



CANTERBURY BEEKEEPERS



A branch of Kent Beekeepers Association

EDITOR'S NOTES

November marks the start of the new beekeeping season, as we've counted our harvest, showed it off at honey shows, and prepared the bees for winter. It's a good opportunity to think about what went well, and what to do differently in the coming year.

We encourage all members to participate in our End of Year Review, which is on Wednesday 12th November – we want to hear what you would like the branch to do during 2015. We're also very keen for more people to get actively involved in branch activities, whether as a committee member, or in other ways. Descriptions of various roles are provided on pp4-5, if you might be interested to join the committee. A particular focus for us in 2015 will be the siting, equipping and usage of branch apiaries, and we plan to have a focused

discussion about this during the AGM/review. Please try to come along – there will be some tempting nibbles to help the conversations along.

Continuing the food theme, we have arranged for a branch supper at the Veg Box Café on 10th December. More details on p3.

Thanks to all who helped out at Brogdale Apple Festival on 18-19 October – we recorded good honey sales of ~£850, including some Whitefriars honey, which is sold on the branch's behalf.

If you have yet to go on Julian's introductory beekeeping

course, there's some more details on p3, and more about other courses on p6.

Finally, congratulations to Sue Clapson, who collected a number of prizes at the Dover Honey Show on 25th October – a picture of Sue with her trophies can be found on p5. Adrian

Next Meeting

End of Year Review and AGM

Whitefriars
Management Suite

Wednesday 12th

November

7.30-9.30pm

Joining instructions

– see page 2

CBKA OFFICERS

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Committee Members

Sue Clapson
Michael Roberts
David Cockburn
Chris Bailes
Maggie McKenzie

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

NOVEMBER 2014

DATES FOR DIARY

12 November	End of Year Review and AGM, 7.30-9.30pm, in Whitefriars Management Suite, Canterbury CT1 2TF
27 November	First meeting of new branch committee, 7pm, The Old Gate Inn, 162 Dover New Road, Canterbury CT1 3EL
10 December	Christmas "do" 7pm, The Veg Box Café, Jewry Lane, Canterbury CT1 2RP
21 February	BIBBA bee improvement for all, Elham Village Hall, Canterbury Rd, Elham CT4 6SX

DIRECTIONS

Whitefriars Conference room Canterbury

Free parking in the multi-storey car park. Collect your ticket and this will be processed during the meeting. Park on the 1st 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 if you can, 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.





CHRISTMAS DO

Veg Box Café

Wednesday 10th December, 7pm

As we had such a nice time last year, we have arranged to return for our Christmas “do” to the Veg Box Café on Jewry Lane in Canterbury ([website](#)), on Wednesday 10th December. Partners and friends welcome for a buffet supper 7-11pm. Please contact David Cockburn ASAP by email (dcockburn@eldaka.demon.co.uk) to let him know that you plan to come, and secure your place with a payment (£20/head, drinks extra). The AGM meeting will be a good place to hand over any cheques. Alternatively, transfer money into the branch bank account: Account name: Kent Beekeepers' Association/Canterbury Branch, Sort code: 30-91-60; Account number: 00371771

David Cockburn

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Subs due 1st October

Our new year started on the 1st October and you should have already received by email information/[links](#) to enable you to renew your membership of the Kent Beekeepers Association. You will notice that the subscription has risen from £44 to £45, 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%.

The renewal forms are available from our website [here](#) – and if it is convenient for you, the transaction can be completely electronic, as we can accept BACS transfers into our bank account.

Joan



INTRODUCTION TO BEEKEEPING COURSE

February – April 2015

Julian's course is now in its 7th year and is aimed at potential beekeepers. It covers all the needs of those thinking about keeping bees or who have just started.

Starts: Wednesday 25th February 2015 - 7.00pm at Bishopsbourne Village Hall, CT4 5HT nr Canterbury.

The course has 8 sessions both in class and an apiary. Cost: £75 including a course book, hand-outs and membership as a Friend of the Kent Beekeepers Association for the year 2014/15.



