



KENT BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

County Newsletter No. 81 December 2015

BBKA HONEY SURVEY 2015

Survey shows average yield 21lbs per colony this year
down 34% from last year



Bees exuding wax. Photos by Mike Elliott

COUNTY AND OTHER EVENTS

BBKA 56TH ANNUAL DELEGATE MEETING

Saturday, 9th January 2016

BEE TRADEX

Saturday, 5th March 2016

Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire CV8 2LG

9.00 a.m.-4.30 p.m. Entry £4.00 (£5.00 on the day)

www.beetradex.co.uk

Wisborough Green Division - West Sussex BKA

Beekeeping Course

Suitable for Beginners, Improvers, and Non - Beekeepers

Village Hall, Lower Street, Pulborough, West Sussex. RH20 2BF.

Saturday, 5th March 2016.

The course is suitable for those who wish to discover what is involved in keeping bees, but will also be suitable for those who have kept bees for some time. It will largely follow the syllabus of the BBKA Basic assessment, but with variations. This course is based on over 50 years experience, not just repeating what is in books.

Subjects covered will include:-

How to learn about bees Obtaining bees and equipment

Different kinds of bees Where to site hives

How bees live naturally and how we can manage them Protective clothing

What bees collect - nectar, pollen, propolis, water Basic Colony Management

How bees store honey and pollen Handling bees carefully

What happens in a beehive and where Swarming and dealing with it

The 3 castes - queen, drones, workers Dealing with the honey crop

How to start Making colony increase

Choosing the type of hive and why Feeding

Essential equipment The colony in winter

Course fee £40. Second and subsequent attendees booked together £35*. Under 16 with a paying adult £15*.

Price is per head to include lunch, refreshments, and our own booklet "Basic Beekeeping".

Please note: Those marked * will not receive "Basic Beekeeping". Additional copies available on the day at £5.

For existing, paid-up WGBKA members the fee is reduced to £30.

Enquiries:- Roger Patterson. roger-patterson@btconnect.com 01403 790 637 or 07976 306 492

Booking:- Gordon Allan, Stone House, High Street, Petworth, West Sussex, GU28 0AU. 01798 343 470, petworthgordon@btopenworld.com preferably using the booking form on the website.

Payment by:- Cheque, Bank transfer or cash. See Booking Form for details.

Website www.wgbka.org.uk

BBKA SPRING CONVENTION

Harper Adams University, Newport, Shropshire TF10 8NB

8TH, 9TH and 10TH April 2016

Enquiries: tim.lovett@bbka.org.uk

KENT COUNTY SHOW

County Showground, Detling

8th 9th and 10th July 2016

LENHAM LECTURE

Sunday, 6th November 2016

Lenham Community Centre

85TH NATIONAL HONEY SHOW

St George's College, Weybridge KT15 2QS

27th 28th and 29th October 2016

Beekeeping lectures and workshops

It's November 2015 and here is the news!!



**IMYB 2017 will be held in England if
BBKA members are in support.**

What a chance for us to showcase beekeeping in England.

What a chance for young beekeepers to show how well they understand beekeeping here in England.

Yes, the BBKA Executive have agreed a proposal that, subject to it not being a drain on BBKA resources, the International Meeting of Young Beekeepers should be held here in England. We don't want it to be a drain on resources and will be looking to raise as much sponsorship as we can but we will also be asking you, the members of the BBKA to demonstrate your support through a small financial contribution. If every member makes a contribution of just £1 towards this prestigious and forward looking-event this will cover around one-third of the cost of hosting the event and we already have plans for raising the other two-thirds.

We hope that this will be discussed at the ADM in January and would like your support when we ask members to agree to a one off, one time levy of £1 for each member. With the expectation of media coverage, we hope that you will agree that this is a wonderful opportunity to make the public at large aware of the importance of beekeeping and, particularly, the importance of young people taking up our craft.

There will be much to do to make sure that we are ready the host best IMYB to date; as always it will be most successful if we all pull together. We are looking for volunteers to help; people with language skills will be particularly helpful as in addition to the three main languages for the event (English, German and Russian) there will be people who speak other languages present probably including Slovak, Slovenian, Czech, Polish, Hebrew, Arabic, Danish, to name but a few. Although we will hold the event at Marlborough College in Wiltshire, a well-established college location with all of the boarding facilities you would expect, if we have to pay for administrators to do the work the costs go up so we will be looking for volunteers to act as ambassadors and administrators too. And if you have special skills such as photography, graphic, design or can manufacture badges, medals or certificates there is a role for you too.

All contact whether comment or help to



**International Meeting
of Young Beekeepers**



Please contact us if you are able to help

Linguists, administrators and beekeeping referees will be needed

Other specialist skills will be welcome

More details will follow in the new year



**Let's make Team England
No.1**

Ian Homer

BBKA Trustee and IMYB
coordinator for the BBKA

ian.homer@bbka.org.uk

November 2015

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SITUATIONS VACANT

The Margaret Calder Pavilion, like any other building, needs repairs, maintenance and general upkeep. If anyone has decorating, plumbing, electrical or any other useful skills and is willing to undertake repairs etc. as the need arises, please let me know on jennifer@spon-smith.com