

CANTERBURY BEEKEEPERS

A branch of Kent Beekeepers Association

EDITOR'S NOTES

So finally, Spring has arrived! My Victoria plum trees are in blossom, and there are fields of oil seed rape turning yellow. No doubt there will be more twists and turns in the weather, but hopefully your

bees have successfully negotiated the winter, and are starting to build up nicely.

In the Deal mentor group, we've met three times to look over the colonies. We've managed to

mark several queens, but in two of the hives there were sealed queen cells, as well as eggs, indicating that the colonies are looking to supercede the queens. The action here is "do nothing" – unlike for true swarming preparations.

Make sure that you have rehearsed what you will do if your colonies are planning to

swarm – there's nothing worse than being caught out without the requisite amount of equipment.

If you are unsure how to control swarming, there are two good opportunities to learn from experts on Saturday 4th May. Michael Cooper will be visiting a

number of members' apiaries, and all members are invited to join at a convenient juncture. See more details on pages 2-3. If you prefer a classroom approach to swarm control, then Julian Audsley is running a

course at KSRC on the morning of 4th May to go over the practicalities of swarming control. See page 5.

We are also now gathering information about members' needs for swarms, and people who are prepared to rescue swarms. Please see page 4 to learn more about how we plan to manage this. Adrian

Next Meeting BEE SAFARI

A tour of members' apiaries with SBI
Michael Cooper

Sat 4th May, 10am-6pm

Joining instructions – see
pages 2-3

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The easiest way to contact us is via the website, but you can also e-mail cantbees@gmail.com

Contact Newsletter editor to contribute articles

MAY 2013

A newsletter for friends and members of Canterbury BKA

DATES FOR DIARY

4 th May 2013	Spring safari – with Michael Cooper, Seasonal Bee inspector
11 th May 2013	Stall at EcoFest, St Georges Lane, Canterbury
8 th June 2013	Visit to hives in the Cathedral's Deanery, including a tour of private areas, and afternoon tea
Early July 2013	Visit to a member's apiary – please volunteer!
Dates tbc	Bee Days at Whitefriars Hambrook Marshes Haymaking Festival Honey extraction demonstration, Westbere
20-21 July 2013	Brogdale Cherry Festival
24-25 August 2013	Brogdale Cider Festival
19-20 October 2013	Brogdale Apple Festival
22 October 2013	Thanet BKA quiz night

BEE SAFARI

Saturday 4th May 2013

Michael Cooper, our local seasonal bee inspector, will tour members' apiaries offering advice and checking for any health problems with the hives. The route for this "bee safari" is as follows:

10am Sarre	1215 Littlebourne	1430 Coldred	1700 Lyminge
11am Canterbury Central	1330 Kingston	1600 Folkestone	

The route is quite long, so we don't expect members to visit every apiary. The suggestion is for individuals to pre-select a couple of apiaries to visit. Ideally you will select 2 apiaries that are close by your "mentor group" area. Importantly, let us know which ones you are planning to visit by email to cantbees@gmail.com, or text Adrian on 07816 975286, making sure you identify yourself! Hosts are asked to keep in contact with Adrian on the day, in case of last minute hiccups. In terms of hosting, we're not expecting you to supply food or drink, although I daresay that Michael in particular might welcome a cup of tea or a cold drink. He typically refuels "on the wing" between apiaries. Full location and timing details are listed on the next page.

Any last minute changes of plan will be handled by Adrian, on 07816 975286. Don't forget to email cantbees@gmail.com, ideally by Friday evening, 3rd May, with the parts of the tour you intend to join.

