

# Kent Beekeepers Association

## Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells Branch

### Programme 2024

#### **Introduction to Beekeeping    Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February**

A day for prospective new beekeepers. There are a few places left on this event. More information and booking with Liz Birchenough.

#### **Asian Hornet Workshops    Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> February from 2pm**

In order to protect your bees against the threat from this invasive alien it is important to know as much about it as possible. Vanessa Jones has kindly offered to run these workshops from her home at Hever. Please book directly with Vanessa [vanessajones@btinternet.com](mailto:vanessajones@btinternet.com)

### **Indoor meetings**

Held at

Weald Memorial Hall, Sevenoaks Weald 7.30 – 9.30pm

#### **Tuesday 20th February**

##### **Preparing for fight against Asian Hornet. Our Branch Asian Hornet Strategy**

With so many Asian Hornet nests found last year, it is inevitable that some queens will be establishing new nests this year. The most effective way of controlling numbers is by spring trapping. This meeting will explain the practicability of how to trap queens. How your beekeeping practice will need to change to reduce predation by Asian Hornets will also be explained. We urge all members to attend this important meeting. Even those of you who do not have bees can make a vital contribution to trapping the new queens this Spring.

Simple traps costing just £1 will be available at this meeting, along with a quantity of attractant available free, but please bring your own container (such as a milk bottle or shampoo bottle).

With the beginning of the year concentrating on the need to fight against the Asian Hornet, the next three meetings of the indoor programme are focussed on reminding us of the fun of beekeeping.

### **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March**

#### **Preparing for the Honey Show**

Anyone who has entered our honey show will tell you what a surprisingly enjoyable event it is. But many beekeepers do not know what is required to enter. Or are disappointed that their entries are unsuitable. **John Chapman** is an experienced judge who will explain the process of producing award winning honey, wax and those other classes that make entering such a rewarding experience.

### **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April**

#### **Products of the hive**

In Britain, we rarely see anything other than Honey for sale. But beekeepers across Europe will produce, propolis, pollen, royal jelly and wax products. We are missing out on some interesting aspects of beekeeping that even if you have no desire to sell, it would be an interesting activity and extend your beekeeping horizons. **Andrew Gibb**, will come and explain how our European beekeepers make these products and their uses.

### **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May**

#### **Wax Workshop**

An opportunity to see how to process your excess wax and then to actually make rolled, dipped and moulded candles. Wraps and foundation. Numbers will have to be limited and there will be a small cost for materials that you can keep.

Our Autumn programme is to be confirmed, but add the dates 17<sup>th</sup> September and 22<sup>nd</sup> October to your calendar.

19<sup>th</sup> November AGM, Honey Show Prizegiving and social.

## **Honey Show and Craft Fair**

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October**, St John's Church Hall, Hildenborough

Please do consider entering for this fun event. Perhaps even run a craft stall. It would be nice to build on the success of last year's show, but we rely on the enthusiasm of members to participate.

## Apiary meetings

We have two branch apiaries. Whether a new or experienced beekeeper, you never stop learning in beekeeping. So come to these social, hands-on meetings to share knowledge and practice.

The emphasis this year will be on the adaptations to beekeeping practice required to reduce predation by Asian Hornets.

For details of location, see the members area of the website.

Hilbert Road Apiary, Tunbridge Wells. Sundays from 10-12am

25<sup>th</sup> February

10<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> March

14<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> April

12<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> May

9<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> June

14<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> July

11<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> August

8<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> September

6<sup>th</sup> October

Barrwood Apiary, Shipbourne

Saturdays from 2-4pm

2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> March

6<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> April

11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> May

1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> June

13<sup>th</sup> July

3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> August

14<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> September

19<sup>th</sup> October

### Additional dates:

Events we are attending to raise public awareness of Asian Hornet. Volunteers to help would be appreciated. Also, a chance for you to sell honey.

4<sup>th</sup> May          Sevenoaks Climate fair

6<sup>th</sup> July          Festival of Nature (Sevenoaks)

5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> July      Kent Show (includes KBKA honey show)

For further information about our programme and for details about any enforced changes:

See our Website: [www.sevenoaksbeekeepers.org.uk](http://www.sevenoaksbeekeepers.org.uk)

Or join our WhatsApp groups.

Or contact our Secretary:

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