

Diary Dates

Sunday 4th September 2005 - Peter Bashford talks on Preparing for the Show Bench and Apiary Meeting. Starts 11:45am. Includes refreshments.

Saturday 17th September 2005 - Bromley and Orpington Beekeepers Honey Show and Crafts at Emmanuel Church Hall, The Grove, West Wickham. Starts 9:30am to 4:30pm. Free Admission, Show Schedule available to download. For craft stall phone 0208 6567990.

Sunday 2nd October 2005 - Apiary Meeting. Starts 11:45am. Includes refreshments.

Thursday, Friday, Saturday 20th-23rd October 2005 - The 2005 National Honey Show will be held at the Royal Air Force Museum, Hendon, London, UK. Judging of more than 200 classes of honey, beeswax, candles, mead, art-work, essays etc begins at 09.00 on Thursday 20th and the Show is open to the public from 14.00 until 18.45 that day. On Friday 21st it is open 09.30-18.45, and on Saturday 09.30-16.50. Admission for members is free, but for non-members it is £7.00 payable at the door. In addition to the competitive classes, there is a full programme of lectures, given by speakers of world renown, There are also many trade and educational stands. For the latest news see our website: <http://www.honeyshow.co.uk>

For more information

Peter Springall 020-8690-3906 Mobile: 07779 970104

Email: ps@zbee.com

Tom Winks Chairman 020-8777-3144

Clive Watson 020-8658-3786

Steven Turner (editor) 020-8698-0313 Email: crow@zbee.com

Visit our website: <http://www.kentbee.com/bromley>

Join our mailing list by sending an email to: mail-server@zbee.com with the command in the subject or message body "subscribe bbk" (no quotes) and wait for a confirmation message to complete the subscription.

Bromley Bee News Monthly Update Published by the Bromley Beekeepers Association

Welcome to the **September 2005** issue of Bromley News.

Do make every effort to attend our honey show which is on **Saturday 17th September**. The show is open to the public from 9:30am. Staging of exhibits is between 9:00am – 9:30am. All members should have received their copy of the show schedule in an earlier mailing or you can download extra schedules and entry forms from our website <http://www.kentbee.com/bromley/downloads.htm>

We need all the help we can get with publicity for the show, why not ask your friends and families to come along for an hour or two and see all those prizes you have won! Refreshments will be available including a wide selection of home made cakes.

To warm you up for our honey show Peter Bashford will be giving a little talk at the next apiary meeting on '*Preparing for the Show Bench*' see our events calendar for details.

Steven Turner

To the Isle of Sheep

"wiv a ladder and some glasses – you could see to 'Ackney Marshes..."

Well, it wasn't quite that far but at least, unlike Edgar Bateman, we were not disadvantaged by the "ouses in between."

Bromley's bee breeding group paid a visit to Medway and North Kent Bee Breeding Group on the Isle of Sheppey on the 18th June, 2005. One of the nearby landmarks to the Apiary is a pub which the Bromley branch fell into after the drive down and had lunch. This was enlivened by the take-off of three large garden umbrellas across the wind-swept pub garden. When we arrived at the Apiary we were joined as visitors by The Weald Branch.

There was a distinct holiday air about the visit – the sun was a little too warm, perhaps, but the Medway Group had thought of everything. We were welcomed with glasses of cold lemonade; there was a pagoda awning for the sun-sensitive and after a fascinating presentation a royal feast of buffet food.

On behalf of the Group, Terry Clare had organized things so that we divided into three parties and were taken into the Apiary to be shown something of the way things work there. The Apiary itself is on marshland on what was a well-known bee farm. This is in a peaceful conservation area.

It became clear that despite Terry's protestation that the Group had only been effectively working for a year, they certainly had things organized to a very high standard. Using Apidea mini-nucs mainly in pairs, on waist high stakes, (depending on the height of your waist) there were some 35-40 units, most of them in use. We were shown how they filled the mini-nucs with nurse bees – relying on sprayed water to conglomerate cups-full of bees, which were set aside in a barn inhabited by a family of owls. I must admit there was so much going on I missed parts of the presentation when the stock hives were opened, which is a good excuse to return at a later date.

Whilst there was an emphasis on recording activities accordingly to the BIBBA system and many of the techniques were well known ways of doing things, it was clear that a lot of work and effort had gone into getting things right.

The Group is working a programme of breeding and improving the native strain of Dark European Bee. All the members of the Group we met – and I apologise for not having recorded their names – were fonts of information. This was very encouraging to all of us.

I am sure I speak for Terry Hardy and the Weald Group too when I say there is no doubt we will want to make the trip again if only to share the friendliness of the atmosphere there.

Mike Oliver

Apiary News

This is the first newsletter since April or so I am told. It's surprising how time flies.

The last of this year's activity with our display tent is now behind us and what a wonderful day it was. The green at Cudham has never been so crowded and our tent was full of people from opening time to closing. Barry saved our lives more than once with his timely offerings of tea and sandwiches.

It was at this display that Steve reminded me about the newsletter so you only have him to blame.

Next Sunday the 4th September we re-start the winter series of first Sunday meetings at 11:45am, which coincides with the allotment Open Day this time in aid of the NSPCC. At the moment we have five mini nucleus hives on the go, four with Queen Cells. I will look in the donor stock and see if there will be any material to start yet one or two more minis. I opened the usual stock to load the display cage but the bees were so unwilling that I wonder if I will be able to open up in front of the public next Sunday. It may be necessary to rely on the minis to show off the bees but we shall see on the day.

The Branch Honey Show is coming up soon and to encourage you to take part Peter Bashford will be giving you a short talk and demonstration on preparing for the show. I have said many times before how important it is to prepare your product properly for sale to the public and what better way is there than putting your goods on display at a show? Please do try and come along next Sunday. See you then.

Peter Springall