10am	Sam Deeson		Sarre	CT7 0LF	Sarre is very small! The postcode is actually the pub. The location is a smallholding on the left hand side of the A28 either just after the round-about in Sarre if you are coming from Canterbury, just before the round-about on the right-hand side if you are coming from Margate. I will put a sign-post up and there is room for many cars. There are 4 hives there.
11am	David Cockburn	34 Whitstable Road	Canterbury	CT2 8DQ	I'm at 34 Whitstable Rd Canterbury CT2 8DQ on the road from Westgate towers to the University. I currently have 4 active hives. I can accommodate 6-10 people but only 3-4 cars in the drive. Others would have to park round the corner.
12.15pm	Greg Robbins	52 Bekesbourne Lane	Littlebourne	CT3 1UY	52 Bekesbourne Lane, Littlebourne, CT3 1UY. Michael knows how to find me. It is the second exit off a driveway between 50 and 58 Bekesbourne Lane. I will put my truck out on the road so with the gate open we should be able to get 3 cars in. Others can park quite easily in Bekesbourne Lane and walk up. Although I have lots of hives, only 3 are occupied and these are struggling.
1.30pm	Roland Brown	Hearts Delight Farm, Covet Lane	Kingston	CT4 6JU	We are down a very long farm track - keep the faith. A signpost at the junction with Covet Lane should give some confidence. Given a selection of houses, it's the white one. The yard (the place to aim for) is above the house. A direct hit involves taking the correct turning at 2 consecutive forks – go right at the first one, left at the second. Parking shouldn't be a problem. Can get probably 3-4 cars in the yard (although there may be other comings and goings that day, can park outside our house if full)
2.30pm	Jason Hook	Parsonage Farm, The Green	Coldred	CT15 5AW	The postcode doesn't take you to the house for some strange reason. I'm assuming you will be coming down the A2 to get here. Once you have taken the left turn off the A2 to enter the village, you will drive approx 300 yards before coming to a sharp left hand bend. There is a track on the right on this bend. Take the track and you will see a cow shed on your right. If you look just off to your left you will either see the apiary or a trailer full of straw bales in front of it. Left of this is a gate where you can all drive through and park. We have plenty of room so parking won't be an issue. I have 3 hives. Two hives are looking good and the third is a very big strong colony.
4pm	Dougal Hendry	11 Welson Road	Folkestone	CT20 2NW	House number 11 half way along the road, on the south side. Parking: no problem in the street. Residents parking (there are signs) only applies weekday mornings - so disregard! Access to the back garden via passageway on the left (looking from the street). Currently 3 colonies. Biggish rear garden, but not optimised for space around the hives!
5pm	Linda Smith	The Beeches, Sandling Road	Lyminge	CT18 8DX	If people are coming from Canterbury or Folkestone we are the 5th drive along once you have turned into Sandling Road. There is room for 4/5 cars on the drive but there is also a grass verge just at the beginning of the road that will hold about the same again. As I'm typing this I only have the one hive but that could change tomorrow if I manage to do an inspection now we are back from holiday!

SWARM COLLECTION AND SUPPLY

2013 arrangements

Canterbury BKA is keen to promote a good image of beekeeping, and nothing can be as effective as the clean taking of a swarm of bees from a nervous non-beekeeper's garden! Equally important is the useful resource that swarms offer, particularly for getting novice beekeepers started, as well as replacing hives that didn't make it through the winter.

In our February newsletter we discussed the BBKA's website for registering swarm collectors, but we also wish to maintain a more bespoke service which helps to get new beekeepers started. The tricky part is to respond quickly, so that collection can take place before the swarm moves off!

Julian Audsley has volunteered to act as swarm coordinator for the first few weeks of the season. If you are interested to help out with the coordination, please contact him directly (email julian100@btinternet.com)

As in previous years, we will use our website to keep a track of both our collectors, and people who need swarms to (re-)stock their apiary. Because we need to share phone numbers etc, you'll need to have registered on the website, so that you can see the "swarm collection and receipt" pages. Contact Adrian (cantbees@gmail.com) if you have any problems with the website.

If you want to collect bees, then we'd like you to supply realistic availability information – which can be updated as often as you want. Unfortunately swarms don't often present at 2pm on a Saturday afternoon, and the coordinator can waste a lot of time phoning around. Trust us, you will be contacted, if there's a swarm near you on a day that you are free.

If you want to receive a swarm, then we will also need contact information (but you don't need to be hanging on the phone). We will try to prioritise those who have attended a winter course.

Whether you are a collector or a hopeful receiver, please navigate to our swarm collection [webpages](#), and having reviewed the contents, use the reply feature on the appropriate page to supply the requisite information

<http://canterburybeekeepers.org.uk/control/>

Julian Audsley and Adrian Davis

ROOFTOP APIARY

Whitefriars

Maggie MacKenzie is keen to hear from anyone who can supply bee friendly , hardy plants (lavender etc) or moisture retaining compost, as we are ready to restock the rooftop planters, having learnt what didn't work so well last season. David Cockburn is ready to install 2 more hive bodies on the roof – hopefully replete with bees. Please contact Maggie at the next meeting (or email her via cantbees@gmail.com) if you can help out with the planting.

