

***KENT BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION  
SEVENOAKS AND TUNBRIDGE WELLS  
BRANCH NEWSLETTER***

**January 2018**

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See our website: [www.kentbee.com/stw/](http://www.kentbee.com/stw/)

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***Happy New Year  
Here's to a good year for bees and honey!***

### **Urban Bees**

If one of your new year's resolutions was to attend more beekeeping events in 2018 then you can make a good start by attending the January talk at Weald Memorial Hall, Sevenoaks Weald, on Tuesday 16 at 7.30pm. Ash Samuelson will be giving a talk on her honeybee and bumble bee studies. She has been researching the effect of urbanisation on bee health and behaviour, specifically looking at the three main threats to bees – lack of forage, pesticides and disease – in relation to land use.

Our programme for the year is on the website <http://www.kentbee.com/stw/bm~doc/programmetotal2018.pdf>

### **Does Cell Size Matter?**

*by John Farrow*

After installing six frames with no foundation some two months earlier in a poly nucleus, I checked on the size of cells the bees had made with no starter strip to influence them. Compared with the standard foundation cell size of 5.4mm, the bees had made the cells to their body size at 4.9mm. This is a reduction in cell volume of just over 20 percent.

Does a smaller cell size prevent the male and female varroa mites moving around the cell and mating? Click in this pdf document to read some of the arguments and potential advantages:

<http://www.kentbee.com/stw/bm~doc/bee-natural-cell-size.pdf>

### **National Honey Show Videos**

If you could not attend, or possibly missed, some of the lectures at the 2017 Honey Show, all is not lost as seven lectures have been posted on YouTube. There is a link to one of the lectures 'Beekeeping as a Profitable Sideline by Will Steynor' on our web site: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iqGDD3i0rv4&feature=youtu.be> The other topics can be found by typing 'National Honey Show 2017' in the YouTube search bar.

There is a wealth of other information on our website too, including the National Bee Unit annual report. Follow the link: <http://www.kentbee.com/stw/bm~doc/south-east-region-annual-report-2017.pdf>

### **Bee Scientist Lecture**

The Sidcup Branch is keen for other Kent beekeepers to attend a talk it is hosting by a world-renowned bee scientist, Professor Karl Crailsheim, on Sunday 14 January at 2pm in Orpington Village Hall. For more information visit [Ruxleybeekeepers.org.uk](http://Ruxleybeekeepers.org.uk) and click on lectures.

**The north wind doth blow  
And we shall have snow**

*Paul Abbott was inspired to write poetry after venturing out to take photos of his apiary in the snow:*



The north wind doth blow,  
And we shall have snow,  
And what will poor Apis do then?  
Poor thing.  
She'll sit in a hive,  
And keep herself warm,  
And cluster her head under her wing,  
Poor thing.

*If you have an item for the newsletter please contact Mary Staffurth: 01732 462931; [marystaffurth@yahoo.com](mailto:marystaffurth@yahoo.com)*