

THE BUZZ

Westerham Beekeepers' newsletter

June 2026

Issue Thirteen

Welcome:

Welcome to edition 13 of The Buzz.

Late May saw the first of our summer apiary demonstrations. For those of you who could make it, I hope you enjoyed seeing Keith's eclectic beekeeping setup. It's always refreshing to see a different approach, and to understand the philosophy behind it, and to learn a few new tricks for one's own beekeeping.

We are currently mid-way through the latest set of swarming activities. How deceptive it is to think that the first one is all we are going to see. This has happened in previous years as well – our fickle spring switching briefly to autumn for a while and then back into the weather we wanted, but the swarming we didn't. I hope you managed to keep or rescue your queens. We are also trying to help members continue to maintain local stocks of bees. Please see more on that below.

You will have heard or read my various appeals (or rants) for additional support from the club members. I am very keen and hopeful that we can keep up all the wonderful educational and fun activities that we run. Your help is greatly appreciated, and I repeat here the request from our last newsletter.

Thank you as ever for your continued support.

Mark Waddington

Chairman's Chat:

Keep our bees local

At Westerham Beekeepers, we strongly encourage members to acquire their bees

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locally. Bringing bees in from outside the area brings the threat of pests and diseases as well as potentially harming the work that many members are doing to produce a healthy stock of varroa resistant, locally adapted and near-native bees across the area. We encourage members not to buy bees that may have been imported into the UK, even if they have subsequently been UK bred. These imports tend to suit commercial operations rather than hobbyist beekeepers. This is in line with the policy of both BBKA and BIBBA.

To support our members, we have several ways of sourcing local bees:

1. From a swarm; our swarm collection team is run by Alban Brindle – see details below.
2. Through our bee breeding apiary, producing varroa resistant, locally adapted bees. These are sold at a significant discount to market rates to full members. Steve McGrath manages our bee breeding project. There is also the opportunity through the project to gain some experience in raising your own bees and to learn how to raise nucleus colonies that you can over-winter to cover any winter losses you may experience.
3. Several of our club members also sell queens and nucleus colonies and offer reduced rates for club members. Please get in touch with the committee via westerhambeekeepers@gmail.com to link you with a member who sells bees.
4. Club members will sometimes also share surplus nucleus colonies, queens or queen cells - joining our WhatsApp or Facebook groups (see details below) is a good way of finding out who may have some spare.

Please ask anyone on the committee before buying or sourcing your own bees. We will almost certainly have a solution that keeps the bees local.

Please help to run Westerham Beekeepers

Can I make a general appeal to members of the branch to support the running of at least one, preferably two of our events each year?

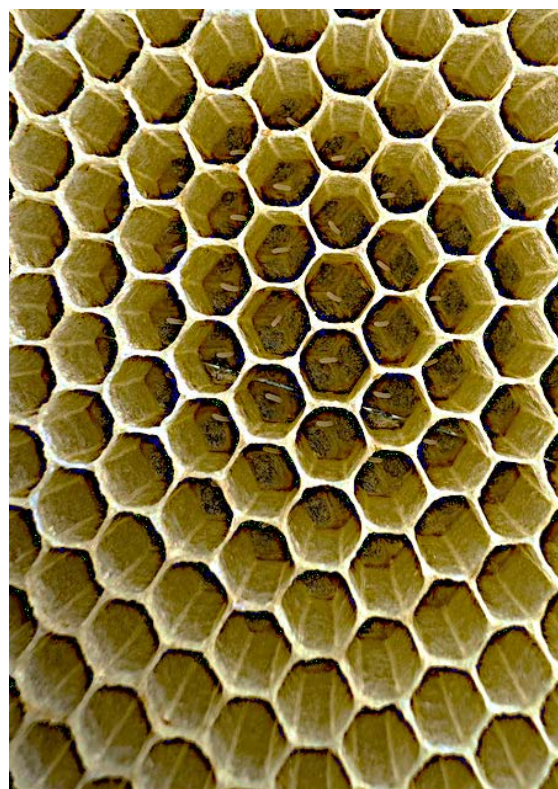
Volunteering could simply be helping to run the refreshments at a winter meeting or hosting a summer event. But importantly, we need people to help at fetes, the training apiary and the breeding apiary, or to write an article for this newsletter.

