

Dear Fellow Beekeepers,

After our successful and well-attended Q&A in March – with many thanks to panelists Becky Champion and John Williams, and chair Jane Rosam, and not forgetting Robert Ambroziak in the kitchen – it is time to remind you of our next meeting, on **Wednesday, April 25th, at 8pm in Westerham Hall.**

Our speaker on this occasion will be **Richard Ridler**, the chair of the charity Bees Abroad (<http://beesabroad.org.uk>). (And my apologies for misspelling his name in my last newsletter...)

Richard writes: 'I plan to make 80% of my talk about beekeeping in Africa highlighting the differences in practice with UK. The other 20% will be about Bees Abroad and why beekeeping is so successful as a means of poverty relief.' Do please come to what promises to be a fascinating evening.

Richard was persuaded to take up beekeeping by his wife Jane 25 years ago. Today they keep 20 hives together in and around Saffron Walden near Cambridge. (Jane would love to be in Westerham on the 25th but is giving a similar talk at the Cambridgeshire BKA conference.) Both are now BBKA Master Beekeepers – and he has served 5-year terms as both treasurer and chairman of the Essex BKA. Richard and Jane both teach beekeeping including for the BBKA's certificate in Modern African Beekeeping. Their first experience of African beekeeping was in 2012 as a result of a request for help from an organisation in Kasese in Western Uganda. They had little idea what to expect but decided that at least they would escape the January weather...

I will be giving full details of our three summer apiary meetings in our next Newsletter, meanwhile please mark the following dates: **Saturday, May 19th** (noon to 2pm at the Branch Training Apiary, leader Tracy Johnson); **Saturday, June 23rd** (host Mark Waddington); and **Saturday, July 21st** (host Peter Coble).

Many thanks, once again to our Education Officer Steve Riley for this month's BeeZeen (click on the icon below to open), with its items on bee deaths over the winter, the marking of queens, the training apiary's Gourmet Taster Sessions – and treatment-free beekeeping.

With good wishes – and in hopes of better weather,

Johnny

(John Pym)