



# Canterbury Beekeepers

Branch of the  
KENT BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION  
[www.cantbees.freeuk.com](http://www.cantbees.freeuk.com)

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NEWSLETTER

November 2011

## NEXT MEETING – Wed 2nd Nov - AGM and film shorts

This is our Annual General Meeting where the officers will present reports for the year and we elect officers and committee for the next year. You have the opportunity to question the officers on how they have carried out their duties. We will discuss plans for the future and the members can make proposals on any matter associated with the branch.

We elect four officers and also two branch representatives for the KBKA Council. They are Chairman, Vice-chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. Vincent our Vice Chairman has moved out of Kent and is not seeking re-election. All other officers and committee are seeking re-election. We are proposing that the post of Vice-Chairman which has existed for just two years should be removed. If the Chairman is absent from a meeting one of the other officers will take his place. We would like to create a new position of Publicity and promotions – name to be decided, whose role will be to be to improve the public's knowledge about Canterbury Beekeepers particularly through local media so that for example there are a number of newspaper articles about us during the year. Other roles in the association come from the committee or membership. It is not always easy to decide if people who take on particular roles in the branch should be elected or appointed. The officers and committee make decisions and carry out the objectives of the branch and implement the wishes of members as expressed at the AGM.

Our membership is growing; as is the range of activities we are involved in – education, shows and our new apiary on Whitefriars which will need people to help run it and look after the hives. Therefore we would like more people on the committee. If you think you would like to get involved in any aspect and help make our branch successful and meet the needs of members do put yourself forward now or at the AGM for any of the posts new or old or the committee. You will need to be nominated and seconded but that is usually easy to arrange.

7.30 -9.30 Whitefriars Conference room Canterbury.

Parking will be free in the multi-storey car park so collect your ticket as normal and this will be processed during the meeting. Park on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor on the left and take the corridor down to the management suite at the bottom of the corridor on the left.

**By car** Set Sat Nav post code to CT1 2TF

Go around the ring road and at the roundabout opposite the Police Station turn through the city walls into Watling Street. Go past the bus station on your right and the Whitefriars multi-storey car park is straight ahead and right at the mini-roundabout. If coming from the south go down the Old Dover rd and straight across the roundabout through the city walls.

### By foot

Between the Bus Station and Whitefriars center there is an alleyway between Boots and Next. Here there is an entrance to the car park. Go to the first floor by lift and turn left out of the lift through double doors. The management suite is 20 yds along this corridor.

## APIARY NOTES



Feeding should now be finished. Bees would find it difficult to ripen honey now and it might deteriorate. Varroa treatment should also be finished. Mouse guards should be on and if you are troubled by woodpeckers put protection on for these as well, either plastic sheeting held under the roof and down the sides or a box of wire netting around the hive – about 2” away is usually Ok. During November carry out a couple of varroa samples of a week each to decide if you need to treat in the broodless period with either lactic or oxalic acid. 8 or more varroa a day from a strong colony is a threshold level. If you had a very heavy fall of varroa when treating with

thymol based products or you see any signs of distorted wings or paralysis of the bees I would recommend treating. If you have any doubts about the amount of food they have go through on a warmish day and count the amount. You may have to feed fondant in early spring or start feeding early if there is not about 20kg(40lb) for a full colony.

## Brogdale Apple Festival

Another successful festival with an excellent position in the Apple tent and a constant stream of interested people. Sales of honey were very good and people really enjoyed sampling the range of honeys. The members who manned the stall enjoyed themselves and the feedback from the public on this and the talks I gave were very positive. I thank all those who gave their support.



## Kent Beekeepers Autumn Lectures Sunday Nov 5th 2pm doors open 1pm

Lenham Community centre – a superb modern millennium hall off the A20. ME17 2QT

Wally Shaw from Anglesey and Tim Sparks. This is always a good event – the bookstall from Northern Bee Books provides a wide range of books and the speakers are always interesting and thought provoking. Tickets available at the AGM or direct from me. Julian

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sun 6 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Kent BKA Lectures Wally Shaw – and Tim Sparks, Bookstall – Northern Bee Books and equipment stands at Lenham, beekeepers tea and a free lottery. Tickets £5 in advance / £6 on the day.
Dec	Possible trip to Shepherds Neame Brewery
Wed Feb 1st	Swarm Control – by Nick Withers seasonal bee Inspector
Wed March 7th	Talk on the short-haired bumblebee reintroduction project, Dr Nikki Gammans Bumblebee Project Officer BBCT
April	First apiary meeting

## Future newsletters.

I would be very pleased if anyone wanted to add a short article to the newsletter about some aspect of their beekeeping. Perhaps a First year diary of how you got on or a particular situation you faced and how you dealt with it.

Just send copy to the Secretary.