We have a good committee, whose members coordinate the main activities of the branch, but they need your help too. It's not a big ask, and I'd like you to see it as doing your bit to help the club's continued success. I would add to this the importance of all members ensuring that they are monitoring for the Yellow-legged Hornet. So, please try to do your bit and raise a hand when you are asked to help. Thank you.

Summer meetings

The next two apiary demonstrations are scheduled for:

- Saturday 4th July – at Topsy Rudd's apiary (**NEW DATE**)
- Saturday 25th July – at Steve Riley's apiary for a session on varroa resistant bees



That wonderful moment when your mated virgin queen starts laying - Photo: Steve Riley

The meetings are held on a Saturday afternoon at the apiary of one of our members, with a third-party demonstrator (i.e. NOT the host) who inspects the hives.

If you are attending the meeting, please wear a clean bee suit and bring some cake or other food offering towards afternoon tea. If you are interested in hosting a meeting, or being a demonstrator, please let me know. I refer you to my request above for volunteers! Thank you. The full events calendar for the summer is on the back page.

Mark Waddington

Recent Events:

Summer Apiary visit 30 May



Photo: Topsy Rudd

The first summer apiary visit was kindly hosted by Keith and Suzanna Masters, and Ian and Sheila Henderson at the Henderson's Farm.



Photo: Topsy Rudd

Annie Robinson was the demonstrator and had the fascinating task of examining two hives that were bursting with bees.

The hives we looked at were a national and a hive designed by Keith, modelled on a

Layens hive, with its frames abutting, allowing a single frame to be inspected without opening up a whole brood box.



Photo: Keith Masters



Layens type hive - Photo: Keith Masters

Annie was on a mission to find the unmarked queens but given the size of each colony this was a challenge.

The sun was out and the home-baking excelled, and we all enjoyed a beautiful afternoon talking about bees.

Sally Doyle-Linden

Summer Fetes & Shows:

Westerham Beekeepers are running a stall at the Edenbridge and Oxted Show on Sunday 30th and Monday 31st August and we still need helpers.

We need 6 people per shift as the stall gets very busy. Helpers get free entry to the show.

We will also need plenty of honey to sell.

Remember that this year the branch has decided to make a small charge for selling honey and other items on the stall to cover its costs. The branch price for honey remains unchanged at £10 for 454g (1lb) jar, £8 for 340g (12oz) and £6 for 227g (8oz).

If you want to sell your honey, we encourage you to do a shift on the stall (or supply bees for the observation hive) then a reduced rate 5% of any sales proceeds will be deducted. If you are unable to help but wish to sell honey the deduction will be 10%.

Taster jars should be supplied by sellers, and honey jars should follow all the correct labelling regulations and be clean with new lids. See the piece below on labelling.

We are also running a stall at the Westerham Country Fayre on Saturday September 12th between 11a.m. and 5p.m.

Should you be able to help in any way at either or both events, could you please let me know as soon as possible on my email address: fambroziak@gmail.com

Fiona Ambroziak

Labelling Honey for Sale:

If you plan to sell honey at a village fete or at a local shop, you need to ensure it is correctly labelled in line with current requirements. These are included in The Honey (England) Regulations 2015.

Mandatory labelling requirements are:

1. Reserved descriptor – eg Honey, Comb Honey, Chunk Honey
2. Country of origin – where it is harvested e.g. England

3. Metric weight – eg 454g (the font needs to be 4mm in height for a 454g jar, and if imperial weights are included, the metric weight must be first and prominent)
4. Name and address of packer/supplier – your own name and address
5. Best before date – the period is not prescribed but as a guide two years from bottling is considered reasonable
6. Lot mark - (not required if the BBD includes the day as well as the month and year). This is to allow batches to be traced if required.

Any images on the label must not be misleading. For example, a picture of lavender should only be used if the honey is indeed lavender honey. Clarifying words can be added. For example, adding Westerham Honey may be helpful, as some people want local honey. However, the words should be a true description.

Voluntary labelling may include a granulation label or advice for parents stating 'Unsuitable for children under 12 months'.

Please also remember high hygiene standards when handling and extracting honey as honey is a food product.

