

Established 1923



Medway
Beekeepers
Association

Medway Beekeepers Association

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



Newsletter February 2021

Unfortunately, not much to report this month so a very short Newsletter. Don't forget to monitor the level of your bees' stores, feed fondant and maybe pollen patties if you think they are getting low on food. Also make a note of the date for this year's Zoom AGM this is a new one for us all.

Many thanks to those who have already renewed their membership. If you are yet to renew don't forget that you can download a renewal form from the Member's Area if you need one.

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 Monday 8 February 2021 David Evans

This is a gentle introduction to queen rearing. Covers the importance of the quality of the larvae and drones, the practicalities of grafting larvae (much easier than most people realise), cell raising, and getting queens mated from nucleus colonies.



8.00pm Wednesday 24 February 2021 Stephen Martin

The evolution of natural Varroa-tolerance mechanisms in various beekeeping populations.

Please don't forget to put this one in your diary:



Saturday 20th February 2021 MBKA Annual General Meeting

Time: 2 – 5pm

Note, this will be a Zoom Meeting.

2021 AGM Papers will soon be available to view on the Member's Area and an individual invite to register for the meeting will follow.

Also note that only those who have renewed their membership prior to the meeting will be invited to register.



This report may also be viewed on the Member's Area under '**Latest News**'

Beekeeper's Bazaar:

Sadly, Juan has given up beekeeping and has equipment to sell:

Hi everyone.

I started beekeeping in 2014. Like many of you I started with a couple of hives. Over the years I enjoyed it so much that at one point I had 10 hives, some of them with double brood box. 2017-2018 was my last year at beekeeping. I stopped for various personal reasons (a bad back among them). Since 2018 I had my equipment stored in my shed and some hive parts I gave to someone to clean for me. Unfortunately, those parts (brood boxes and supers) were left out in the open and got so damaged that had to be disposed of.

This means that some of the parts I wanted to give away are not available.

However, the good news is that I do have a lot of equipment left still. Most of it is in quite good condition with even new items unused. As things have been in the shed for the last 2 years, some need a good clean and they will look like new (e.g. the top of the flat roofs or the landing area of the bottom hives). I used to keep my equipment clean and disease free by regularly removing any wax/propolis from it and torch it (hence you will see the dark patches on some items). I recommend a steel wool sponge with water to clean the wood.

I attach an excel document with the list of items available. I put a category, name and description with original purchase price + offer price. I am interested in selling as many things as possible so if someone wants a lot of the equipment that person will have priority over the lot. I have very nice pieces in almost new such as the electric extractor and the Solar Wax Melter (amazing item in hot days) and others new unused such an observation hive. The electric extractor is well worth it and I recommend that if too expensive for one person, that a couple of people or more can chip in to share the purchase price.

Please reply by email to: juan.chia@proventis.co.uk include a list of items you are interested in and the number of pieces (or just send back the excel list with the column of items you are interested in completed). To download a complete list on an Excel File: [Click here](#) To view photos of equipment on offer: [Click here](#)

If you have any questions please let me know. I am available in the evenings after 5:30 pm, happy to talk to you via WhatsApp or mobile.

I would like to dispose of these items as soon as possible to make space in the shed so please let me know ASAP if you are interested. Pickup from Sittingbourne

Best regards
Juan Chia
07970 900647

This may be of interest to those who have an old smart phone you no longer need:



Good afternoon,

Please **send us your old smartphones** that are sat, unused and gaining dust. Donate them to our "**Phones4bees**" campaign, and you will help an African Beekeeper out of poverty and do your bit to help this most valuable insect.



LOCATE YOUR OLD SMARTPHONES

WAYS TO SEND

1 Simply put your phone in an envelope and send it to us at

Phones4Bees
Mill Brook House,
Caps Ln, Cholsey,
OX10 9HF



OR

2 Email your Name and Address to **phones4bees@gmail.com**. We will email you a postage label that you can print, which makes sure it gets to us with no postage cost for you.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Thank you. We will keep in touch and let you know how your phone is helping.

For updates, please visit [www.africahoneyconsortium](http://www.africahoneyconsortium.org) or www.bee.watch



We were approached by the Africa Honey Consortium and The Source Plus to apply our Bee.Watch system to Africa's most important rural cash crop, honey.

With commitment already from Burundi, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa, you may soon be seeing pure African Honey on our supermarket shelves, if you will do your bit, send us your old smartphone.

The UK have the highest density of smartphone users in the world at 83% and all those Christmas upgrades we have bought, or have been given, have left a lot of good working smartphones with no home

Find out more about this exciting project at:

<https://www.africahoneyconsortium.org/>

<https://www.bee.watch/donate-your-phone/>

Please share with your network, family and friends and follow the conversation **#Phones4Bees**

Thank you,

The Bee.Watch team
Andrea and Vicky.

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Contact us for more information: bee.watch@uwatch.co.uk

A monthly message from Margaret Wilson President of the BBKA:

To read the Presidents latest newsletter please: [Click here](#)

This is an update from the BBKA on the derogation of a neonicotinoid treatment of sugar beet seeds to be sown in spring 2021:

To read the latest update on this hot topic: [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 many of you will know this is my last newsletter as next month I pass the Editor's role over to Archie McLellan. I wish Archie every success as he takes the Newsletter forward.

Many thanks to all who have contributed to the newsletters over the last few years. Please remember if anyone has any news, ideas, amusing stories or comments or indeed suggestions about any future newsletters, please get in touch with Archie at the address shown below, we really do appreciate your input.

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