

KENT BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

Orpington Branch Newsletter April 2008

Not much news this time.

The BBKA is urging everyone to write to their MP to try to get the government to finance more research into bee diseases. It seems to me that the essential characteristics of governments are a lack of common sense and an inability to anticipate the consequences of their decisions, so I am not too hopeful. But please do it.

Jim tells me that the Beekeepers' Question Time at the BEECHE was a bit of a waste of time. Not many people, apart from beekeepers, turned up, but he used the time to do some instruction on the assembly of frames, so it was not quite wasted. He was impressed by the new building. The wintry weather undoubtedly kept many people away and we must hope that it warms up in time for the Apiary opening which is scheduled for April 5<sup>th</sup>.

Saturday April 19<sup>th</sup> is the date of the Spring Convention at Stoneleigh and I hope that if some of you are going, you will report back anything new that I can include in the next issue.

Three days later is the Bee inspection tour – you should have notified Kit if you wanted to be included. Make the most of it because it may be the last one until one of us or someone in the area gets a disease in their bees.

The Petts Wood May Fayre is on the May Day Bank Holiday on Monday May 5<sup>th</sup> and I expect that we will be taking part as usual.

I have received brochures and entry forms for the Bee market and Auction at Brinsbury Agricultural College, Pulborough, West Sussex, on Saturday May 10<sup>th</sup>.

Also received are schedules and entry forms for the South of England Show on June 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> at Ardingly. Last date for entries is April 13<sup>th</sup>.

Mandy emailed a report on another bee accident in the USA in which a lorry load of bees on pallets toppled over on Highway 99. The bees were en route from California to Washington State. The Highway Patrol recruited a 66 year-old former beekeeper and two Romanians to sort it out. Because they move bees around in America, following the crops, this is not apparently a particularly unusual happening. A much more unusual item appeared under "Related Stories" – "Enraged bee bursts Taiwanese woman's breast implant". I hope our bee inspectors will be keeping Taiwanese bees out of the country!

Frank