Always use clean jars and lids, and the lids must be new. Wipe off any sticky finger-marks or spills.

Sally Doyle-Linden

Things to do: Jobs for the months ahead:

As we come to the end of June and move into summer, our jobs to do in our apiaries begin to transition from honey production to preparing strong colonies ready for winter. Hopefully you will find our recommended jobs useful.

July

Inspections

- Inspect every 7–10 days.

- Check that the queen is laying well and brood patterns are healthy.
- Keep an eye out for any late swarm cells; swarm risk is lower than in spring but not completely gone.

Manage supers

- Add supers if a strong nectar flow is still underway.
- Remove and extract fully capped honey when ready.
- Avoid colonies becoming honey-bound (where the brood nest gets filled with nectar/honey).

Monitor pests and disease

- Check for signs of varroa, brood disease, and poor queen performance.
- Keep good inspection records so you can compare colonies later in the season.
- Top up and inspect your YLH traps.

Assess colony Health

- Decide which colonies are thriving and which may need requeening or combining later.

August

Harvest remaining honey

- Remove surplus honey before starting any varroa treatments that require supers to be off.

Varroa control (This is one of the most important jobs of the year. The aim is to reduce mite pressure before the bees that will overwinter are raised.)

- Monitor mite levels and, if appropriate, apply your chosen treatment according to its instructions.

Check stores

- After honey removal, assess how much food each colony has.
- Begin feeding if stores are inadequate for autumn build-up.

Watch for robbing and wasps

- Reduce entrances on weaker colonies if necessary.
- Look for wasp pressure and signs of robbing.

Unite weak colonies

- Colonies that are queenless, very weak, or unlikely to overwinter should be assessed.

Disease-free weak colonies may be united with stronger ones



Beautifully capped super frames ready for extraction. Photo: Nicola Spreckley



Uncapped frames in the tangential extractor about to be spun. Photo: Nicola Spreckley

Winter preparation starts now

- Ensure colonies are queenright.
- Check brood pattern and colony strength.
- Start thinking about winter stores, equipment storage, and autumn feeding plans.

Nicola Spreckley

Training Apiary:

Sunday mornings at the training apiary have been busy with beekeepers from last year joining us along with lots of new beekeepers.

The weather seems to be going from one extreme to the other at the moment. We optimistically didn't cancel the session on 10th May, but it turned out to be cold enough for me to wear a fleece. I'm the idiot who is at winter work parties in a T-shirt so it must have been chilly. There were also scouts camping too close for comfort to open the hives. Instead, we huddled in our bee suits, ate cake and had a question & answer session instead. If nothing else, we demonstrated you always need a bit of a flexibility when beekeeping. At the following session we all sweltered on one of the hottest days of the year, and last week we were back to chilly again.

Our focus this season so far has been on expanding the number of colonies we have. At the start of the season, we carried out a modified Bailey Comb Change on a 14x12 colony. (See April's newsletter for details.) This was successful and the queen was soon laying on new comb in a standard brood box. As the colony was strong the 14x12 brood box was moved to a new site and given a frame of eggs. They have successfully raised a new queen who is laying well.

The colony on the original site has continued building up rapidly and so last week we split the colony again, putting the queen in a nuc to build up and leaving the original colony to raise a new queen.

Hopefully this will mean 3 good colonies to go into winter with (yes, we're already planning for the winter).

Our other colony has caused a bit of a confusion. It wasn't a very big colony and queen cells were found a few weeks ago. It was unclear whether they were swarm cells or supersedure cells.

With supersedure there are usually one or two good cells in the middle of a frame on the edge of the nest. Swarm cells are usually found around the edges of the combs, often hidden, and quite a few of them. This colony had 5 good queen cells all in the middle of a comb on the edge of the brood nest. Swarm or supersedure? We erred on the side of caution and split the colony, removing the queen to a nuc.



Photo: Michelle Ernoult



Photo: Michelle Ernoult

TA sessions run from 10am 'til 12 noon, starting with a topical chat, a look at the hives and finishing with refreshments and chat. Bakers are always very much appreciated.

The dates for the rest of the season are: **Saturday** 20th June, then on **Sundays**: Until 27th September. See the back page for the full calendar of dates.

