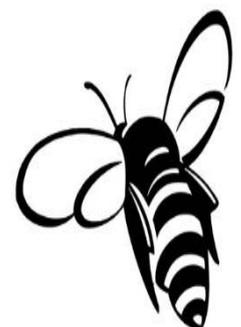
- **Chairman's Message**
- **Bee Shed News**
- **Notes from our Meetings Member**
- **Healthy Swarms, Healthy Bees**
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- **For Sale/Services**
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### Bee Shed News

We will be opening the bee shed the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday in March at 4pm, which is the 13<sup>th</sup>.

The object will be to clean the brood boxes and make up new hives for this coming year.

Several places have been offered to us since we took the decision to look for somewhere else that gives us space to put a container for storage when we buy pallets of products. These places are being looked at but in the meantime, we will continue at the old bee shed at Frittenden.



# Notes from Our Meetings Member

## March 2019

This month's talk is by John Chapman, who has been our judge for our annual Honey Show, his talk "Showing and exhibiting honey, frames for extraction, wax and candles" will start at 3pm on Saturday 16th of March at the Sissinghurst Parish Rooms. Come along and find out some hints and tips. Then catch up with other members over some refreshments.

## April 2019

April's talk has been moved to Saturday the 13th of April as the following weekend is Easter, I have managed to secure a talk from a Dr Yong, a medical consultant, he will be talking about bites and stings, how the body reacts and what first aid can be given, this talk is not just for beekeepers so we are opening it up to any friends or family members you know who would be interested, there will be a £3 fee for them. The venue is likely to be the St Georges Centre, in Sissinghurst but this yet to be confirmed. I have heard from another Bee group that it is a very informative talk, so bring a few people along with you.

## May 2019

May 18<sup>th</sup> - Outdoor meeting, spring inspection. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HOST THIS MEETING PLEASE LET ME KNOW.

## June 2019

June 1<sup>st</sup> – Managing the Asian Hornet Threat – see flyer

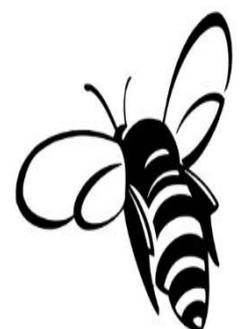
June 15<sup>th</sup> Now provisionally a "BEE SAFARI", again let me know if you would like a visit on the day

## July 20th

Branch BBQ

*Gavin*

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## Correspondence from The Field

From: Dan Roberts

I thought that Society members might appreciate this handy tool. It allows you to see what crop has been sown and where, by field.

For those beekeepers who might wish to engage local farmers on the advantages of having honey bees on hand for pollination, it gives great insight. For the rest of us, it is an interesting curiosity.

You can move the location around as you wish and look back at historical trends.

<https://map.onesoil.ai/2016/gb/england#12.85/51.1839/0.55079/-53.6/7>

Best Regards,

Dan

## Contacts List

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### **Treasurer and Membership:**

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## Healthy Swarms, Healthy Bees Project

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## Notices

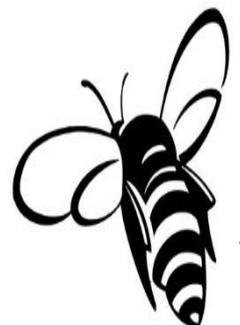
### **Bees Wanted**

I lost my single bee colony over the winter of 2017-18 and for a number of reasons was unable to try again last season. But now I am ready and very keen to establish one and ideally 2 colonies again. I would be very pleased to buy a colony or colonies from any association member who finds themselves with too many in the coming season and to give them a good home.

Yours hopefully

Gillian Burtenshaw

01580 291634 or burtenshawgillian@gmail.com





## Managing the Asian Hornet threat Practical advice from France

organised by [Weald Branch of Kent Beekeepers Association](#)

**Date and Time:** Sat, 1 June 2019, 14:00 – 16:00 BST

**Location:** [Lenham Community Centre](#), 12 Groom Way, Lenham, Kent, ME172QT [Click for Directions](#)

### Description:

There is growing concern amongst beekeepers and government officials about the invasion of the Asian Hornet as a non native species to the UK.

In 2018 there were 4 nests destroyed in the UK, with additional sightings of dead or single hornets - two of the sightings were in Dungeness, Kent. 2019 may see an increase in these numbers and we should be prepared.

Robert Moon is a professional pest controller and beekeeper living in France. In 2018 Rob removed more than 100 Asian Hornets nests. During the talk Robert will tell us about his pest control experience of Asian Hornets but also his view as a beekeeper. He will show us pictures as well as videos of some of his encounters.

Learn how to set up monitoring traps and what to do in the event of a sighting, how to report such sightings to whom.

This event will be helpful for ecologists, nature lovers, members of the public and beekeepers alike and our intention is to create awareness to nip any invasion in its early stages. We hope to also have a Defra presence and a bee inspector.

The event (2pm-4.00pm) costs £10/head up to 25th of May, £11 afterwards.

**TICKET HOLDERS WILL BE ABLE TO ENJOY A DISCOUNT OF 10% FOR [BBWEAR](#) PROTECTIVE CLOTHING.**

Refreshments will be available. Booking must be made in advance.

[Click to buy ticket](#)

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*Note: Please view on website for active voting buttons*

