



# Canterbury Beekeepers Branch

of the

## KENT BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

[www.canterburybeekeepers.org.uk](http://www.canterburybeekeepers.org.uk)

**Chairman:**

Stuart Andrews  
19 Nackington Road  
Canterbury  
Kent CT1 3NU  
01227 767221

**Secretary & Newsletter Editor:**

Julian Audsley  
Briar House,  
Waldershare Road  
Ashley, Dover  
Kent CT15 5JA  
0776 183 9119

**Treasurer:**

Joan McAllister  
42 Canterbury Road  
Lydden, Dover  
Kent CT15 7ER

### NEWSLETTER

October 2012

**NEXT MEETING – Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> October 7.30 WHITEFRIARS Management suite**

### Honey Preparation and Tasting

At this event we will have a brief talk on how to prepare honey for sale and for showing and then a tasting session of this season's honey.

Please do bring a sample of your honey which you are happy to share with others. We will book the honey in giving it a number and then later during the evening you can taste a range of the honeys and have a chance to pick your favourite if you wish.

**DIRECTIONS** 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. Please car share however since Whitefriars have to pay the cost of this on our behalf.

**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 / BUS

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.

### AGM 7<sup>th</sup> Nov

At our AGM we will be electing officers and our committee that help run the branch. All positions are up for election and if you think you would be interested in helping Canterbury Beekeepers run effectively as an officer or on the committee or in some other role do give it serious consideration and ask any of the existing committee to let you know more.

## APIARY NOTES



I have been at our Whitefriars Apiary last week and the small colony donated by one of our members was looking very poor with significant numbers of larvae dying on the bottom wall of the cell sides and some showing a melted down appearance. Was it European Foul brood? The sealed cells appeared generally OK. No sign of ropiness in the dead larvae could be seen – a sign of AFB. Some of the larvae were soft but when removed the skin collapsed whereas sac brood is meant to be fairly tough. No eggs could be seen.

Our Bee Inspector was called and he thought the appearance indicated either EFB or sac brood virus – a lot of which he has seen this year. The EFB test was negative and so incidentally was a test for AFB. A frame was sent to the NBU laboratory who confirmed it was sac brood virus. Without a laying queen the colony was pretty hopeless and I culled it. Sac brood virus is not very long lasting and combs can be reused after a few weeks but I shall cut out the used brood frames anyway.

The dry weather has caused a lack of nectar in many areas even though the bees can get out. Michael is predicting many winter deaths through starvation so do take the time now to check each frame in your colonies and estimate stores. You are looking for a minimum of 40lb/20kg in the brood nest of a strong colony. I.e. 8 full national brood frames (5lb per frame). National supers are considered to hold 3lb and 14\*12, commercial and Langstroth - 7lb per frame full on both sides. If short feed the difference. Hopefully we will get a warm October to allow the bees to consolidate these stores and top them up.

October is the month for putting mouse guards on hives if you are not already using a narrow 7mm or less high entrance.

### Dover Honey Show

We don't hold our own honey show and therefore contribute to Dover's Honey Show. The majority of classes are open and this year will be held in the better facilities at Bruderhof Community Hall, Beech Grove Nonington CT15 4HH.

Entry form must be received by the Show secretary not later than Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October.

Entries available to us include honey, wax, mead and cakes. Honey must be in two identical 1lb honey jars. If you've not entered a competition before I recommend an entry in the Novice class. Members of our association have won this twice recently. I will circulate the schedule shortly and you are welcome to ask questions about entries if interested. I am happy to assist with advice.

Julian

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sat 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Dover Honey Show and competition Nonington
Thur – Sat 25-27 <sup>th</sup> October	<a href="#">National Honey Show</a> St George's College, Weybridge, Surrey KT15 2QS Lectures, workshops and honey show Strongly recommended
Wed 7 <sup>TH</sup> Nov 7.30	AGM at Whitefriars A review of the year, election of officers and committee and an opportunity to be involved in planning the year ahead.
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Join our Christmas social including family and friends at The Foundry in Canterbury – brewery tour and buffet included at a very reasonable price. Full details later