As the training sessions run fortnightly, the hives are checked on the weeks in between by members of the TA team. I am not able to lift supers on my own but need to work with someone. I thought it might be an idea to ask if one or two beginners would like to help me in return for a one-to-one session. I have enjoyed these sessions and hope those who have taken part have enjoyed them too.

If anyone would like to help with the weekly checks at the TA in return for one-to-one teaching, please let me know.

For anyone who is thinking of taking one of the BBKA Module Exams this year, the date is 14th November 2026. Registration for the exam opens on 1st July and closes 30th September. The cost per module is £50 (apart from Module 3 – Honeybee Health) and you can take a maximum of 2 modules at a time.

Michelle Ernoult

Yellow-Legged Hornet Update:

Sightings

NBU had 3 reports of YLH in the last week of May: two YLH were found in a bumble bee nest in a bird box in Tunbridge Wells on 29 May and there were two other sightings in Ashford in Kent, and in Brighton.

Local YLH coordinators were notified to undertake increased monitoring.

Trapping

Please stop queen trapping now and just put out open bait stations until mid-July, when we will start trapping for workers (with purple lids).

Bait



Photo: Apitura

As some of you know, I am concerned that our Trappit has lost its effectiveness, it is catching nothing and is becoming colourless after a few days outside. I haven't caught anything with it all spring, so I bought VespaLure to try instead. This has been very successful, and Alban Brindle has tested some and said the same. I am therefore proposing that we change to VespaLure and I ask all those who are YLH monitoring to order their own, it is available from the manufacturer [here](#) or from sources such as [Thornes](#) or [Amazon](#). A pack costs approximately £25 and if you wish to reclaim the cost, please submit a receipt to our treasurer Keith Masters. VespaLure is a powder and so will last longer. One heaped scoop mixed in warm water makes 200ml, which is enough to last for 3-4 weeks so the pack, which makes 2 litres in total, should last you the whole season.

Alternatively, you can try a home-made bait made with 8 parts of malty beer; 8 parts white wine; and 1 part blackcurrant or blackberry juice or cordial (not Ribena) or Grenadine or Cassis. This was recommended to BBKA by a beekeeper from Brittany, who has hordes of YLH to deal with at his apiaries.

Publicity



Photo: Topsy Rudd

The photo is of my husband Bob and me manning the YLH stand at the South of England Show on 5 June. Thank you to Ross Stark for helping us at this show. We were there with other beeks from Epsom, Reigate and Wimbledon BKAs.

The rain drove masses of people into the Bee tent, so we were busy explaining how to identify a YLH and to report any sightings via the Asian Hornet Watch app.

I have ordered more posters and ID cards so if anyone can give a few out to their children's schools or put one up at a garden centre or allotment or anywhere public, please let me know and I can post some out to you.

The YLH monitors on Jersey say that the most important way of catching hornets is having the public spotting them, so we need to increase our efforts to publicise the massive risk to our pollinators.

Labels



Photo: Thornes

Thorne sell a range of different labels with YLH ID on (some also have the granulation information at the bottom), so if you want to help with the publicity drive, please consider using these on your honey jars.

Topsy Rudd

Swarm Group:



Photo: Provided by a member of the public

The 2026 swarm season got off to an early start and has been a busy year so far. The Spring weather was very warm and bone dry, until June provided some much-

needed rain, which bodes well for the remainder of the season.



Photo: Provided by a member of the public

I would like to express my thanks to all who have helped in the collection of swarms.

Once again, I am asking everyone who is available to collect and/or anyone who is interested in receiving swarms, who has not done so already, to consider joining the swarm collection group. You can do this by contacting me. Please message me or email me with your name, email address, mobile contact number, your location, your postcode, and whether you are happy to collect swarms or are only willing to receive a swarm once available. My email is agbrindle@hotmail.com

Also, if you are thinking of acquiring bees, please consider staying with local bees. You can do this by joining the swarm group. The group will then be aware that you are looking for bees, and when a swarm becomes available, you will be contacted to see if you would like to receive it. That way, the stock of locally

adapted bees remains strong, without bees being brought in from elsewhere.

