

with Mike Bennett

e-mail mbennett@thekmgroupp.co.uk

Newsdesk: 01233 623232



2005

### SHARED INTEREST: German beekeepers pay visit



■ Ashford Mayor Malcolm Eke, centre, exchanges friendship cups with beekeepers Tony Wilson (Ashford) and Willi Classon (Bad Munstereifel)

HONEY is a natural wonder and with its abundance of pollen, the Garden of England is the perfect place to produce some of the best in the world.

Few are more dedicated to the ancient skills of handling honey bees than members of Ashford Branch of Kent Beekeepers Association that have been tending hives across Ashford and District and Romney Marsh for almost a century.

They have also developed an international reputation with regular exchange visits

with German beekeepers since 1972 to study ideas and methods.

Over the decades there have been many lively discussions on problems ranging from pests and disease to the issue of lack of support from governments.

Ashford chairman Tony Fisher and fellow members have recently hosted a group led by Willi Classon from the twin town of Bad Munstereifel to celebrate their 33-year link.

They were taken on tours of local attractions including

Tenterden steam railway, a Jazz concert and a traditional pub lunch.

After looking at the beehives in the garden of Geoff and Carol Archer at Ruckinge they held a farewell barbecue attended by the Mayor Cllr Malcolm Eke. He said twinning was now more important than ever to avoid conflict between nations.

The Ashford Club accepted an invitation to return to their twin town next summer.