



CANTERBURY BEEKEEPERS

A branch of Kent Beekeepers Association

EDITOR'S NOTES

We had a nice apiary meeting in a delightful garden setting in Westbere, courtesy of Malindi Tucker and Steve Gough on 14th September. We were able to find and mark successfully the queens in all four hives, which Steve and Malindi were very pleased about.

Even the strongest hive wasn't replete with stores, a situation that most of us are probably finding during our inspections. Ideally, you will have already extracted

honey and, if appropriate, completed a thymol treatment such as Apiguard or Apilife Var, to reduce the varroa burden in your colonies. You should now be focusing on final winter preparations, feeding your bees to ensure that they have about 20 kg of stores, assuming it's a strong colony. September is warm enough

for the bees to easily concentrate sugar syrup, but as October arrives, the bees find it increasingly difficult to process syrup, which is why it is important to get it into the hives now.

If you need to stock up on sugar, then see the note about Booker's on p4 of this newsletter.

Winter meeting schedule will be announced in the next newsletter!

The other aspect of winter preparations is to ensure that the last few cycles of egg laying / bee birth produce extremely fit "winter bees" – hence the need to eliminate varroa first. A good protein-

rich diet is essential. In September, most hives can get access to copious pollen from ivy and Himalayan balsam, but if you are concerned about a weak colony, then fondants enriched with (natural) pollen such as Neopoll or Nektapoll could be a good investment.

Adrian

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The easiest way to contact us is via the website, but you can also e-mail

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Contact Newsletter editor to contribute articles

SEPTEMBER 2013

A newsletter for friends and members of Canterbury BKA

DATES FOR DIARY

21 September 2013	Bee Day at Whitefriars
23 September 2013	Applications for BBKA modules 1,2,3,5,7 examinations in November should be completed and sent to KBKA
25 September 2013	East Kent Ploughing Match, Hardres Court http://www.ekpma.co.uk/
28 th September 2013	Thanet Honey Show, Village Hall, Acol
19-20 October 2013	Brogdale Apple Festival
19 October 2013	Dover Honey Show, Bruderhof Community, Nonington
22 October 2013	Thanet BKA quiz night
24-26 October 2013	National Honey Show, St Georges College, Weybridge www.honeyshow.co.uk
9 November 2013	BBKA module exams, Lynsted
16 November 2013	"Bee improvement for All", Pulborough, West Sussex
17 November 2013	KBKA autumn lectures, Village Hall, Lenham

BEE DAY AT WHITEFRIARS

Last of the season!

Our last stall of the season at Whitefriars will be held on Saturday 21st September from 11am till 4pm. This is a great opportunity to meet people, talk about bees and sell your honey and associated products. If you have some spare time and would like to volunteer for this event, please contact Jenny Cotterill on toetaljenny@gmail.com (or 01227 768470). If you can't make it, but have some honey (or other hive products) to sell, Jenny would also like to hear from you.

All offers of help will be most gratefully received!

BBKA MODULES

Applications due soon

If you are planning to do some study for a module examination on 9th November, you will need to send in your application now. Modules 1, 2, 3, 5 and 7 are available this autumn:

- 1 - Honey bee Management
- 2 - Honey bee Products and Forage
- 3 - Honey bee Pests, Diseases and Poisoning
- 5 - Honey bee Biology
- 7 - Selection & Breeding of Honey bees

Download the application form from [this BBKA website](#), get it signed by a CBKA committee member, and send off to the KBKA examinations secretary to get to her by 23rd September:

Mrs Angela Merritt
49 Townley Road
Bexleyheath
Kent
DA6 7HY

EAST KENT PLOUGHING MATCH

A traditional country day

The 69th Ploughing Match will be held at Hardres Court,
Upper Hardres, Canterbury, Kent, CT4 6EW

WEDNESDAY 25th SEPTEMBER 2013

Commencing at 9.00am. Thanet BKA are leading the Honey/Beekeeping Stall, and several of the CBKA committee will be helping out. Please contact us if you are interested to support the stall, and even if you just drop into the event, be sure to say hello!