Alban Brindle

Membership:

Our membership continues to grow, with several new members joining over the last few months – you're all very welcome. We now have 137 members:

- 81 BBKA Registered members
- 43 Local ('Friend') members
- 9 Partner members
- 3 Junior members
- 1 School member

If you are a Friend member and have obtained bees this year, then please consider upgrading to full BBKA Registered Membership. This brings various benefits, including:

- Beekeeping examinations to the highest level
- £10m third party public liability insurance
- £10m product liability insurance
- Annual Honey Show, Spring Convention & Exhibition
- Bee disease insurance (BDI)
- Two monthly magazines – BeeCraft and BBKA News
- BBKA Membership, entitling you to additional benefits
- Online resources - education/training, forum, etc.

Finally, if you haven't done so already, please take a few minutes to complete the BBKA Asian Hornet Training Exercise: <https://www.bbka.org.uk/asian-hornet-teams>

Note; the training is just for your own information. Your details are not added to the BBKA online map (the map now only shows the AH Coordinators' contact details) and the training is not required for any insurance purposes (despite what the first page of the training exercise suggests).

Robert Ambroziak

Book Review: A Honeybee Heart has Five Openings by Helen Jukes



Photo: Sally Doyle-Linden

This book is an account of the Helen Jukes' first year as a beekeeper. It is beautifully written and very personal. She is struggling with her life, and its meaning, and her friends decide to buy her a colony of bees. She has had some experience helping a friend who is beekeeper but finds taking responsibility for her own wild bees is different. She shares her fascination with the insect, its place in folklore and the history of beekeeping. She accepts they are wild creatures and respects this.

A quick and delightful read that is also uplifting.

Footnote: A honeybee heart is a muscular pump in the bee's circulatory system. It has 5 chambers that are positioned on the dorsal side (top) of the abdomen. Each chamber has a one-way valve called an ostia that enables the haemolymph (bee 'blood') to be pumped through the body from the end of the abdomen to behind the brain in its head, via the aorta.

Sally Doyle-Linden

Recipes:

Easy BBQ Sauce/Glaze



Photo: Mark Edwards

This recipe uses what most people will have in their kitchen cupboards.

However, I would encourage you to try more spice or chopped ginger and garlic. I recently used honey with Korean chilli paste (gouhujang paste); it was great with lime juice, ginger and garlic.

All of the glazes are added by basting/coating the meat after the meat is cooked and is basted for 5-10 minutes at the end of the cooking process to allow a sticky coating, whether chicken wings/sausages/pork ribs.

Ingredients

2 tablespoons of tomato ketchup
1 tablespoon of runny honey
1 teaspoon of brown Sugar (optional)
1 teaspoon of apple cider vinegar
1 teaspoon of Worcestershire Sauce
1/3 tsp smoked paprika
1/4 tsp garlic powder
1/4 tsp onion powder
Salt and black pepper to taste

Method

Combine in a medium saucepan, whisk together the ketchup, honey, brown sugar, vinegar, Worcestershire sauce and spices. Simmer over medium heat and bring to a gentle bubble, stirring often to prevent sticking.

Mark Edwards

Grilled aubergines with chilli, herbs and honey



Photo: Fiona Ambroziak

An easy, tasty accompaniment to barbecue food or part of a mezze spread.

Serves 4

Ingredients

3 aubergines
Olive oil for brushing
1 red chilli deseeded and finely chopped
Fresh thyme leaves/ chopped
coriander/basil leaves/chopped mint
Clear honey to trickle
Lemon juice
Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper
Sliced cherry tomatoes (optional)

Method

Preheat your grill to medium high.

Slice the skin off the aubergines (a potato peeler will do it) then cut across into 1cm slices.

Arrange on a foil-lined grill tray.

Brush liberally with olive oil, season and grill until golden brown.

Flip over and repeat the process. The slices should be golden and tender after about 15 minutes.

Layer up the slices with the chopped chilli and any of the herbs and tomatoes.

Trickle with honey and lemon juice and season.

Allow to cool before serving for about 30 minutes for the juices to mingle.

Fiona Ambroziak

Over-wintering a nuc:

We're still waiting for the winter loss data for last winter to be published, but the anecdotal evidence suggests it will be above average for many parts of the country. The southeast may have fared better.

