



Canterbury Beekeepers

Branch of the
KENT BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION
www.cantbees.freeuk.com

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NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2011

NEXT MEETING – Sat 4th June - 2.30 Vincent's Apiary at Weddington

We will be meeting at 2.15 at the beginning of Weddington Lane off the Ash bypass the A257. It is signposted to Weddington. If you are coming from Canterbury it is on the left and if coming from Sandwich it is on the right. We will then move off to the apiary from there. If you miss the convoy ring me on the mobile. 0776 183 9119

Make sure your clothing is clean and please bring thin nitrile gloves/marigolds – no handling of bees with leather gloves.

MAY MEETING REPORTS

The meetings went well with interesting findings at each location. Adrian however being on the edge of our range was feeling rather lonely. Queens were found – eventually and marked and artificial swarms created. It was an opportunity for people to practice their skills and have an enjoyable chat over tea and cakes.

BROGDALE FARM Cherry Festival 9th and 10th July 10-5

I have arranged with Brogdale to give some beekeeping talks as part of their Cherry Festival. We have also been given a stall on which to promote beekeeping and sell our honey, wax etc. **I would like to get some of you to do a turn on the stall and also some who will help me put together a good display for the public that we can use at future events.** The turns would be about 1 ½ - 2 hrs long and includes free entry to the festival. Please get in touch now if you can help. Julian

Swarm Collection

Our swarm collectors are doing a sterling job. The list of those wanting bees has been updated on the website based on information received from collectors so please check that the details are right for you. If you want to be added or removed send details to me. We aim to ensure that everyone who wants bees gets them so don't be shy of asking.

APIARY NOTES



Well the weather has been kind to us but with little rain nectar flows have been variable although my bees seem still to be finding nectar. There is always a risk that feeding may be necessary if strong colonies run short so keep an eye on stores. Many of us are struggling to cope with swarming and finding colonies are not doing what's expected. I will make a couple of observations. As people are finding unless you reduce the number of queen cells to one/two closed or one open cell you may still have swarms and after swarms or casts. Unless you have shaken the majority of the bees off a

frame you will not see all the queen cells especially open cells. A virgin queen is much less attractive to the bees than a mated laying queen. Therefore until the queen is mated a swarm with a virgin can be very unstable and may leave the hive again. Sometime a swarm will contain more than one virgin queen.

KENT BEEKEEPERS AT THE COUNTY SHOW Fri to Sun 15th, 16th & 17th July

Detling Showground

Honey Show

At the show there is a honey show. Why not enter? There are honey, wax and photographic entries. I have attached the details and also the entry form. I can arrange for exhibits to be sent. If you need advice I am happy to help.

HONEY EXTRACTOR

The Branch has a stainless steel honey extractor which is available to members. To book the extractor for collection, please contact Adrian Davis. You can email him (as web admin), from the [contact form](#), or phone in the evenings on (01304) 366141. Stuart Andrews will resume coordination duties at the end of June.

As a reminder, there's a charge of £5 for a 24hour loan. As we all tend to have honey to extract at the same time, we try to move it along to the next user every 48hrs.

KENT BEEKEEPERS COUNCIL MEETING

At the last meeting on Saturday it was decided that membership fees for next year will stay the same and the Friend Membership will go to the branches in its entirety.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Canterbury	Meetings
July	Social Outing
July 9-10	Cherry festival Canterbury Beekeepers Stall
July 15-17	Kent Beekeepers at County Show Detling
August	Apiary Meeting