



## SEPT NEWSLETTER 2016

*Harvest time, Wasps, Weather, Beekeeping Training, Mite protection, Pure Breeds and Loyalty Scheme*

### Harvest time...

August should be the time of year to harvest honey, but along with many other beekeepers this year the just isn't any excess honey in our hives. Through a cold and wet start to the year our bees struggled to get going, then a few weeks of nice weather gave them a bit of a chance, but the changing weather then meant good flying conditions often didn't coincide with pollen being available on the plants. By July the hives were looking fairly healthy but then one hive started to fail, why we don't know but the queen just didn't lay as she should. Usually there are signs to indicate a reason but this colony has just kept us guessing all year. A few weeks ago we introduced a new colony into the hive, splitting the two initially with newspaper to help them get used to each other while they ate their way through, and all seems to have now settled down. The colony is doing well and is even building up stores of honey so it looks as though both hives will have enough honey to see them through the winter.



As some of you will have seen in previous years our Mirabelle plumb tree is usually loaded with little yellow plumbs but this year we only have a few dropping each day, there has not even been enough for a crumble! (Ernie is so pleased!). Our potatoes and tomatoes have not been very successful either, both getting blight during a rainy spell. However it is an amazing year for our two arched pear trees and although a few will be bruised (along with our heads as we walk under the trees) we are waiting for a bumper crop.

Crowhurst Horticultural Society have their Autumn show taking place on Saturday September 17 at Crowhurst Village Hall in Forward Lane (opposite St George's church and adjacent to the primary school). Where there will be lots of lovely local produce on display including a honey section, so why not pop along to have a look or enter the show: Schedules can be downloaded and printed off from their website:

<http://crowhursthorticultural.org.uk/>

### This month's feature...

**Graham Burgess provides a local pest control service, including Bees, Wasps, Mice, Rabbits, Mink, Moles, Rats, Earwigs and Birds. This month he has written a feature on Wasps:**

### Wasps...

**For pest control services contact Graham on 07876 108434 or 01424 25122**

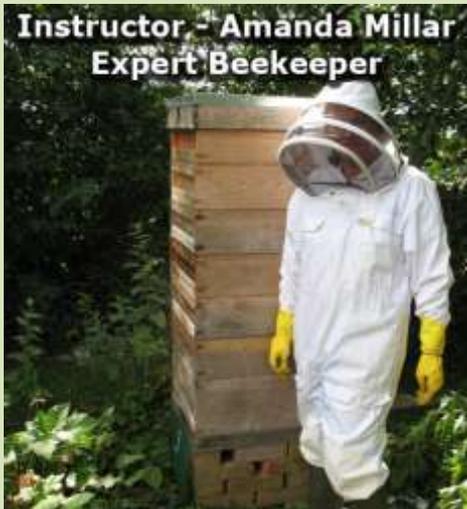
# Our local weather forecast...

Tim Macpherson is a digital publisher and angling film maker as well as being an obsessed boat angler for over 25 years! So he keeps a close watch on the Sussex weather for both his fishing, work and of course his bees and hens in his garden:



For everything to do with angling see:  
[www.sussexanglingmedia.co.uk](http://www.sussexanglingmedia.co.uk) and Tim's new publication: [www.saltwaterboatangling.co.uk](http://www.saltwaterboatangling.co.uk)

## Special Offers, New Products and Services



**End of season offer:**  
**25% discount on our next Beekeeping Evening now just £49.50**

The beekeeping season is coming to an end for this year, but for those thinking of beekeeping next year our evening courses are the perfect way to find out more.

Amanda will be talking about the basics of beekeeping and giving lots of interesting facts about bees. So why not spend an evening with an extremely knowledgeable and enthusiastic beekeeper, while enjoying our lovely honey cake. To receive your discount simply book through our website: <http://www.beekeepingcourse.co.uk/basics-of-beekeeping>



**Offer extended for September:**  
**Hand Spray and Poultry Shield for just £10.00:**

Red mite is becoming a real problem in many poultry houses now, so don't forget to get your Poultry Shield and Hand Sprayer for just £10.00 while on special offer

**Poultry Shield and Spray just £10.00**

[http://mantelfarmshop.co.uk/epages/950003783.sf/en\\_GB/?ObjectPath=/Shops/950003783/Products/PTT-PSS-167](http://mantelfarmshop.co.uk/epages/950003783.sf/en_GB/?ObjectPath=/Shops/950003783/Products/PTT-PSS-167)



**Smoke Bomb half price:**  
**was £3.95 now just £1.97**

To help tackle a red mite infestation we are also offering out smoke bombs for just £1.95 (September only). These handy little fumers are lit in the poultry house releasing smoke into the woodwork where the mites can be hiding. **Link to new product**



## **Rhode Island Red and Copper Black Maran:**

Our lovely flock of pure breeds are beginning to look stunning as they are reaching point of lay. These now rare breeds were classic traditional laying hens in Britain, but having fallen out of fashion are now extremely hard to come across

**During September we are offering 3 hens for £100.00 (normal price £45 each)**

*With best wishes from all at Mantel Farm*

**[www.mantelfarm.co.uk](http://www.mantelfarm.co.uk)**