

Kent Beekeepers Autumn Lectures Sunday 6th Nov 2pm

Lenham Community Hall Groom Way, Lenham ME17 2QT (just off A20)

Kent Beekeepers Association is delighted that we have two excellent and entertaining speakers Wally Shaw and Tim Sparks

Wally Shaw – Anglesey BKA

The bees know what they are doing but does the beekeeper?

As beekeepers we tend to talk and think about bees from a human perspective (we are anthropomorphic). Because of their apparently complex behaviour we often regard them as having intelligence which is not the case – at least in not the sense we mean. Honey bees have evolved over millions of years and they are pretty good at what they do; they have been around for a long time during which they have survived many changes. What is effectively a single species, has adapted to live in a wide range of climatic regimes, from tropical to cold temperate. Everything they do naturally is adaptive (i.e. it gives them the best chance of survival) but this does not always coincide with the beekeepers agenda or expectations. The craft of beekeeping developed largely by good observation and trial and error, starting at a time when little was known about the ecology of the species. It is time we caught up and tried to apply our management in a more enlightened and sympathetic way.

Originally trained in forestry but most of my career spent in working in ecology, specialising in woodland ecology. My wife and I took up beekeeping in 1987 largely to get better pollination in an orchard we had planted a few years previously. We thought it might do good fun to run a couple of hives and did not envisage ever running the 50 that we now do. I have been a member of Anglesey Beekeepers' Association for 26 years and, until 2 years ago, was their Secretary for about 16 years. I am Technical Officer to the Welsh Beekeepers' Association, represent Wales on the Healthy Bee Plan – Project Management Board and am also a member of the Science and Evidence Advisory Group



Tim Sparks – Technical University of Munich & Poznań University of Life Sciences

Harmless pastime or serious science?

What does phenology tell us about the impacts of a changing climate?

Phenology, **the study of the timing of natural events**, is a pastime with a considerable history. Once considered the harmless activity of a select few country gentlemen and clerics, it has now taken on a new importance since its value as (probably) the oldest written biological record has been recognised. Britain possesses a huge wealth of phenological data. Some of these are easily obtained, but much more resides in obscure and dusty journals, notebooks and diaries. In this talk I describe data from a range of historical and contemporary sources, demonstrate how these have responded to inter-annual variations in temperature and discuss the consequences of climate warming on the timing of our seasons.

Tim Sparks worked at the Monks Wood Research Station in Cambridgeshire from 1991 until its closure in 2009. He is currently a Hans Fischer Senior Fellow with the Technical University of Munich, a visiting professor with the Poznań University of Life Sciences and with the University of Liverpool, a visiting fellow at the University of Cambridge, and advisor to the UK Phenology Network, run by the Woodland Trust. He is fascinated by long-term biological data, on anything, from anywhere.



An avenue of Horse Chestnuts on April 6 2010 (left) and April 6 2011 (right).

PROGRAMME Doors open at 1pm

Included in entry fee

Refreshments

Prize draw – you will automatically be entered into the prize draw based on your ticket number – the winner can choose books to the value of £20.

Bookstall – books supplied by Northern Bee Books

Equipment Stand - an opportunity to stock up or buy a Christmas Present for your favourite beekeeper (or yourself)

Tickets £5 in advance or £6 on the day.

Send cheque for £5 payable to Kent Beekeepers Association to Julian Audsley Briar House Waldershare Rd Ashley Dover CT15 5JA and collect ticket on day.

Include your email address if you want an acknowledgment or an SAE if you want your tickets posted to you.