



Newsletter

Hi Everyone

Hi everyone, its April already, soon be swarming time if ever the weather improves. Hopefully this coming weekend will allow me to get into my hives for the first time this year. We are ideally looking for a temperature of around 15 degrees C before going into the hives but time is getting on, so we will soon be needing to get a quick look but don't let the brood get chilled so keep an eye on the thermometer.

As you know we have been looking for someone to take on the role of fund raiser and at last we have a volunteer. Kim Fletcher has put his hand up and your committee has unanimously accepted and voted him onto the committee. Kim is a councillor for the parish of Cranbrook and his work history is one in marketing and fundraising, so he is ideally suited for this position.

Robert Munn has also volunteered to help with our Queen rearing project. Robert was once a bee farmer and has considerable experience in beekeeping, in fact Robert started me off in beekeeping a number of years back.

A couple of months back I noticed an article in one of the magazines about a new insurance which covered the cost of hives if stolen. I think that this should be looked into, especially with the reports of hives being stolen in different parts of the country, it may happen to us!

John P.

Bee shed.

We will be starting up the Bee shed again this month. Wednesday afternoons from 4pm until dark. Remember you don't need to be there at 4pm, you come and go when work etc allows, I will be there by 4 as I have plenty to do.

Robert will be looking at getting on with the Queen rearing earlier than we have done in the past, so hopefully there will be Queens for improving our hives this year, there will of course be a small charge for the Queens.

Lets hope we have a good season, there is lots happening.

Don't forget to volunteer for the honey show, YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOU.

- **Chairman's Message**
- **Note from Meeting Member**
- **Dates for Your Diary**
- **TractorFest Update**
- **Healthy Swarms, Healthy Bees**
- **Contact**
- **For Sale/Services**

Diary Dates

See Extended list on page 2.....

John P.



Note from Our Meetings Member

March Feedback

Despite the snow we had a good attendance at the last meeting, though with 10 minutes to go before the start I think there was only 10 people there, but in the end, there was over 20. Hopefully Becky's input has given some people tips and ideas for this year's Honey Show at Tractor Fest in August.

This month (3pm. Saturday April 21st at Sissinghurst Parish Rooms), we have 2 talks from 2 PHD students from Sussex university. I am hoping for a packed room for this one. I would just like to thank the regular cake contributors for the meetings, and some offerings would be greatly received for this month's meeting.

April 21st.

Sissinghurst Parish Rooms, 3pm. PHD Students Veronica Wignall and Gigi Hennessy from the research unit at Sussex University are coming to talk about the projects they have done so far and their wider context in terms of honey bee ecology, competition with other bee species, and floral resource availability in Britain's countryside. Gigi will be talking about her interesting results regarding the effects of different weather conditions on honey bee foraging behaviour, as well as her work with two rare solitary bee species at Gatwick airport and at Seaford Head.

May 19th.

The first Weald "Bee Safari" A full day of visiting hives with Bee Inspector Michael Cooper. Details coming soon.

June 16th.

Apiary Visit to The Sheppey Apiary run by Terry Claire (gave a talk earlier in the year) at the HMP site. Details coming soon.

July 21st

Branch BBQ "Oomph" "Bratwurst and Bees!" being hosted by Erik, there will be a request for assistance with this event.

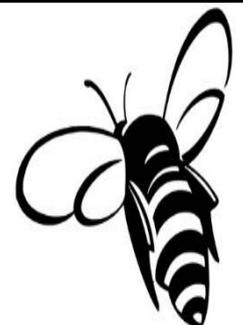
August 18/19th

Honey Show at the Tractor Fest.

September.

It is intended to have a Bee equipment Auction, so have a think about what you have lying around and do not use anymore. All details to be confirmed.

Gavin





Tractorfest and Weald Beekeepers' Honey Show

Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 August.

A wonderful old-fashioned family day out and better than ever this year our Bee/Honey Show will be taking place there.