EAST KENT ASSOCIATIONS

Here's a quick digest of what the other local associations are doing over the next few weeks.

[Whitstable and Herne Bay](#) have a meeting focusing on comb changing on 25th May, in their teaching apiary at the University of Kent's Canterbury campus. [Dover and District](#) are meeting in Eythorne on 25th May, the beginners led by Mary Hill at 1pm. The main meeting at 2.30pm will focus on honey build up and progress of swarm control. [Thanet beekeepers](#) are meeting on 4th May at the Selson apiary in Eastry, and will be at Cop Street later in May.

Adrian

COURSES AT KSRC

KSRC Bees

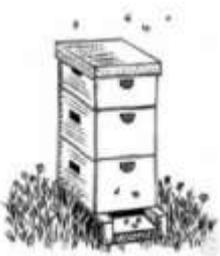
The course series for Kentish beekeepers continue. The next course is entitled ""swarm prevention and control" with our very own Julian Audsley, on Saturday 4th May. Other courses in May are already fully booked, but there are still spaces available for Bob Smith's course on "Varroa - a fuller story", which will be on Sat 1st June. Go to their [website](#) to find out more, and make bookings.

NDB SHORT COURSES

The latest National Diploma in Beekeeping courses have been [publicised](#). Anyone can go on them but the level is really for those with at least the Basic Exam. The next in Sittingbourne is:

May 28-29 Brood Diseases with Bob Smith
(this was postponed from April 29/30)

APIARY NOTES: MAY



With the oil seed rape now out in flower and some warmer days colonies will expand quickly. Unfortunately due to the cold start to the year colonies are more likely to be building up on the OSR than collecting a surplus. Typically it is toward the end of the OSR season that colonies will swarm. Therefore make sure you track signs of swarm preparation, have spare equipment to hand and give colonies plenty of space in the brood chamber and supers. In some areas there has been very significant damage to the OSR by pigeons and some farmers will be ploughing this in and reseeded with spring rape. This will give a very long season.

At the end of May carry out a full disease inspection checking in particular for EFB – that is dead larvae in cells before capping. Other tasks I will be undertaking include marking and clipping any queens missed from last year and swapping out hive bodies and floors for cleaning up. Supers can go on now or at the latest when the brood is on 7 frames. If supers contain foundation leave queen excluders out until they are occupying and drawing out comb.

Julian

DISCOUNTS FOR MEMBERS

Cheaper Stuff!

We've been contacted by a couple of equipment suppliers who are pleased to offer discounts to members of CBKA. Note that this does not mean that we are recommending these suppliers – but if you do use them, it would be great if you could document your experience (good and bad) on our discussion forum (link [here](#))



BBwear Ltd, Unit NP1, Rosedene Farm,
Threemilestone, Truro, Cornwall, TR4 9AN
Tel :- 01872 562731
Email :- mike.bb1@btinternet.com
web: <http://www.bbwear.co.uk>

As another beekeeping season approaches, we are delighted to offer associations 20% discount on our complete range of clothing. Also this year if gloves are required with the BB1/BB2 or BB101, which come with free gloves on retail orders, we can offer our washable buffalo gloves at £12.00 per pair, only when ordered with these three mentioned suits. Therefore a member purchasing for example a BB1 Full Suit and discounted gloves with free postage will make a saving of 22.39.

Orders should go out the same day if items are in stock. **We need your customers to contact us directly (email/phone), as we cannot use discount codes on our site.** Once we have been contacted we need your confirmation that they are a member, via email or phone.

We also offer an embroidery service which is proving popular with associations to identify

and protect their own suits. Suits are normally embroidered on the breast pocket and prices start at £6.00 per suit for something like: South Cornwall BKA. If you would like to know how much it would cost for your association please contact us.

Please check out our [NEW website](#). We will soon be able to supply more beekeeping equipment which will be added shortly.



Buzz Beekeeping Supplies, Wood Farm,
Theale, Somerset. BS28 4SL
Email: queenbee@buzzbeekeepingsupplies.co.uk
Web: <https://www.buzzbeekeepingsupplies.co.uk/>

Group Scheme - every club or association registered with Buzz can pass on a discount code to give their members 15% off. We have registered as an association, and if you want to get the discount, just drop Adrian an email at cantbees@gmail.com so that he can give you the instructions on how to claim the discount.