



# CANTERBURY BEEKEEPERS



A branch of Kent Beekeepers Association

## EDITOR'S NOTES

April has rushed through, and whilst some colonies are just picking up the pace of egg-laying, others are already making swarm preparations. Thanks to all of you who have contacted us to indicate that you are ready to collect swarms –

and hopefully we will be able to fulfill the needs of those who want to (re)-stock their apiaries. See last month's newsletter for more details on how to get involved in swarm collection/receipt.

On pages 3-5 of this newsletter you'll see lots of information about our bee Safari on

2<sup>nd</sup> May. This takes quite a bit of coordination to make it go off smoothly, so please carefully read the article, and let us know if you can join us at one or more of the apiaries. Thanks to the beekeepers who have opened up their apiary for an hour or two, to enable this fun event to happen.

Thanks also go out to the 37 members who took the time to fill out the survey at the beginning of April. It's good to see that our colonies have a reasonable survival rate, which means that you are doing a good job of preparing them for the winter. There's quite a diversity of

hive equipment to be found in our branch, which makes it interesting when we think about the hive patterns we should include in training apiaries. The CBKA committee will consider the survey results in more detail at our next meeting, but if

the graphs and comments trigger any more thoughts, please pass them onto us at [cantbees@gmail.com](mailto:cantbees@gmail.com)

Julian would like to judge interest in attending a BBKA basic training course – see p3 for more details.

I hope the weather is kind to us on Saturday!

Adrian

### Next Meeting

#### Bee Safari

**Saturday 2nd May**

**10.30-6pm**

Joining instructions

– see pages 3-5

## CBKA OFFICERS

**Chairman:** Julian Audsley

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

**Treasurer:** Joan McAllister

42 Canterbury Road  
Lydden, Dover CT15 7ER  
07824 668042

**Secretary & Newsletter**

**Editor:** Adrian Davis

24 The Grove  
Deal CT14 9TL  
07816 975286

**Membership Secretary**

Jan Soetaert  
90 Heaton Road  
Canterbury CT1 3QA  
07849 603168

**Committee Members**

Chris Bailes  
David Cockburn  
Jenny Cotterill  
Maggie McKenzie  
Michael Roberts  
Linda Smith

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

[cantbees@gmail.com](mailto:cantbees@gmail.com)

Contact Newsletter editor to contribute articles

**MAY 2015**

## DATES FOR DIARY

<b>2 May</b>	<b>Bee Safari – a travelling apiary meeting with Seasonal Bee Inspector, Michael Cooper (see article p3-p5)</b>
10 May	Yalding & District Honey Bee Fayre & Auction
11 May	Committee meeting, The Old Gate Inn, Canterbury, 7pm
<b>6 June</b>	<b>Apiary meeting, Waldershare Park</b>
7 June	Meet the public: Brogdale Strawberry Festival
<b>4 July</b>	<b>Apiary meeting, tbc</b>
19 July	Meet the public: Brogdale Cherry Festival
<b>1 August</b>	<b>Apiary meeting, Stamford, near Folkestone</b>
<b>5 September</b>	<b>Apiary meeting, Bekesbourne</b>
17-18 October	Meet the public: Brogdale Apple Festival

## BBKA BASIC ASSESSMENT

It's time to organise training for the Basic Assessment.

For those of you who have been keeping bees for at least one or two years and are reasonably confident in handling a colony and ideally have made an attempt at swarm control now is the time to take the BBKA Basic Assessment. This is an oral and practical assessment carried out by an assessor on behalf of the BBKA and held in a local apiary. I am an assessor myself but of course I'm not allowed to assess you.

It confirms that you have reached an appropriate standard; a bit like passing the driving test. If you have done one of my courses you will have covered most of the knowledge needed for the assessment.

To assist you we are going to run a few theory and practical sessions to cover the syllabus meeting each week on either the Mon, Tues Wed, or Thur, week beginning either the 4th or 11th May probably starting at 7pm.

If you want to take part please email or text me and tell me which days you can and cannot do and I will pick the day that most can go on. [julian100@btinternet.com](mailto:julian100@btinternet.com) or text 0776 183 9119. However, you can prepare for this assessment yourself. Just download the application form and syllabus from the BBKA web site ([here](#)) which must then be signed by one of the committee, and send off with a fee.

Julian Audsley



## BEE SAFARI

Our meeting on Saturday 2 May will be a safari - Michael Cooper, our local bee inspector, will tour around with CBKA to help with spring inspections.

I've finalized the schedule with Michael and the apiary owners, and we have a safari that takes in Whitstable, Canterbury, Deal and Hythe. It's a branch meeting, so we hope that lots of you can join in, at various points in the day. Just for planning purposes it will be very helpful if you can let us know which apiaries you are hoping to visit by emailing us at [cantbees@gmail.com](mailto:cantbees@gmail.com) ideally before 9am on Saturday morning. Bear in mind that the times are approximate, but we will do our best to stay on time! For those of you close to Canterbury and Whitstable, the first three apiaries are in suburban settings, so car sharing would be a good way to go – perhaps you can organize this through the neighbourhood groups? On the day itself, please text Adrian on 07816 975286, but if you have problems finding the apiary, then the best person to contact will be the apiary owner.

