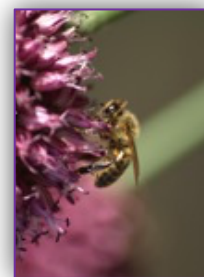


# SEVENOAKS AND TUNBRIDGE WELLS BEEKEEPERS BRANCH NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2025

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Branch website: <http://www.sevenoaksbeekeepers.org.uk/>



## Hilbert Road Team Out and About



*Sue's new observation hive*

With the Yellow-legged Asian hornet on the rampage this year Martin Barrett and I have been raising awareness with the general public. We attended the Kent County Show at the beginning of July although the weather was changeable, and footfall seemed light in comparison with previous years.

The team talked to everyone who wanted to support our efforts and 165 selective traps were taken by members of the public from across the county and beyond. All of them registered with AHAlert on the Catch App.

There was also a demonstration of the “BuzzCopper” which is a device powered by AI taking photos of insects drawn to the lure.

The idea is that the device learns to identify each insect and alert the operator to the presence of Yellow-legged hornets. Trials have been successful and are continuing.

I acquired a new observation hive which was employed this month at talks for WI members on both bees and the threat of Yellow-legged hornets.

The bees at Ightham Mote have settled down well and, while it was not a big harvest, we removed a few frames for extraction.

*Sue Knights, Hilbert Road Apiary Manager*



*Examining a honey frame at Ightham Mote*

## Can You Help with the Website?

We're planning to create a brand new website for Sevenoaks & Tunbridge Wells Branch as part of our efforts to modernise and improve communication within the club and with the wider public. Have you or any of your family or friends the skills and experience to help bring this project to life?

We're looking for help in website design and development (WordPress, Wix, Squarespace, or other platforms) along with design and branding. Whether you're a professional in the field or simply enjoy dabbling in digital projects, your involvement - no matter how big or small - would be hugely appreciated. For more details contact Branch Secretary Tim Johnston: [secretary@sevenoaksbeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:secretary@sevenoaksbeekeepers.org.uk)

## Varroa Treatment

We have Apiguard available for members to purchase. A pack of two sachets costs £7. This is sufficient for one colony. Instructions will be provided. Please contact: [membership@sevenoaksbeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:membership@sevenoaksbeekeepers.org.uk)

## Curiosity and the Cat



I caught a small swarm in my skep and this is the cat who came to help build up the numbers by catching the odd flying bee. Fortunately, she was unsuccessful, so she didn't get stung!  
*John Farrow*

## Get Ready for the Honey Show

The Honey Show and Craft fair will be held on Saturday 27th September at St John's Church Centre, Hildenborough. There is free parking at the hall. If you have any queries, please contact the show secretary, Sue Knights [soozbeez@gmail.com](mailto:soozbeez@gmail.com). We will be selling refreshments at the Craft Fair and are asking that anyone entering cakes or biscuits in the honey show donates these for sale with the refreshments.

### Timetable

09.30-10.30 Exhibits to be registered and staged.

10.30-13.00 Judging in progress, no admittance to the main hall.

People running craft stalls may deliver items via the side entrance during judging.

14.00 - 16.00 Honey Show and Craft Fair open to the public

16.00 Please collect your exhibits and help tidy the hall.

If you won a trophy last year, please bring it along to be displayed.

If you win a trophy this year, it will be engraved with your name and presented at the AGM.

### Hints and tips

\* Read the schedule and rules thoroughly.

\* Show standard jars are available from Freeman and Harding in packs of 24 (should be enough for one super).

\* There is an approved format for labels. There are examples on the Thornes website.

\* You can use honey from any source for classes 8, 9 and 10.

We are asking for volunteers to help during the craft fair. We will need a couple of people to help with refreshments and honey tasting. We will also need members to 'meet and greet' and engage with visitors, be available to chat to people about what we do and keep an eye out for mishaps.

We will be selling honey and would like to offer a range of honey from members. All honey for sale must be correctly labelled. There will be a standard price. We will reimburse members for their honey on a sale or return basis and will also pay for taster jars.

Please contact me ([membership@sevenoaksbeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:membership@sevenoaksbeekeepers.org.uk)) if you can help during the afternoon, and if you have honey available for sale. If you have other hive products for sale, such as cut comb, please let me know. We cannot sell mead as we do not have a licence.

*Liz Birchenough, Membership Secretary and Treasurer*

## Yellow-legged Hornet Sighting

Yellow-legged Asian hornets are continuing to be found in Kent. The National Bee Unit says there was a credible sighting of a single hornet by a member of the public in Tunbridge Wells on the 11th of July.

## Scout Bees

The Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells Branch is managing a beekeeping stall at the Scout International Jamboree at the Kent Showground in Detling on Tuesday August 5. We are taking an observation hive and other beekeeping equipment. If anyone would like to take part and help explain something about the life of a bee and the process of beekeeping, please contact Liz Birchenough: [membership@sevenoaksbeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:membership@sevenoaksbeekeepers.org.uk)

## Diary Dates

**Saturday September 13:** Tunbridge Wells Climate and Nature Fair - from 10am at Calverley Gardens. This is the first time Tunbridge Wells has hosted an event like this, so if you are local, please come along. We will be raising awareness of the Yellow-legged Asian hornet, responsible beekeeping and looking after pollinators in your garden.

**Saturday September 27:** Branch Honey Show and Craft Fair - St John's Church Centre, Hildenborough.

**Tuesday October 21:** Branch quiz and social at Weald Memorial Hall.

**Tuesday November 18:** Branch AGM and prize giving at Weald memorial Hall.

## Apiary Meetings

**Saturday August 2 at 2pm:** Barwood Apiary

**Sunday August 10 at 11am:** Hilbert Road Apiary

**Saturday August 16 at 2pm:** Barwood Apiary

**Sunday August 24 at 11am:** Hilbert Road Apiary

*Send photos or articles for the newsletter to: [marystaffurth@yahoo.com](mailto:marystaffurth@yahoo.com)*

*Go to our website for all the latest beekeeping news: <http://www.sevenoaksbeekeepers.org.uk/>*