

Westerham Beekeepers Newsletter, September 2019

Here are details of our two remaining meetings this year – including the all-important annual meeting and honey competition in November. Attendance at all our earlier meetings in 2019, and the summer apiary gatherings, has been notably strong, and Kevin Thorn's talk this month promises to be no exception to the high standards set by earlier speakers. Please come, if you can!

This will be my last newsletter to the Westerham Beekeepers. After five years as your 'events organiser', I'm handing on responsibilities to Mark Waddington, an experienced beekeeper, whom many of you will know. Mark has been shadowing and assisting me this year and has kindly agreed to take on the organising role full time. Dates have been set for next year's meetings and speakers are already being enrolled. *Thank you, Mark!*

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. If you plan to attend the meeting, please also bring a contribution – mead, savouries, sandwiches, cake, soft drinks, wine... – to the ever-popular Social which will round off the evening.

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.

Subscriptions 2020

WBKA annual subscriptions are due for renewal on October 1st, 2019. If you wish to renew your sub, please click open and print the PDF below. Send the completed form to our treasurer, Peter Cobley, at the address on page 2 of the form, together with a cheque for

the appropriate sum. Alternatively, give the form and cheque direct to Peter at the September 25th meeting. If you have a questions, please call Peter on 01732 867625.