

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

January 2019

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Happy New Beekeeping Year

A Talk on the Asian Hornet

Our first meeting in 2019 will be on Tuesday 15 January at 7.30pm in Weald Memorial Hall. Bee Inspector Celia Rudland will be talking about the Asian Hornet: where is it, what is it and what can we do to protect our colonies? Our Bee Inspectors have been working with their opposite numbers in France and the Channel Islands to learn at first-hand how these pests can be managed.
Liz Birchenough.

Making Propolis Pay

You may have seen an item in Bee Craft magazine earlier this year about a lady who had started up a company using 'bee products' and was making hand cream etc. It is called BeeInspired. I read that they could use propolis and so I scraped all mine off after I had extracted the honey, and sent it to them. I have recently heard back and they are paying me! You can either have money off their products or receive cash. It is better value, obviously, to trade it in for products. I am being given over £20 worth and I really didn't send much at all. She wants all the propolis she can get, so I thought other members might be interested in sending theirs too.
Katharine Coleman.

This photo, taken by Pauline Hayward, won first prize at the Branch Honey Show

“Now where's that Pollen colour Chart?”



Bid for New Beekeepers in Weald

Saturday 8th December saw the Christmas Craft Fair at Weald Memorial Hall, organised by branch member Ragna Tulloch in aid of the Canine Partners charity. Ragna kindly offered the branch a table at the Fair as part of our outreach programme (*writes Liz Birchenough*). I went along, complete with our roller banner, plenty of leaflets and a nuc box to look at. There was lots of interest, especially in the Introduction to Beekeeping Course. There was also one possible contact for a school talk. Hopefully we might pick up some new members.

Missing Equipment

Three loose screens 300mm x 350mm from the branch radial extractor have gone missing. If you hired the extractor this year and you recall seeing these three screens can you please advise Peter Hutton: 07 44 60 92 948 or email peter.hutton@btinternet.com

On Our Website

Click on the link <http://www.sevenoaksbeekeepers.org.uk/> or simply search for Sevenoaks beekeepers in Google. If you have been on the site over Christmas you will have noticed that John Farrow added some lovely falling snow effects.

Poetic Bees

While leafing through an anthology of Irish poetry given as a Christmas present I came across a pre-12th century poem about bees. It has been translated either from Latin or Irish Gaelic and was written when worker bees were thought to be male. Mary Staffurth.

Bee

A tremor of yellow from blossom to blossom
the day-shift bee stays out with the sun
then booms across the darkening valley
to his happy date with the honeycomb.

Diary Dates

Tuesday 15th January – Lecture:

Venue:- Weald Memorial Hall, Weald, TN14 6PT 7.30pm-9.30pm.

Our Regional Bee inspector Celia Rudland, will talk about Asian Hornets.

Tuesday 19th February – Lecture:

Venue:- Weald Memorial Hall, Weald, TN14 6PT 7.30pm-9.30pm.

Dr Emily Bailes from Royal Holloway College will be presenting her research on the transmission of deformed wing virus and slow bee paralysis virus between bees.

Sunday 3rd March – Introduction to Beekeeping:

Venue:- Weald Memorial Hall, Weald, TN14 6PT from 10.30am to 3pm.

This course will be a very basic introduction to beekeeping. The purpose is to introduce interested beginners to the responsibilities of beekeeping, the basic lifecycle and behaviour of honey bees, and the logistics and commitment needed to manage bees in a domestic environment. This is a classroom only course. The fee is £30 for Branch members and £40 for non-members.

Click for full details: [Introduction to beekeeping – booking form](#)

Tuesday 19th March – Lecture

Venue:- Weald Memorial Hall, Weald, TN14 6PT 7.30pm-9.30pm

Peter Aldridge will give a talk and demonstrate the use of top bar hives.

Please send any articles or photos for the newsletter to Mary Staffurth: marystaffurth@yahoo.com