Still, it's a good idea for every beekeeper to over-winter a nuc or two. They can be used to cover any winter losses, and if you don't have any then you have a spare colony for your own increase or that you could pass on to another member who didn't fare so well.

It's easy to put a nuc together for overwintering. From a strong colony, select one frame of stores – both pollen and honey - and either one or two frames of capped brood. Later in the season I suggest two frames to make a three frame nuc whereas earlier in the season two frame nucs can do just as well. Shake in nurse bees from another two frames from the donor colony. Then you need a queen. This could be a queen cell. If one of your colonies is a late swarmer, then you could create the nuc as above as well as your artificial split with the old queen. One of the frames in the over-wintering nuc would have one, and only one, of the queen cells the colony has raised, with another left to re-queen the main colony.

If you don't have a queen cell in one of your colonies, ask on the Westerham Beekeepers chat whether anyone has a spare queen cell. Capped queen cells are

easily cut out of a frame and can be pinned over capped brood in a safe area to the side of a brood frame in the recipient colony. If you have spare queen cells, why not offer them to other members on the chat for making up winter nucs?



A broken queen cell showing a queen pupae & the pool of Royal Jelly – Photo: Copyright Steve McGrath

With the weather improving again, more colonies are going to try and swarm. Those queen cells at this time of year are perfect for creating nucs to over-winter. Don't try and get a nuc to raise emergency cells to raise queens. These will likely result in so-called 'stub' queens, which don't perform well and the colony most likely won't get through winter.

Steve McGrath

Breeding Apiary:

After two years of hard work by our team of volunteers, the breeding apiary project has started to deliver on its aims. The first five nucs were prepared in May and four have already gone out to full club members with the fifth due to go to its new home shortly.

As a reminder, the aim of the project was to ensure that all Westerham Beekeepers club members have access to local varroa-resistant bees. That will mean fewer bees coming in from outside the area bringing with them the risk of pests and diseases or poor genetics, while increasing the number of locally adapted, varroa resistant colonies across the club area meaning an improvement in all the local stock.

I want to again thank the team of volunteers who have made this possible, notably John Marshall and Robert Ambroziak, Linda King, Topsy Rudd, and Annie Robinson. It's been an incredible effort, with some hilarious moments (ask Annie). And thanks again to our donors of genetic material – you know who you are.

We always need new volunteers, so anyone who is interested in queen rearing and bee breeding please do get in touch. You will learn new skills and be involved in a project that's getting UK-wide attention.

In the apiary, we had a strong spring, fuelled by the good weather for queen mating and plentiful income of nectar and pollen. The two-week spell of wet and cool weather at the end of May was less favourable for mating flights but was very necessary in terms of ensuring the summer nectar flow.

Now the weather has turned warmer and sunnier, our remaining colonies are starting to think about swarming, which gives us our next opportunity. I expect us to have a couple more nucs available this season, and we do have a small waiting list of potential recipients, but our focus now is shifting to create a stock of nucs to over-winter. That means we'll have bees to cover any losses we suffer in the apiary (we'll be doing our best to make sure that's none) but also have nucs available for club members from the start of next season.

Steve McGrath

Planting for bees:

This is the third article this year in which we look at some of the plants you can plant in your own garden, patios or other spaces to support your honeybees or other bees and pollinators.

We encourage anyone with an interest in gardening to share your thoughts and tips, please email the Buzz team at wbka.events@gmail.com.



Choisya - Photo: Sally Doyle-Linden

Over the last few years, I have deliberately chosen replacement plant varieties that

are good for pollinators. These are generally variations of plants that have open flowers without complex structures or too many petals (not too hybridised), that make it hard for insects to access. Bees will always go to the best nectar source available at any given time, which may be trees, hedgerow or crops.

Honeybees are loyal pollinators and only visit one flower type on each foraging trip. So, they need sufficient flowers to make it worth their while. To help, I plant flowers in groups and repeated planting patterns around the garden.

In late April the Choisya shrub in full sun was buzzing, covered in honeybees and the Allium flowers were also receiving honeybee visits.



