

NEWSLETTER September 2012

NEXT APIARY MEETING – Sat 1st Sept 2.30

This will be at our new apiary, Bredlands Lane, Westbere, Canterbury CT2 0HD just off the A28 Canterbury to Margate Road on the left hand side before Hersden. Go up the road past Spires Academy and the apiary is on the right hand side of the road. Contact on the day 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 have hives there belonging to two members. We will deal with the honey crop and treat with Apiguard if appropriate. Apiguard will be available for sale at £2 a tray. You will need two tray for a full colony and one for a small or nucleus colony.

I am away at the moment hence the different layout for the newsletter.

All the publicity events we have run this year have gone well - the observation hive being very popular. We still have the two Brogdale festivals the Cider and Apple festivals which should be enjoyable events and a good place to promote beekeeping and sell any surplus honey.

DISEASE

As far as I know our members have not had any of the notifiable diseases but there have been outbreaks near us square TR04 (Ashford) May and June and TR14 (Stowting and Elham) July for EFB. Members who are within 3km of an outbreak and registered on BeeBase will be notified. If an inspection by the bee inspector does result in a problem do let us know.

APIARY NOTES

This year has not been good for most of us but whereas some have had to feed colonies at least one member has managed to collect over 170lb of honey from his one hive. It just goes to show that local conditions and a good queen and colony can make a huge difference.

Now is the time to check the varroa count and work out the daily mite fall. Unless you are going to be cautious you will need to treat if the average fall is 4 or more a day. However I think you should treat if 2 or more especially if you have a lot of brood still in your colony. If there is a very high number of varroa killed by the treatment then I strongly advise treating with oxalic or lactic acid in the broodless winter period. This is because Apiguard will still leave a proportion of mites, perhaps 10 -15% still able to reproduce. When using Apiguard it is helpful to seal any gap at the back of the hive where the inspection tray fits to reduce ventilation.

Julian Audsley

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sat & Sun 22/23rd Sept	Cider festival - Brogdale Faversham, ME13 8XZ
Wed 3rd Oct 7.30	Whitefriars Honey preparation and tasting.
Sat & Sun 20/21 Oct	Apple Festival - Brogdale Faversham, ME13 8XZ
Wed 7th Nov 7.30	AGM