



Canterbury Beekeepers

Branch of the
KENT BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION
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NEWSLETTER

May 2012

IMPORTANT We have changed the date and location of the next apiary meeting see below.

NEXT APIARY MEETING – Sat 12th May 2.30

This will be at Waldershare Park hosted by Joan McAllister and Julian Audsley contact 0776 183 9119

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

We will look at progress of the colonies and methods for comb replacement – We will also look at swarm prevention and increase.

I suggest for those coming from Canterbury that you try to share lifts – I'm happy to put you in touch if you want to do this.

Waldershare Apiary CT15 5BD

From A2

Take the road to Coldred from the A2. Drive through the village and at the end of the green turn right towards Eythorne along Church Road. Drive two miles and take the second road on the right at a very small crossroads which passes through gate posts into Waldershare Park.

From Eythorne

Take Coldred road and turn first left into Waldershare park.

Drive about three hundred yards and on the right you will see the apiary just before a small wood.



Apiary visits during the summer

Surprisingly I have not had any other offers so do get in touch if you are willing to host or share the hosting of a meeting.

Swarm Collection I am putting lists together and will confirm to each of you when your details have been added. The first swarms are occurring now.

APIARY NOTES



I hope you have heeded the advice given last month in which case you will have fed colonies running short of stores. The poor weather has set many of my colonies back – however so far I have had to feed only one colony. The only colony that has plenty of food is a small overwintered colony that built up good stores in the warm early spring.

Swarms are starting and there are significant numbers of drones being produced and queen cups are often seen. Wild colonies are often the first to swarm – they often have insufficient space.

It is a really good idea to check varroa levels in your colonies now. If they are too high and you have an otherwise strong and expanding colony then a shook swarm is an ideal way to both eliminate most of the varroa and put the bees onto clean comb. In the hopefully warm weather to come the expanding colony will find it easy to build fresh comb. Supers need to be removed and the colony fed copious quantities of sugar syrup to help them build comb. If you don't have a comb of young larvae from another colony to add then put in a frame of drawn comb. Failing this, leave the emptiest of the old frames containing no sealed pupae to collect the remaining mites once the queen has laid them up. When sealed this frame also should be removed and you will have cleaned most of the varroa from the colony without the use of any chemicals.

Jars

I have had little response for jars but will need to put in the order soon.

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 at an expected price of £17.50, smaller sizes come in smaller quantities but will be sold by the box. We presume gold tin lids are required unless otherwise stated.

Julian