Ladies Section * Horse Plough Classes * Classes for Ploughs * Vintage Tractors and Ploughs * Grain * Vegetables * Poultry and Eggs Class * Preserves, Cakes and Handicrafts * Tossing the Sheaf * Display of Vintage Tractors and Engines * Craft Tent * Sheep Dog Trials * Tug of War * The Hawking Centre: Birds of Prey flying display * West Street Tickham Hunt and Blean Beagles



More details at the ploughing match website: <http://ekpma.co.uk/>

HONEY SHOWS

We are fast approaching the season of Honey Shows. Thanet BKA, Dover and District BKA and the National Honey Show are all events where you can compare your honey, wax and other beekeeping related products with your friends, neighbours and other beekeepers. They are good fun, and don't have to be taken too seriously, so why not prepare a few bottles of your best honey, and enter?

Thanet Honey Show is at Acol Village Hall on Saturday 28th September. This is a joint event with Acol Horticultural Society Show, so there should be the additional fun of giant vegetables! Entry forms must be received by 26th September, 2013. More information from [this website article](#) (you'll need to login).

Dover and District Honey Show is at the Bruderhof Community Hall in Nonington on 19th October. Contact the Show Secretary, Chris Holdstock on 01304-828041, or see [CBKA website](#) for a copy (you'll need to login first). Closing date for entries is 12th October.

National Honey Show 24-26 October Weybridge, Surrey: Entry forms to arrive, for all classes except 54 -62, by 1st October 2013; entries sent after this date may still be accepted up to the 20th October 2013 provided the single late entry fee is included.

http://www.honeyshow.co.uk/entry_forms.shtml

CHEAP SOURCES OF SUGAR

Booker's in Canterbury

Some of you may already know this, but BBKA members can show their membership cards at the wholesalers Bookers, which can be advantageous when buying sugar in bulk. This week they have a special offer on – 15 kg of sugar (in 1kg bags) for £10.99. The price compares very favourably with supermarket prices – Tesco does 1 kg granulated sugar for 94 p, and a 5 kg sack at 80 p/kg, so this week's Booker price is very good at 73 p/kg. Bookers has branches in Broadstairs and Folkestone, as well as the branch on Broad Oak Road in Canterbury.

15 kg is just about the right amount to feed to a colony for winter stores, if you were mean enough to take off all their honey! Honey is about 17% water, so 15 kg dry sugar will be stored by bees as ~19 kg capped stores, assuming they fully invert the sucrose.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Subs due 1st October

With the rapid change in the weather reminding us that the summer has come to an end, so the Kent Beekeepers Association membership year also draws to a close. Our new year starts on the 1st October and you will shortly receive by email a 2013/14 Membership Form to enable you to renew your membership of the Kent Beekeepers Association. You will notice that the subscription has risen from £42 to £44, which includes Beecraft magazine, BBKA 3rd party insurance and the BDI premium for up to three colonies. KBKA members receive Beecraft at a 25% reduction to the price paid by other subscribers. Don't forget to GiftAid your membership – it costs you nothing, and enhances the value of your membership subscription to CBKA/KBKA by 20%.

BEE IMPROVEMENT FOR ALL

A joint BIBBA/ West Sussex BKA event

In conjunction with the Bee Improvement and Bee Breeders Association (BIBBA) the West Sussex BKA will be holding a "Bee Improvement for All" day. This is one of a number that BIBBA will be staging throughout the country on a regional basis. This is an all-day event aimed at encouraging all beekeepers to improve their bees. The purpose is to help all beekeepers to continuously assess their colonies, so they have a good idea of which queens to cull, and which colonies to take queen cells from when they need new queens.

There will be tuition on how to raise queens using queen cells that bees often present us with during the summer, as well as some simple "artificial" techniques that may be suitable for the more advanced beekeeper, or those working in groups.

Date:- Saturday 16th November 2013

Time:- 9.30-4.30

Venue:- Pulborough Village Hall, Pulborough, West Sussex <http://www.pulbvh.org.uk/>

Cost:- £15/head. £8/head for under 18, but must be accompanied by a fee paying adult. To include refreshments, but not lunch. A Booking Form can be found on the [CBKA website](#) (you'll need to login).

