

KENT BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION – ORPINGTON BRANCH

AUTUMN 2015 NEWSLETTER

As I write this to you, we are experiencing very nice sunny weather and warm temperatures for the end of October. It looks as though my bees think it's summer again because they are flying very strongly today.

We have had our last session at the High Elms teaching apiary as far as beekeeping goes. The hives have been wrapped in chicken wire to prevent woodpecker attack. There will be a couple of working parties in the early Spring to tidy the site up and do any maintenance work necessary. These are usually mid-week and are weather dependant, so do offer your help if you are able.

As the active beekeeping season draws to a close, the lecture and honey show season begins. Our local honey show has taken place in West Wickham, with Ann Blackburn almost making a clean sweep of most categories.

We have already enjoyed hearing about the Bumble bees from Prof. Dave Goulson, and Pam Hunter gave a very interesting and knowledgeable talk regarding 'Non standard treatments for bees'.

The National Honey Show is taking place at the end of this week at St. George's College, Weybridge, Surrey, from 29th-31st October. Competitions, lectures and workshops, also trade stalls open from lunchtime onwards. Visit www.nationalhoneyshow.co.uk for more information.

Remember remember the 5th November! Sidcup beekeepers have organised a talk by Jennifer Berry, who hails from USA and currently has bees on the Whitehouse lawns. Come and hear her talk about beekeeping in America. This talk is very conveniently taking place at the Crofton Halls in Orpington, which are right beside the BR station. The halls have a car park, but bus and rail services are also very near. There is a charge of £5 for this talk, but there will be tea and delicious cakes included in this fee. I have been sent notes on her talks and I will send them round after this newsletter.

Orpington branch AGM and harvest supper will take place on Wednesday 18th November at Atomwide Offices, Sevenoaks Way. This is a good opportunity to meet up with other branch members, hear about what is going on both in this last year, but also our aims for next year. This is rounded off with a 'bring and share supper'. If you are able to bring a contribution of food for this finger buffet, please let me know so that I can co-ordinate food and ensure that we don't have 20 plates of sausage rolls, and no sandwiches! Please label anything containing nuts.

Lastly, our Christmas get-together has been set for 12th December at the Kings Arms in Shoreham. There is the option of a 2 or 3 course meal at 7.30pm. Gordon and Jackie Harradine are organising this once again, and have already circulated the menu. There are about 35 places available, so get in touch with them to book your place and give them your menu choices.