

Westerham Beekeepers Association Newsletter – September 2021



Introduction and update

Did anyone see the summer? I think we had a week in mid-July. At least we were able to host a few apiary demonstrations (photo above and more information below). I hope you have had a productive season with healthy colonies and possibly a few jars of honey. We are now looking forward to the winter, and a programme of talks is being planned.

As an association, we have managed to be almost completely self-sufficient in bees this season, with new members being supplied either by swarms, or by nucs or queens from established members. This is an achievement, and a positive step towards keeping our bees local and avoiding imports.

Thanks to Kim MacLeod, who led the teaching apiary for the first time, on a weekend when Jacky and Steve were both unavailable. Also, several people have demonstrated at the summer apiary sessions for the first time. And the baking skills are still very much in evidence!

Please make a note in your diaries that we will have a stall at the Westerham Fayre on Saturday 18th September.

An update on winter talks

We have decided to continue with online meetings for our winter talks for the time being. We appreciate that there are members who prefer the hall meetings, but with the continuing uncertainty over meeting indoors with COVID, we believe it is the most sensible choice at the

moment. One of the unintended benefits of this decision is that it gives us access to a wider range of speakers.

Be that as it may, we are a members' club, and will return to more social meetings when the situation is clearer. We do hope to have some kind of winter social event(s) at some point as well.

For the same reason, the honey show will also be postponed until the spring.

Here are the forthcoming dates and the provisional programme so far (all talks will be on Zoom with a 7:25 for 7:30 start time):

2021

- 29th September – Trisha Marlow on the work of the charity “Bees Abroad”
- 27th October – Lynne Ingram on “Honey Adulteration”
- 24th November – Annual General Meeting and Educational Awards
- December – no meeting

2022

- 26th January
- 23rd February
- 30th March
- 27th April

2022 speakers to be confirmed.

Summer Apiary Demonstrations

Happily, we were able to hold three demonstrations this summer, although John Metcalfe was unable to host in August, due to a positive COVID test, so I ended up volunteering my own apiary. Thanks again to Anne Robinson and Keith Masters for hosting the June and July sessions. Thanks also to Steve Riley, Kim MacLeod and Topsy Rudd for demonstrating.

Here are a few photos from the July meeting at Keith Master's out apiary and the cake-ridden session at my own house:





Mark Waddington

3rd September 2021