

Westerham Beekeepers July 2019 Newsletter

Apiary Meeting

Saturday, July 20th, from 2.30pm. Host Peter Cobley; demonstrator John Hendrie. Contact phone 01732 867625.

Autumn Meetings

Westerham Hall, Wednesday September 25th, 8pm

Kevin Thorn will speak to us on *Bee Improvement and Bee Producing*.

Kevin, who's based in Suffolk, is a bee farmer with 92 colonies in and around Lavenham. He's a trustee of BIBBA, the Bee Improvement and Bee Breeders Association, and a support coordinator for groups of beekeepers looking to improve their native honey bees. He's also the founder of a project at Abberton reservoir to reintroduce the native black bee (*Apis mellifera mellifera*) to that region through a local producing and mating programme. Kevin's talk aims to cover the importance of producing our own queens and to show how easy it can be, avoiding the need to import queens that can have locally unsuitable genetic traits. We should all be able to breed our own bees!

Westerham Hall, Wednesday November 27th, 8pm

Annual General Meeting, Honey Competition and Social: The Branch officers will be elected for next year and the usual business of an AGM conducted. Peter Bashford of Bromley Beekeepers will judge the Honey Competition. Please bring with you to the meeting two unlabelled jars of your best set-honey or two jars of your best liquid-honey (or alternatively four jars in all – two of set and two of liquid. Cups will be awarded to the winners in each category. The evening will conclude with a Social.

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.