

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

November 2011



"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."



Tuesday 15th November 7.30 p.m.

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

October Meeting: Held at East Malling Research in the Conference Centre., when Mary Hill gave us an interesting presentation on preparing honey for the show bench. Please 'Read the instructions' sent out last month, and park in the car park. 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 and Michelle. There was some confusion on leaving caused possibly by members entering by the main gate, which was locked before the meeting concluded. Entry to and exit from the site should be by the Bradbourne Lane route, which was difficult to follow after the meeting. This should be rectified before the AGM with more signs.

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. It is therefore proposed that if most members can take on one small task each the load will be spread – and be less daunting.

1. **Chairman: Richard Cullen.**
2. **Vice Chairman: Brian Palmer**
3. **Secretary: Barbara Harris:**
4. **Treasurer: Roger Hart** has carried out this task very efficiently; coping with the changing financial requirements and regrettably is willing to stand for one further year only.
5. **Ordinary Committee Members:** Michelle Fountain, Sarah Harris, Tim Polglase, Jackie Preston, Peter Schmoeger and David Wood have all indicated that they are willing to serve for another year: any other 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 Beer Festival at EMR, and the Bradourne House Open Day under the National Gardens Scheme in September were very successful and attracted considerable interest.

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 6th November at 2p.m.

Lenham Community Hall, Groom Way, Lenham ME17 2QT

Tickets £6 at the door

(if you send David Wood a cheque for £5 made payable to KBKA your advance ticket will be left at the door) OR contact Julian Audsley 01304 820653 for advance tickets (they will be available from me at the AGM – save £1)

Send cheque for £5 payable to Kent Beekeepers Association to Julian Audsley
Briar House Waldershare Rd Ashley Dover CT15 5JA and collect ticket on day.

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 15th NOVEMBER AT AGM OR BY POST TO
B. PALMER 19 Mackenders Lane, Eccles ME20 7HX
01622 717483***

***The total of £20 per person is required on booking
Cheques payable to Mid Kent Branch KBKA***

Christmas Dinner at the
At The Redstart Inn, North St, Barming ME16 9HF

Tuesday December 6th 2011, 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm

Please complete the booking form at the end of this page and send with £20 cheque made payable to Mid-Kent Branch KBKA. **DEADLINE 15 NOVEMBER**

STARTERS

- 1) Tomato and basil soup
- 2) Smoked duck salad, beetroot vinaigrette and goat's cheese fritters
- 3) Creamy garlic mushroom with herb crouton and balsamic syrup
- 4) Pheasant & Armagnac pate with red plum, fig chutney and toast

MAINS

- 1) Lamb cutlets with minted red wine sauce, mashed potatoes, and vegetables
- 2) Roast Beef dinner
- 3) Liver, bacon, mashed potatoes and sautéed vegetables
- 4) Chicken breast stuffed with goat's cheese and thyme, wrapped in bacon, new potatoes, sautéed vegetables
- 5) Golden vegetable rarebit pie, shallot comfit, roast potatoes, seasonable vegetables, home-made roasted garlic and herb gravy
- 6) Baked cod fillet with herb crust, with mushroom sauce, new potatoes and sautéed vegetables

DESSERTS

- 1) Traditional Christmas pudding with brandy sauce
- 2) Lemon cheesecake
- 3) Apple strudel with custard, ice cream or cream
- 4) Chocolate cake with cherry mousse
- 5) Cheeseboard (£2 extra)

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 £20 per person is required on booking
Send cheque, payable to Mid Kent Branch KBKA,
To Brian Palmer, 19 Mackenders Lane, Eccles ME20 7HX

TEAR HERE & RETURN - Deadline 15 November

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PLEASE INDICATE YOUR CHOICE OF STARTER, MAIN COURSE & DESSERT, USING THE RELEVANT NUMBER (1, 2, 3 4, 5 or 6)

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

KENT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION MID KENT BRANCH

Notice of the Fourteenth annual general meeting of the Mid-Kent branch is given to all members and they are requested to attend at

Conference Centre
East Malling Research
East Malling
Maidstone
Kent.

7.30pm Tuesday 15th November 2011

Branch members are requested to submit any nominations for Branch Officers or Committee Members to the Secretary before the meeting commences.

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
2. TO RECEIVE MINUTES OF THE 13th AGM 18.11.2010
3. TO DISCUSS MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES
4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
5. TREASURERS REPORT AND ANNUAL AUDIT
6. NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS OF THE BRANCH
7. ELECTION OF THOSE OFFICERS
8. NOMINATIONS FOR MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE
9. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS (Max of 9)
10. COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER CO-OPTION OF MEMBERS TO THE COMMITTEE
11. PRESENTATION OF AWARDS
12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Please send all nomination, proposals or notices of interest by 14th November to:

**BARBARA HARRIS,
GREENHILLS,
GREENWAY FORSTAL,
HOLLINGBOURNE,
KENT. ME17 1QA**

Tel/Fax 01622 880440 E-Mail: barbara.harris9@btopenworld.com

KENT BEE KEEPERS ASSOCIATION MID KENT BRANCH

List of current Officers and Committee Members 2011

Officers

Chairman – Richard Cullen

Vice Chairman - Brian Palmer

Treasurer – Roger Hart

Secretary – Barbara Harris

Committee Members (up to 9)

Michelle Fountain
David Lloyd
Jackie Preston
David Wood

Sarah Harris
Tim Polglase
Peter Schmoeger

KENT BEE KEEPERS ASSOCIATION MID KENT BRANCH Nomination Form 2012

I would like to nominateas a committee member

or for the post of (one of the four officers)

Signed:

Print name here:.....

I would be willing to be nominated as a committee member

Or for the post of.....

Signed: Print name here.....

I would be willing to assist the Swarm Co-ordinator and collect swarms in my area

Signed:

Print name here.....