

1923 - 2020



Medway
Beekeepers
Association

Medway Beekeepers Association

Celebrating over 95 years of support for beekeeping
and beekeepers in and around the Medway Towns



Newsletter November 2020

By now our bees should be ready for the long winter ahead. Now we have at last some time to spare, why not register for some of the excellent Zoom lectures this winter. See below for details. A short newsletter this month as not much is going on at the moment!



A Past Zoom Presentation:

Monday 12 October 2020
Jim Vivian-Griffiths

**The Dancing Bees:
Research by Karl von Frisch on the
waggle dances of honey bees.**



Jim Vivian-Griffiths, along with his wife, Val, both Master Beekeepers, have been keeping bees since 2000. They have had up to 50 colonies on home and out apiaries, but now have 28 colonies on their home apiary on a hill overlooking Monmouth and the Black mountains. They established a branch apiary for Dean Forest BKA and have run Basic and other BBKA courses for 14 years.

Jim's presentation was both informative and interesting. I thought that this particular meeting was going to be a little technical if I am honest, but Jim managed very successfully to explain not only how bees communicate essential information to one another but also the processes by which research scientists established how the process works. He talked through the history of the idea that bees communicate through vibrations and movement, and how the 'Waggle Dance' actually works. Bees use the dance not only to find nectar and pollen but also water and when in swarming mode they use the dance to reach a consensus on the best location of a new home. He also demonstrated how bees may find an abundant food source by at first, random exploration but when they return to pass information on to other bees, they always took a direct route to the best source. Sugar content is the major stimulus and bees will use the source that is nearest and most productive. Not only clever but very efficient as well; although if the source is very rich, bees have been observed flying some 9 miles to forage such as heather. Bees will also bring back a range of pollen as they need a balanced diet. Adjacent hives often bring in different pollens depending on the needs of their colony.

Again, another excellent hour spent listening to a very good and well-informed speaker. Our thanks to Jim, and to Jen, Archie and Bob for setting it up and organising the event.

If you have yet to register for one of our meetings why not give it a try. It costs nothing and you don't need to go out on a cold miserable night. It only takes an hour! Go on, you never know you may even enjoy it!

Paul Lawrence

The Next Zoom Presentations: More information is available on the websites.

Members will receive personal invites and registration details for the following events soon:



8.00pm Wednesday 28 October 2020
Marin Anastasov

Nutritional requirements of bees and supplemental feeding.

To register for this talk [Click here](#)



8.00pm Wednesday 9 November 2020
Norman Carreck

Global pandemics, bee imports and native bees.



8.00pm Wednesday 25 November 2020
Gerry Brierley

‘Apitherapy: A journey into the healing hive’



City Way Apiary Report:

The inspection team has now moved to monthly inspections. The Report Cards are available to view on the Member’s Area.

Each hive is now fitted with a mouse guard and has sufficient stores to last the winter period. See below for the final inspection of the season:

Hive 1

Queen not seen
seams of bees
No brood and no eggs
Stores on 10 frames
Docility 1

Hive 2

Blue marked queen seen
9 seams of bees
No brood and no eggs
Plenty of stores
Docility 1

Hive 5

Blue marked queen seen 10
9 seams of bees
No brood and no eggs
Plenty of stores
Docility 1

Reading Around:



A monthly glance at a topic or two in the media with Archie McLellan.

This month: There are times when a forum hits the spot. Beekeeping Forum has been around for a long time but right now it seems more useful than ever. There's wisdom and nonsense, laughs and tears, all the sort of thing that fills daily communication among humans.

It's not at all like that for honey bees though. With their balance of work and rest (mostly rest), their focus (one job at a time – none of this multitasking nonsense), and their ceaseless communication in many forms, Mark L. Winston finds that we have a lot to learn from them.

And the usual recommendations from the interweb stars: David Evans and Rusty Burlew. This is your last chance!

To view this month's edition please: [Click here](#)

The latest from Defra:

For the latest Defra advice on looking after your bees during Covid19 please: [Click here](#)

Asian Hornet Update:

The '**Asian Hornet Watch**' app may be downloaded onto phones so that people have the information ready to hand to identify and report sightings of Asian Hornets and particularly nests, as we move into autumn.

BBKA's PR Officer, Diane Roberts, has written the attached press release: [Click here for details](#)

Visit: www.nationalbeeunit.com for the latest updates

Beekeeping Equipment and Consumables Available Locally:

Some of our newer members have been asking where they might buy equipment and consumables locally to view a list: [Click here](#).

Facebook also carries up to date information.

Join our Facebook page for information, updates and events:

<https://www.facebook.com/medwaybka/>

And Finally:

As usual, many thanks to all who have contributed to the newsletter at this difficult time.

Contact Details:

Chairman

John Chapman
john.chapman@medwaybeekeepers.co.uk

Newsletter and Website Enquiries

Paul Lawrence
paul.lawrence@medwaybeekeepers.co.uk