



# Canterbury Beekeepers

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

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## NEWSLETTER

**APRIL 2012**

**NEXT MEETING – Wed 4th April - Turning A roads into Bee Roads – the Canterbury in Bloom initiative, by Aidan Potts, assistant contracts manager, Canterbury City Council**

An extra meeting to look at this initiative to improve bee forage.

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 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.

## **NEXT APIARY MEETING – Sat 14th April 2.30**

**This will be in the Littlebourne Allotments hosted by Chris Bristow and Debbie Kellond**

Take the A 257 to Littlebourne and turn up either Nargate Street or Jubilee Road and turn left into Church Road leading to Court Hill. Park on road on the left outside the allotment gate by the sign for the apiary visit. This is nearly opposite the road Cherry Orchard.

As always make sure you wear freshly washed clothing and clean plastic gloves. No leather gloves may be used to handle frames.

## **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

## Swarm Collection

We are going to co-ordinate swarm collection through a single phone number held by 3 or 4 co-ordinators on a rota basis. I will also be sending out a separate email requesting those who want a swarm or are willing to collect to let me know. The important thing for both these people is to provide contact phone numbers and the times when they are available. Last year there was some frustration when people could not be contacted. Julian

## APIARY NOTES



My colonies are expanding rapidly and are bringing in noticeable amounts of nectar while also finishing off the last of the winter stores. Some rearranging of combs has been necessary to bring in empty comb adjacent to the brood nest to allow the queen to continue to lay. You can now remove old comb and if they are bringing in fresh pollen remove old pollen stores as well.

This can be a tricky time – As the colony is expanding they can easily run out of space and food so check both and feed if necessary. Weather may prevent foraging. However the Oil seed rape is also just starting to flower in many areas and in a couple of weeks if warm weather is here we could have the start of a nectar flow. Therefore you may need to place your supers on over a queen

excluder. If you only have foundation in your super frames I suggest you leave the queen excluder off until they have started to draw out a number of frames. The queen will usually stay below but when you put the Queen excluder on, just check for the queen and put her below if found.

So if you don't need to feed your bees I would put the supers on now. If you are feeding leave the supers off until a week after you stop.

One colony is queenless and although the bees are healthy, no signs of the workers laying and with plenty of stores they must now be united with another colony. This will be a small overwintered colony which will benefit from the extra bees.

Some of my colonies are already raising drones so make sure you have spare brood boxes/nuc boxes and frames with foundation in so you can make increase or make artificial swarms. Get your swarm collecting kit out.

Julian

## Jars

If you want glass jars we will be doing a group order. Any surplus will be stored either by Stuart or David in Canterbury. So please let us know the size and shape you want and the approximate quantity - we will round up to the nearest whole box. Whole boxes only will be sold. 1 lb honey jars come in boxes of 72, smaller sizes come in smaller quantities but will be sold by the box. We presume gold tin lids are required unless otherwise stated.

Also Chris Bristow from Littlebourne passes Thornes in Windsor once a week and is happy to get things for people. So if you do want something contact him at [cb@corkscrewcentral.com](mailto:cb@corkscrewcentral.com).

Julian

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sat 14th April 2.30	First apiary meeting at Littlebourne Allotments Chris and Debbie Meet at outside allotments in Court Hill
20-22 April	BBKA Spring Convention - Harper Adams University College, Newport, Shropshire, TF10 8NB
Sat 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2.30	Michael Roberts' Apiary Calcott House , Calcott, Sturry, Canterbury CT3 4NB