



Canterbury Beekeepers

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

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NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2012

Apologies for the late issue of this newsletter.

NEXT MEETING – Wed 7th Mar - Talk on the short haired bumblebee re-introduction project Dr Nikki Gammans

Dr. Nikki Gammans was an undergraduate at the University of Edinburgh where she studied biological sciences with honours in Ecology. She then went on to do a PhD at the University of Southampton studying ant behaviour, a post doc then followed in America investigating invasive ant species. On her return she worked on an ant reintroduction project. Over the last three years she had worked on the reintroduction of one of our extinct bumblebee species, the short-haired bumblebee, *Bombus subterraneus*. To date the project has recreated over 550 hectares of bumblebee friendly habitat and the first reintroduction will be in May 2012

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 1st floor on the left and take the double doors to a 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 visits during the summer

If you would like to offer your apiary for a visit during the summer we would be pleased to hear from you. If you only have one or two hives that is still OK because we can combine visits to more than one apiary. Contact Julian

APIARY NOTES



Hot and cold, wet and windy the English weather continues to keep us on our toes. Hopefully you have now had a chance to check the state of your hives and remedied any shortfall of stores.

There are a number of things you can observe by looking at your hives without opening them. Pollen being brought in will indicate brood rearing. Brown soft stains or spots on the front of the hive are an indication of dysentery.

This can be associated with Nosema but not necessarily so. Nosema can be checked for by sampling 30 bees, grinding them up with 3 ml of water and examining them under a 400x magnification. A number of people in our association can examine them for you so why not take a sample and let us have them to check.

When the weather is warm enough in April to do a full spring inspection it is best to rehouse colonies affected in a new hive with clean floor, and boxes etc. and replace as much of the comb as you can. Fumidil can still be used to treat Nosema in hives but will shortly become unavailable.

Julian Audsley

Mailings Attached with this newsletter

1. Kent Beekeepers Association newsletter from the General Secretary
2. A newsletter giving information about the Insect Pollinators Initiative from Alan Byham SE Regional Bee Inspector
3. NDB Short Course Newsletter from Bob Smith

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Canterbury Beekeepers – Autumn/Winter Meetings

Wednesday evenings – Whitefriars management centre Canterbury – 7.30 pm

Sat 7 th April 2.30	First apiary meeting
20-22 April	BBKA Spring Convention - Harper Adams University College, Newport, Shropshire, TF10 8NB