



Gravesend Branch Newsletter

May 2025



Taster Course

The taster course went well with the attendees very enthusiastic eager to try their hands with the bees and interested so we hope to see some of them join the Branch in the near future.



At the Club Apiary...

Michelle has been pleased with the attendance at the inspection rota and demonstrations, with members attending, finding the skills useful. Thank you to everyone who comes to help out with.

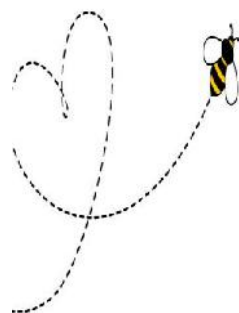
Regarding the Asian Hornet one has been reported and confirmed in Maidstone (a bit too close for comfort), so please ensure traps are out with the black lids on. Please register "on Catch" so Tony and Michelle can see which areas are covered or not as the case maybe.

Here is a comparison between the Asian hornet and the European hornet:

- **Size:** The Asian hornet is the world's largest hornet, growing up to 2 inches long, while the European hornet is smaller, typically about 1 inch long
- **Colouration:** The European hornet has yellow and brown stripes, basically a big wasp in the looks department, whereas the Asian hornet features a brown body with a distinctive orange stripe.
- **Habitat:** The European hornet has a wider native range across Europe, while the Asian hornet is predominantly found in East and Southeast Asia but has become an invasive species across Europe!
- **Behaviour:** Both species can be aggressive, but the Asian hornet is known for its potent sting and potential danger to honeybee populations.

Image above: Pesky Asian hornet.

Kent County Show



You will shortly be receiving an invitation to volunteer to steward, if you wish, at the County Show, always a good experience and an opportunity to meet up with other Beekeepers from around the County and promote our craft

Dates for your diaries...

The date for the Branch BBQ by kind invitation of Roy and Paula is Saturday 19th of July, details to follow in due course.

Finally our next Branch meeting is a visit to Medway Beekeepers Branch apiary on Saturday 17th May at 2pm, a sheet of directions accompanies the newsletter, always interesting to see what goes on in other Beekeeping Branch apiaries. Any contributions towards the tea welcome. Hope to see a good turn out from our Branch membership.

And finally....

The honey bee is also known as *Apis mellifera*. 'Apis' is a very old word, probably with Egyptian roots, but it is also thought that 'Apis' is related to the Greek word for 'swarm'. 'Mellifera' means 'honey-bearing' in Latin.

Medway Beekeepers Association. The Pavilion Apiary.

The old Higham and Mockbeggar Cricket Club.

ME3 8EX

What three words: - charmingly await wasp

Turn off the B2000 into Lee Green Road at the sign for Mockbeggar Farm Shop (now closed). There will be a yellow MBKA sign board on the street name.

Continue along Lee Green Road past Ham River Hill on the left.

Do not turn left into Ham River Hill (your sat nav may tell you to turn left!)

Go past the bungalows for approx. 800m Look for the yellow MBKA sign board on the left at the entrance to the orchard.

Turn into the orchard and follow the top farm track for approx. 500m.

There will be a yellow MBKA sign board directing to the left.

Continue down the farm track and the Pavilion is on the right.

Do not drive down if it has been raining and the track is slippery. Park on the top farm track and walk down (wellies would be good)

Mark Ballard