We are changing the schedule to allow 1lb and 12oz jars to be entered. This will make it easier for those of you who only sell your honey in 12oz jars to enter.

Also planning that you can drop off your exhibits on the Friday, when you will be able to drive right up to the marquee.

We were only 3 entries away from the prestigious blue ribbon being awarded in 2017, 97 and we need 100, we can do it this year!

Thank you to those who have volunteered to date, we still need more though, particularly for the Sunday afternoon. So if you are free your support would be fantastic,

The team has been working hard to make our display more professional interesting, educational and fun, with lots of things for children to do.

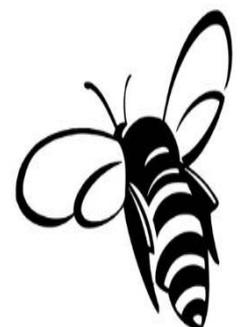
Any ideas you have appreciated.

Schedule will available next month.

Best Wishes

Heather

heather@littlehareplain.co.uk



Healthy Swarms, Healthy Bees Project

Trudie Thomas	tel: 01233 771934	accounts@trudiethomas.co.uk
Heather Faloon	tel: 01580 291986	heather@littlehareplain.co.uk
Robert Lewis	tel: 01580 291531	robertlewisfarms@btconnect.com
John Priestly	tel: 01580 714498	jjpriestley@msn.com

Contacts List

Chairman and Bee Shed Organiser:

John Priestley
tel: 01580 714498
jjpriestley@msn.com

Vice Chair and Honey Show

Secretary: Heather Faloon
tel: 01580 291986
heather@littlehareplain.co.uk

Treasurer and Membership:

Trudie Thomas
tel: 01233 771934
accounts@trudiethomas.co.uk

**Meetings Committee
Chairman:** Gavin Rees
gavinrees@talktalk.net

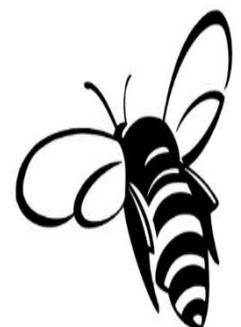
Members Representative:
Christine Clark
chris.a.clark@btinternet.com

Branch Secretary:
Tracey Jewsbury tel:
07903 411504
traceyjewsbury@btinternet.com

Disease Control:
Michael Cooper tel:
01622 891226
Mob: 07808 612609

Website and Newsletter:
David Keepence
tel: 01622 842493
dsk@tumblershill.co.uk

*Postal submissions to:
WBKA, East Hill House
Tumblers Hill
Sutton Valence,
Maidstone, Kent ME17 3AF*





FOR SALE / WANTED & SERVICES OFFERED

BEE SYRUP FOR SALE

Api-invert Syrup with very high sugar content (gravity 1.25kg/Ltr.) from Belgium

from organic sugar:

2x5L containers = £14 together.

Contact Erik at: erik.uebel@gmail.com or 07484120586

With a few days advance notice Erik can deliver the syrup to the Bee Shed.

FREE FRAME CLEANING

Free frame steam cleaning service offered for frames WITH foundation in exchange for the wax harvested.

Contact Erik at:

erik.uebel@gmail.com

or 07484120586

for more details.



Robert Munn has asked that the following be included in the newsletter: -

1. Bees for sale on Deep National Frames @ £12 per frame. Buyer to provide hive/NUC when ready. May onwards (weather permitting). Limited number so order soon.
2. I have run the hives at Sissinghurst Castle for 2yrs. If you would like to help, learn, and gain experience, please get in touch.
3. I have also been asked to re-hive 2 colonies at Small Hythe Place, near Tenterden. The bees are in need of some TLC, having been kept in somewhat dilapidated old hives for a number of years. The plan is to get them into New WBC Hives as soon as possible. If you would be interested in helping, let me know and I will keep you 'posted'.

Robert Munn. robert.munn@hotmail.co.uk
(Cranbrook)
07704 601200