For those who are busy on 16th November, this event is also being run on Sat Nov 9th 2013 at Bracknell, Berkshire, in conjunction with Wokingham and District BKA. Further details can be found on www.dave-cushman.net/bee/beeimprovementforallday.html

KBKA EDUCATION

Lenham Lectures

After a gap last year, KBKA is again holding a pair of lectures in the Community Hall in Lenham ME17 2QT on Sunday 17th November 2013. Doors open: 1pm. Lecture starts: 1.30pm.

David Rudland: '**Winter into spring.**' Factors which affect colonies in harsh winter. David is a Surrey beekeeper with 150 colonies and a seasonal bee inspector.

Michael Keith-Lucas: '**How plants solve crimes.**' Uses of pollen to place suspects at the scene of crime, solving honey fraud etc. Michael is a retired academic plant scientist.

Refreshments: Lesley Fancote's delicious tea. Also three stalls: books, equipment, bumble bees.

Ticket price: £5 in advance, £6 on door.

Tickets from:

Kit Erhardt: kit.erhardt@doctors.org.uk, 01689 860805.

Clive Watson: watson30@talktalk.net, 0208 6583786.

John Hendrie: bibba26@talktalk.net, 01732 833894.

CBKA COMMITTEE ROLES

Joan McAllister has been serving our association for several years, both as secretary, and more recently as treasurer. At the AGM in November, she wants to adjust her commitments to the association, and we have been discussing how best to transition the duties which she undertakes, which for the most part she does quietly in the background.

Joan's suggestion is that the current treasurer role could be split into two parts, which could be handled by separate committee members. This would make sense, looking at the steady increase in the size of the association (a trend seen across the county and the country). In order to encourage more people to participate in the running of the association, Joan has prepared role profiles for a treasurer and membership manager combination, which should limit the time commitment required. Please consider whether you might like to contribute by filling one of these roles. You can talk to any of the committee, and particularly Joan, Julian or Adrian, if you want more details on these roles. The AGM in November is where volunteers for all committee positions will be elected by the association's membership.

Treasurer's Duties

To keep accurate records of the financial affairs of Canterbury Beekeepers and report annually to the County Treasurer

Annually

- After subscription year end and before the AGM – reconcile all financial transactions during the year. Complete and have audited, financial reports using templates provided by the County Treasurer.
- Reconcile subscriber list from the Beecraft Secretary with our membership list.

At AGM

- Present a Treasurer's Report for the membership on the financial dealings during the year and the current financial position of the Branch.

Dec, April and August each year

- Complete a Return, and send to John Hendrie, County Membership Secretary, giving a breakdown of all subscriptions, Beecraft receipts, donations, extra BDI received during the period. Forward to John together with Membership Forms, copy receipts and Branch countersigned cheque.

At the end of each month

- Advise the Secretary of Beecraft of any new subscribers to the magazine that month and await a response before forwarding subscription monies by countersigned cheque.

Branch Meetings

- Record receipts for refreshments and pay any outgoings for speakers, hire of hall, refreshments, etc.

Ongoing

- Record and pay, either by countersigned cheque or cash, expenses incurred by the activities of Canterbury Beekeepers.
- Report on current financial position and membership numbers at Committee Meetings.

Membership Manager's Duties.

To keep accurate records of the membership of Canterbury Beekeepers and report three times a year to the County Membership Secretary

Annually

- Advise members of the new Subscription Year commencing 1st October and by email forward a PDF of the new Membership Form (together with membership guide) for completion and return, together with payment either by cheque, cash or a transfer direct to CBKA bank account.
- Issue KBKA receipt and send to member with covering letter.
- Keep a record of current membership in spreadsheet format – recording name, address, email and telephone number, membership status and whether consent given for release of email address.
- Chase up by phone, and/or email, members who have not renewed membership.

At AGM

- Provide an indication of membership numbers and movement compared with past years

Dec, April and August each year

- Pass all Membership Forms and copy receipts received during the period to Treasurer to enable the completion of the Return to KBKA

At the end of each month

- Scan membership forms of members joining that month and email to KBKA secretary and branch treasurer.
- Advise Branch Secretary and Chairman of new members so they may be included in email distribution and for website registration.

Ongoing

- Continue to record new members during the year – responding to any queries relating to membership.