Allium - Photo: Sally Doyle-Linden

Since then, I have rarely seen a honeybee on any of my flowers. Instead, I have enjoyed a large array of bumblebees plus other bees and insects on the Raspberries and Nepeta, both a massive draw for bumblebees, and Buttercups, Clover, Geums and Salvias. The Borage I planted a couple of years ago has made a big comeback this year, through self-seeding, and is now attracting the bumblebees in large numbers and will continue to do so for many weeks into the Autumn.



Allium - Photo: Sally Doyle-Linden

The honeybees are obviously choosing different shrubs and plants for now but hopefully they will find the Borage at some point.

Sally Doyle-Linden

About Westerham Beekeepers:

Westerham Beekeepers is a branch of the Kent Beekeepers Association. Our aim is to promote the craft of beekeeping by helping to educate both beekeepers and the public. While we are mostly practising amateur beekeepers, membership is open to interested members of the public. We meet during the winter months in Westerham, usually for lectures by visiting specialists and our own members. During the active beekeeping season, we meet for demonstrations by experienced beekeepers in our members' apiaries.

Find our website [here](#).

Advice for Beginners & FAQs [here](#).

Contact Information:

Mark Waddington – Chairman & Events Programme - contributions for newsletters and ideas for winter talks & summer visits wbka.events@gmail.com

Robert Ambroziak – Membership members.westerhambeeks@gmail.com

Michelle Ernoult – Training Apiary Manager wbkatrainingapiary@gmail.com

Topsy Rudd - Branch Secretary & YLH Co-ordinator westerhambeekeepers@gmail.com

Keith Masters – Treasurer masterskeithmasters@hotmail.com

Alban Brindle – Swarm Co-ordinator agbrindle@hotmail.com

Steve McGrath – Breeding Apiary Manager steviemcg12@yahoo.co.uk

To join the **Westerham Beekeepers' WhatsApp group** contact Mark Waddington

To join the **Training Apiary's Facebook group** contact Michelle Ernoult

To join the **Swarm WhatsApp group** contact Alban Brindle and for **Swarm Reporting** contact Alban Brindle on 07919 843 546, or the nearest contact from the [BBKA website](#) if Alban is not available.

Committee Members:

Mark Waddington – Chairman & Events Programme

Topsy Rudd – Branch Secretary & YLH Co-ordinator

Keith Masters – Treasurer & Branch representative on KBKA Council

Michelle Ernoult - Training Apiary Manager & Education Officer

Robert Ambroziak - Membership Secretary

Alban Brindle - Swarm Co-ordinator

Peter Cobley – Branch representative on KBKA Council

Steve McGrath – Breeding Apiary Manager

National Bee Unit Inspectors:

Regional Inspector: Thomas Bickerdike thomas.bickerdike@apha.gov.uk or 07775 119464

Seasonal Inspector Southern Westerham Area: Helen Hadley – 07741 168555

Seasonal Inspector Northern Westerham Area: Danyal Conn – 07584 202700

Last Word: Propolis is a sanitising bee glue. It is resin mixture that honeybees make to seal gaps and protect the colony from pathogens. The bees mix resin from trees/plants with wax, essential oils, pollen and other organic material. It helps keep their home wind and watertight, creates a sterilised environment for the larvae and the Queen, and can be used to mummify intruders. It is collected for human use as a natural remedy, such as throat sprays and to support immune systems. It is also found in creams and balms for burns and cold sores due to its antibacterial property, as well as in gum and toothpaste for oral health. A valuable by-product in your hives.

WBK Summer Calendar: please note them in your diaries. Generally, training apiary meetings are held on Sunday mornings at 10.00 am until 12.00 pm however please note that **the next training apiary meeting will be on Saturday 20 June.**

Date	Training apiary	Summer apiary meeting	Fete
Saturday 20 June	Training Apiary		Limpsfield Village Fair
Saturday 04 July		Topsy Rudd's Apiary	
Sunday 05 July	Training Apiary		
Sunday 19 July	Training Apiary		
Saturday 25 July		Steve Riley's Apiary	
Sunday 02 August	Training Apiary		
Sunday 16 August	Training Apiary		
Sunday 30 August	Training Apiary		Edenbridge & Oxted Show
Monday 31 August			
Saturday 12 September			Westerham Country Fayre
Sunday 13 September	Training Apiary		
Sunday 27 September	Training Apiary		



Photo: [Krzysztof Dzwonek](#)