

**MID-KENT BRANCH
KENT BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER**

November 2010



"Pleasures lie thickest where no pleasures seem:
There's not a leaf that falls upon the ground
But holds some joy of silence or of sound,
Some spirits begotten of a summer dream."



Thursday 18th November @ 7.30 p.m.

**Annual General Meeting and Presentation Evening at
East Malling Research Conference Centre**

October Meeting: Held at the East Malling Research Centre in the conference room was a very welcome change from the rather dingy surrounds of the Bull: Alan Byham gave an illuminating presentation of the work of the National Bee Unit to a good number of the membership some of whom completely ignored the directions to the main entrance only to find another that was closed – if all else fails, ‘Read the instructions’!. The alcoholics among the members were catered for as well since we were fortunate to be able to use the bar in very comfortable surroundings – thanks very much Adrian.

Annual General Meeting

The newsletter for this month concentrates on the subject of the annual general meeting of the branch.

The Mid Kent Branch of the Kent Bee Keeping Association is a group of people that share a common interest. In other words the organisation ‘is’ the people in it. This year we have seen our membership grow to over 100 and it is probable that this will continue for 2011. This has presented serious issues for the branch as to how we organise ourselves and meet the expectations of our existing and new members. It is fair to say that change is a principal that the branch committee both understands and accepts. For this reason the Annual General Meeting will need to deal with some of these changes in the coming year.

The branch members come from a surprisingly wide section of the community. It is also the case that our members have many obligations and necessary commitments regarding their time. This includes their jobs, partners, children, family and other dependants; to name only a tiny fraction. It is a fact that most branch members simply do not have the time or the means for making a major commitment to running or participating in duties for the branch. Experience shows that this is the most likely reason for branch members to be reticent in coming forward for branch task roles at the AGM.

So, with increasing membership, what do the committee propose to do? Well, allowing the volume of work on the existing committee members to increase is not particularly sensible, especially if one of them is struck by illness or their personal circumstances change.

1. **Chairman:** vacant: **Richard Cullen** is prepared to stand for this post should there be no other nominee.
2. **Vice Chairman:** **Brian Palmer**
3. **Secretary:** **Barbara Harris:** has struggled to manage the work involved and the tasks could be split into
Minutes Secretary: **Tim Polglase** is willing to take on this task
Meetings Secretary/Events Secretary would be responsible for arranging/contacting speakers and booking the venue,
4. **Newsletter:** **David Wood & Brian Palmer** Some contributions have been received from a few members, but it would add more variety if others sent in articles/observations.
5. **Website:** **Tim Polglase** has made a great job of getting this off the ground
6. **Basic Course Secretary:** **Richard Cullen** has taken on this seasonal task which finishes around Easter at the end of the course, and takes the weight of domestic responsibility off the shoulders of the tutors for the course.

7. **Treasurer: Roger Hart** : has carried out this task very efficiently, coping with the changing financial requirements.

In addition both **Peter Schmoeger** and **Jackie Preston** have taken on tasks when the occasions have arisen which tends to happen very often!

8. **KBKA Representatives:** representing the Branch on the council.

All the current holders of the posts are willing to stand for re-election and any nominations should be sent to Barbara Harris before the meeting.

At the AGM, presentation of County Show award and Basic Examination Certificates (and badges!) will be made to those successful candidates who sat the exam earlier in the year (bring your cameras!)

Summer Events

The Smallholders Fayre at Sissinghurst Castle in September was a great success for the branch - despite the rain.

Membership Information

There is no sign of a slackening of interest in beekeeping with the parallel movement of 'grow your own' only reinforcing interest along with other activities such as keeping chickens. It is November and we are fairly sure that the basic course for next year is almost full to its limit of 15.

Finally, I think it's important to confirm why a beekeeper may choose to belong to a branch. There are many reasons but I think these are the main ones

1. Your bees are insured against disease
2. The other people in the branch are a valuable source of knowledge and experience. It gives you a chance to talk about issues and get their opinions. Every beekeeper has trod the well worn path of making mistakes and I've always found it useful to share those experiences and get an opinion from others on what often works.
3. Other members can supply you with bees or take a swarm from you
4. Having an experienced eye available to spot disease
5. It's a social opportunity with people that have a common interest

Kent Beekeepers' Association - November Lecture – Sunday 7th November at 2p.m.

Lenham Community Hall, Groom Way, Lenham ME17 2QT

Tickets £5 at the door

(if you send David Wood a cheque for £4 made payable to KBKA your advance ticket will be left at the door) OR contact Terry Hardy 01622 832066 theresa.hardy@virgin.net for advance tickets

Clive de Bruyn and Pam Hunter

Michelle Fountain sent this very interesting link- <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/oct/24/bees-route-finding-problems> , it also has a number of other bee related links.

Your comments and contributions are as ever most welcome and valued

<http://www.kentbee.com/midkent/events/index.shtml>

Christmas Dinner **Menu & Booking Form**

Time is of the essence for booking

***DEADLINE 18th NOVEMBER AT AGM OR BY POST TO
B. PALMER 19 Mackenders Lane, Eccles ME20 7HX***

The total of £18.95 per person is required on booking
Cheques payable to Mid Kent Branch KBKA

Christmas Dinner at the
(Bull Linton Hill ME17 4AW Telephone: 01622-743612)
Tuesday December 7th, 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm

Please complete the booking form at the end of this page and send with a non returnable deposit of £10.00 or a total of £18.95* by cheque made payable to Kent Branch KBKA

Starters

- 1) Spiced lentil & Chickpea Soup with rustic bread and butter
- 2) Breaded Camembert with Red Onion Chutney and pesto dressing
- 3) Smoked Fish Terrine on Crostini with rocket salad & pesto dressing
- 4) Chilled Melon with woodland berries and mango coulis

Mains

- 1) Roast Festive Turkey with herb stuffing and bacon and Cumberland sausage
 - 2) Seared Rump of Beef Bourguignon shallots, mushrooms & red wine jus
 - 3) Ratatouille and Goats Cheese Tart with tomato and basil coulis
- All served with roast potatoes, seasonal vegetables and accompaniments
- 4) Grilled Loin of Salmon with prawn bisque, and charlotte potatoes & thyme

Desserts

- 1) Traditional Christmas pudding with brandy sauce
- 2) Vanilla Deep Baked Cheesecake with strawberry coulis & raspberries
- 3) Rich Chocolate Torte with crème fraiche

COFFEE

**PRICE INCLUDES A FULLY DRESSED FESTIVE TABLE AND 1 BOTTLE
OF HOUSE RED or WHITE WINE per TABLE OF 4 & Fruit Juice**
The total of £18.95 per person is required on booking

TEAR HERE & RETURN

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**PLEASE INDICATE YOUR CHOICE OF STARTER, MAIN COURSE & DESSERT, USING THE
RELEVANT NUMBER (1, 2, 3 or 4)**

	Starter	Main	Dessert
NAME (Beekeeper).....
NAME (Partner).....

