

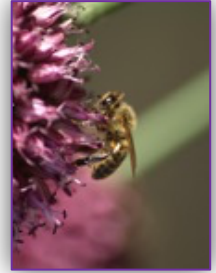
SEVENOAKS AND TUNBRIDGE WELLS BEEKEEPERS BRANCH NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2024

Editor: Mary Staffurth

Tel: 01732 462931 / Email: marystaffurth@yahoo.com

Branch website: <http://www.sevenoaksbeekeepers.org.uk/>



Happy New Year!

If you haven't already started planning for the 2024 beekeeping season then now is the time (*writes Mary Staffurth*). Have your bees got enough stores to see them through to the spring? In our apiary the bees have been flying on warmer days so they are expending energy. Is your equipment clean and ready for use? Have you got enough frames and foundation? If all is in order in the shed or garage then, on these grey, rainy days, you could spend your time making candles from last year's beeswax. Our winter meetings continue this month with a webinar on Asian Hornets. Vanessa Jones will be running a series of Asian Hornet workshops at Hever and there are courses for prospective new beekeepers. See below for details.



Our own hives are at the bottom of the garden, surrounded by trees. We've had an apiary there for close to 30 years but in December, for the first time, something strange happened. The mouseguards on all three hives were pulled off and bent. As they were held on with drawing pins it wouldn't have required much force to remove them. However, the animal concerned had clawed and scratched at the entrance, damaging the wood. Our conclusion is that this was the work of a badger. We have never been aware of badgers in the garden but we live close to Sevenoaks Common and there are highly likely to be setts nearby. We've been blaming the fox for digging up the lawn overnight but now think the badger is the culprit.

Special Briefing for Beekeepers

Andrew Durham will give a special briefing for beekeepers on the Asian Hornet on Tuesday 16 January at 7pm. The webinar, which has been organised by the BBKA, will cover:

The situation as at the end of 2023

The effect on beekeeping

The prospect for 2024 and beyond

A report on the first year in operation of the new French National Plan for fighting the Asian Hornet

Please use the following Zoom link to join the briefing:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84767178392?pwd=NT1mSPDmsDEuJ06dlOF5EN0X7asjHq.1>

Asian Hornet Workshops

Vanessa Jones, the Asian Hornet team leader for the branch will be running a series of one hour workshops in Hever focused on Asian Hornets:

Why should we be worried about Asian Hornets? Saturday 27 January at 2pm

Monitor more, trap less - Saturday 10 February at 2pm

Management techniques for beekeepers - Saturday 24 February at 2pm

If you are interested in attending a workshop please email Vanessa: vanessajones@btinternet.com

Course for New Beekeepers

The branch is running a classroom-based course for people interested in starting beekeeping. It will introduce beginners to the responsibilities of beekeeping, the basic lifecycle and behaviour of honey bees, and the logistics and commitment needed to keep honey bees in a domestic environment.

Sunday 21st January 2024 10am to 4pm

OR Sunday 18th February 2024 10am to 4pm

Venue: Weald Memorial Hall, Long Barn Rd, Sevenoaks Weald TN14 6PT

The course is £50 for members or friends of Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells Beekeepers, £60 for non-members. To book contact Liz Birchenough: membership@sevenoaksbeekeepers.org.uk



This photograph was awarded second place at the branch Honey Show. It was taken by Simon Staffurth.

*Send photos or articles for the newsletter
to: marystaffurth@yahoo.com*

*Go to our website for all the latest beekeeping
news:*

<http://www.sevenoaksbeekeepers.org.uk/>