



KENT BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

County Newsletter

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WILLIAM MUNDY CELEBRATING 80 YEARS A BEEKEEPER



It is true to say that William Mundy at 95 years of age continues to be an inspiration within the beekeeping world. He first became involved with honeybees when he joined his local Dartford branch in 1936 and has been a solid member ever since.

He was born in Dartford and grew up there, eventually marrying and settling down with two children. His role in the RAF during World War Two was unfortunately cut short by his capture by the Japanese Imperial Army in Java, he was then transferred to Ambon to work on constructing an airstrip on a coral surface and finally being taken, because of severe deprivation, to the Changi Po Camp. During his time there as a prisoner of war, he kept his faith in the healing and nutritious properties of honey. William nurtured and housed local honeybees for nine months whilst there under severe conditions and he even managed to give lectures to fellow inmates about bees and beekeeping.

William continues to educate new cohorts of potential beekeepers through his annual Instruction Class for Beginners at the Dartford Branch. It is this extraordinary service to education and his accomplished method of reaching out to a wide range of people that has endeared him to so many people within his local community and to the wider beekeeping world.

William has also served on the Kent Bee Keepers Association for over sixty five years, he held the office of President to the KBKA on two occasions and worked tirelessly to promote the highest standards in beekeeping as its Chairman for fourteen years. During this time he also served for a term on the British Bee Keeping Association Council. His dedication to bee

keeping and the natural world was never better expressed than when William's other posts as a member of the National Honey Show, later President, Vice Chairman and Chairman for sixteen years brought him close to the public. He re-introduced the Blue Ribbon Award, which he continues to hand make himself.

William's eighty year span of steadfast loyalty to bee keeping and his ability to reassure beginners, give advice to improvers and offer wisdom to those who seem to know it all, as well as making the best mead imaginable, should be celebrated now as a truly extraordinary life long friend to bees and beekeepers alike.

Patrick Letschka
Secretary, Dartford Beekeepers

ARE NEONICOTINOID PESTICIDES ENDING UP IN HONEY?

The problem: Neonicotinoid pesticides have been widely used as a seed treatment on mass flowering crops like oil seed rape. Traces of these pesticides can be found in the pollen and nectar on which bees feed, so there is a risk that they may end up in honey. Although there is currently an EU moratorium on the use of neonicotinoid pesticides on oil seed rape, they are still widely used on cereal crops. However, recent evidence suggests that neonicotinoids can persist in soils and be picked up by wild flowers growing on the edge of arable crops, thus providing a further risk of exposure.

What we are trying to do: We want to analyse samples of locally produced honey to see whether any traces of neonicotinoid pesticides are present.

What we need: We are looking for small samples of honey that can be linked to a location (i.e. an Ordnance Survey grid reference of where the hives were placed) and collection date (e.g. month or at least year).

If you are interested in participating please e-mail Ben Woodcock at bawood@ceh.ac.uk

We will send you a small sample tube for the honey, a short questionnaire and prepaid return packaging. If you have more than one potential honey sample (i.e. you have hives in lots of locations) let us know and we will send you more tubes. We will treat all information as strictly confidential and no results will ever be linked to specific individuals. If you are interested in the results for your honey we will be happy to provide them. This project is run by Prof. Richard Pywell from the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (CEH) which is the UK's Centre of Excellence for integrated research in terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems.

CENTRE FOR ECOLOGY & HYDROLOGY

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

BEEKEEPERS @ KSRC Asian Hornet

With the Asian Hornet threat present just over the Channel, Kent is rather in the firing line so "Beekeepers @ KSRC" and the NBU are organising a workshop where we hope to establish a production line and manufacture hundreds of Asian Hornet traps. If we can deploy hundreds of traps along the Kent coastal area, we stand a decent chance of an early detection. Once established, Asian Hornets are tricky to deal with - best to catch them early!

The workshop will be on 12th March at Mann Lake's Bee Barn near Canterbury; Diane Steele, our new RBI, will be there to talk about this non-native species and advise on trap deployment. All materials will be free, there will be a nominal booking charge to cover expenses and it will probably run through the day; arrive and leave when you like.

Clearly, this is more likely to be of interest to beekeepers in East Kent (hence Canterbury as venue) but members of any of the Kent branches would be very welcome as well. Bookings via the KSRC website at www.ksrcbees.org.uk

Bob Smith

COUNTY AND OTHER EVENTS

BEE TRADEX

Saturday, 5th March 2016

Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire CV8 2LG
9.00 a.m.-4.30 p.m. Entry £4.00 (£5.00 on the day)
www.beetradex.co.uk

BBKA SPRING CONVENTION

Harper Adams University, Newport, Shropshire TF10 8NB

8th, 9th and 10th April 2016

For tickets visit www.bbka.org.uk

BBKA members – in advance £20.00; on the day £22.00

Trade show only on the day - £5.00

Enquiries:

Workshops and courses – workshopconvenor@bbka.org.uk

Accommodation and meals – hospitality@bbka.org.uk

General - tim.lovett@bbka.org.uk

KENT COUNTY SHOW

County Showground, Detling

8th 9th and 10th July 2016

LENHAM LECTURE

Sunday, 6th November 2016

Lenham Community Centre

85TH NATIONAL HONEY SHOW SANDOWN PARK

Portsmouth Road, Esher KT10 9AJ

27th 28th and 29th October 2016

Beekeeping lectures and workshops

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

As I am sure you are aware, the registered membership subscription for 2015-2016 is £46.00. What many of you may not be aware of is how this figure is arrived at and its component parts. Thus:

BBKA capitation fee	£19.00
Beecraft with 25% discount	£21.00
BDI basic 3 hive cover	£ 2.00
Retained by branch	£ 6.50

You will see this comes to £48.50. Therefore, Kent Beekeepers subsidises each member by £2.50 and there is also the benefit of Beecraft at a reduced rate i.e. £21.00 instead of £28.00.

The subscription for 2016-2017 has yet to be set but the cost of Beecraft remains the same and at the Annual Delegates Meeting at Stoneleigh at the beginning of January, delegates voted against a proposed increase in the BBKA capitation fee from £19.00 to £21.00. Delegates did, however, agree to a one off levy of £1.00 per member being paid by associations to specifically contribute to the cost of hosting the 2017 International Meeting of Young Beekeepers. How this levy will be collected has still to be decided.

Jenny Spon-Smith