There is plenty of opportunity to handle equipment, assemble frames and ask questions. Download application form at [this link](#)

Julian Audsley



CBKA COMMITTEE ROLES

The association is run for the benefit of all members, and elects a committee every year. The committee organises itself in a very informal way. Although the people on the committee tend not to change very much from year to year, we very much welcome new faces, so if you want to make a bigger contribution, all you have to do is volunteer your services at the AGM (which is 12 November 2014). Talk to Julian, Joan, Jenny or Adrian if you want to find out more. Brief role descriptions are given below.

Chairperson's Duties

Ongoing

- Chair the CBKA committee, to ensure delivery of a vibrant programme of events, and that the activities of the branch are aligned with direction from the membership
- Represent the branch in the wider beekeeping community (e.g. BBKA, connection with other Kentish BKAs)
- Identify long-term initiatives relevant to the branch, and ensure engagement and progress

At AGM

- Present a Chairperson's Report for the membership on the activities and successes of the year.

Secretary's Duties

Ongoing

- Manage communications within the branch – principally via the website and email
- Ensure that all members receive regular updates on activities within the branch by maintaining distribution lists
- Coordinate agenda and minutes of committee meetings
- Support the chairperson in managing branch and committee meetings
- Manage branch communications with the wider community – handling queries and requests from other beekeeping groups, and also from the general public

Newsletter

- Organise the collation and distribution of a branch newsletter, at least 10 times per year

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 County Membership Secretary (CMS), giving a breakdown of all subscriptions, Beecraft receipts, donations, extra BDI received during the period. Forward to CMS together with Membership Forms, copy receipts and Branch countersigned cheque.

At the end of each month

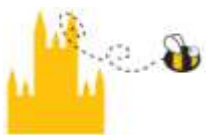
- Advise the Secretary of Beecraft of any new subscribers to the magazine that month and await a response before forwarding subscription monies by countersigned cheque.

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.

Committee Member role

Ordinary committee members are without a specific role in the running of the branch, but nevertheless have two important functions.

- attend meetings of the committee (~2hrs, six times per year) and help form a view of the strategic direction by contributing to the discussions and decision making processes of the branch.
- volunteer to lead and help organise selected activities of the branch. This typically involves being responsible for two or three activities, such as organising the Christmas party, each of which involves about a day or more of work depending on the nature of the activity.

In addition there are more general functions attached to the member role

- We need to get new members involved so that we are training future branch officers and trainers.
- While it is open to any member of the branch to spend a few hours each year working at the stand when we have a 'meet the public' event it is likely that the committee members will attend more events than most.

We typically seek to have 4-6 committee members, in addition to the chairperson, treasurer, secretary and membership secretary. Two members of the committee may represent CBKA at the Kent BKA council. The branch committee operates according to the regulations set out in Kent BKA's bye-laws, which can be found online at [this link](#).



Sue Clapson with her Trophies at DDBKA Honey Show
Photo: courtesy Steve Boyce (DDBKA)



BEE IMPROVEMENT FOR ALL

One Day Event presented by BIBBA

Elham Village Hall, 21 February 2015

DDBKA, in conjunction with the Bee Improvement and Bee Breeding Association, have organised this one day event.

The purpose is to offer beekeepers the opportunity to learn about selecting their best colonies, and raising their own queens from these, to improve their own stock, and in the process inevitably helping to improve stocks of neighbouring beekeepers through the quality of the drones they raise.

It is now generally accepted that good locally raised bees are best suited to local conditions, rather than bought in, and (shudder!) imported bees. (the latter especially now that SHB has been confirmed in Italy).

This event is presented by leading authorities on the subject and is designed to be useful, interesting and relevant to all regardless of their level of experience.

Full details found by following the links on our [website](#)

Dick Bunting, DDBKA



BEGINNERS DAY

Wisborough Green Division West Sussex BKA

At:- Village Hall, Lower Street, Pulborough, West Sussex. RH20 2BF

Sat 7th March 2015. Assemble from 9.00 for 9.30-5.00 p.m.

The course is suitable for those who wish to discover what is involved in keeping bees, but will also be suitable for those who have kept bees for some time. It will largely follow the syllabus of the BBKA Basic assessment, but with variations. This course is based on over 50 years experience, not just repeating what is in books. More information and booking form at their website www.wgbka.org.uk

John Glover, WG BKA



Which CBKA members entered the Dover Honey Show cake class? Photo courtesy Steve Boyce (DDBKA)