February Newsletter

The next meeting of the Westerham Beekeepers will be held at **8pm on Wednesday, February 21st**, in our usual venue, Westerham Hall. The speaker, whom many will remember from a few years back, will be **Dr Nikki Gammans**. She will address us on 'The Plight of the Bumblebee', including in her talk an update on the progress of the Short-haired Bumblebee re-introduction project that has been running in the Dungeness and Romney Marsh area since 2009.

Nikki is a most lively speaker and her last talk was much appreciated by all who heard it. Do, please, come to hear her speak again – she will also give tips on bumblebee identification and ideas for the creation of wildflower areas ideal for bumblebees.

Directions for Westerham Hall: From the A25 in the centre of Westerham (by the Green), take the London Road towards Biggin Hill; turn first right into Quebec Avenue; the car park and Westerham Hall is on the right-hand side. OS Ref: 447542.

Dates for your diaries: **Wednesday, March 28th**, a Question and Answer session chaired by Jane Rosam, and **Wednesday, April 25th**, a talk by Richard Ridler, of Bees Abroad – both at Westerham Hall, starting at 8pm. Your Management Committee has decided to go ahead, as in past years, with three spring and summer apiary visits (details to follow).

The February issue of Steve Riley, our Education Officer's BeeZeen is attached below with many helpful tips for winter-to-spring preparations in the apiary – and also, among much else, an update on the approach of the Asian hornet. Simply double click on the icon to open the document. Thank you, Steve, for all this detailed work!

I will be sending in a separate message a summary paper from Robert Dudgeon, one of our KBKA Branch Representative. Westerham branch beekeepers are to be asked by the Kent Beekeepers Association to give an opinion on an issue that has arisen over the compulsory subscription to BeeCraft magazine. Robert's summary fills in the background

With all good wishes,

Johnny

(John Pym)