Normal apiary hygiene rules apply – so please bring clean bee-suits, clean disposable gloves (no leather gloves), and wellington boots. If you need to borrow PPE, please let us know ASAP, so we can try to get a spare suit in the right location!

The schedule is on the next two pages. [This link](#) gives an overview of the safari route.



Approx time	Apiary owner	Visit time	Travel time to next apiary	Address	Town or Village	Postcode	Please contact <a href="mailto:cantbees@gmail.com">cantbees@gmail.com</a> to indicate attendance, or text Adrian on 07816 975286. Problems finding apiary – contact the owner! <b>Access notes/restrictions</b>
1030	Norman Adams	30 min (1 hive)	10 min	98 Northwood Road	Whitstable	CT5 2HA	Apiary is slightly restrictive - 8 / 12 people. Only one hive - started from swarm May 2014. The house ( 98 Northwood Road ) is on the corner of Fitzroy Road - entrance is in Fitzroy Road. Parking available in Northwood/ Fitzroy/ St Anne's Road... Near the house. My mobile number is 07542 633028, house number 01227 275326.
1110	Ernest Snow	40 min (2 hives)	30 min	87 Chestfield Road	Chestfield, Whitstable	CT5 3JH	I have two occupied hives and I believe that I can accommodate up to 12 people but 10 is a more conservative number. My house number is 87 on Chestfield Road so there is no special driving instructions other than parking on the grass verge is possible in addition to getting about 4 cars on the drive. My contactable number is 07949 938873.
1230	Madaleine and Stephen Zachry	30 min (1 hive)	15 min	17 Stanmore Court	Canterbury	CT1 3DS	mob. 07504 520945 (use this one as I am always available by mobile) house phone 01227 764956 Our House has a fairly big driveway and there is available parking. The only problem is that the bee hive itself is in an awkward space for a group but that may be fixable.
1315	Jan Soetaert	40 min (2 hives)	45 min	Bigbury Orchard on Bigbury Road	Harbledown, Canterbury	CT4 (51.276854, 1.029720)	<a href="#">When you come from Canterbury, on the A2050 go left after the traffic lights. Take a right into Faulkners lane (at the school). Go over A2 and keep right into the hollow lane up the hill (sharp bends). The apiary is in</a>

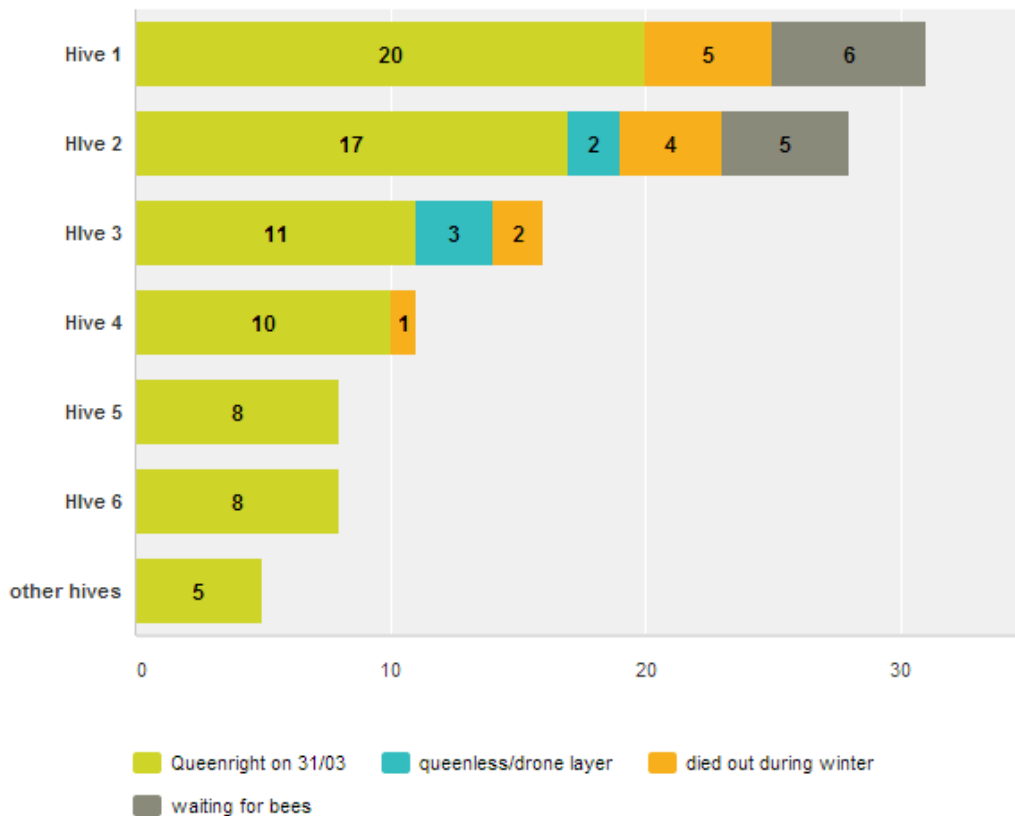
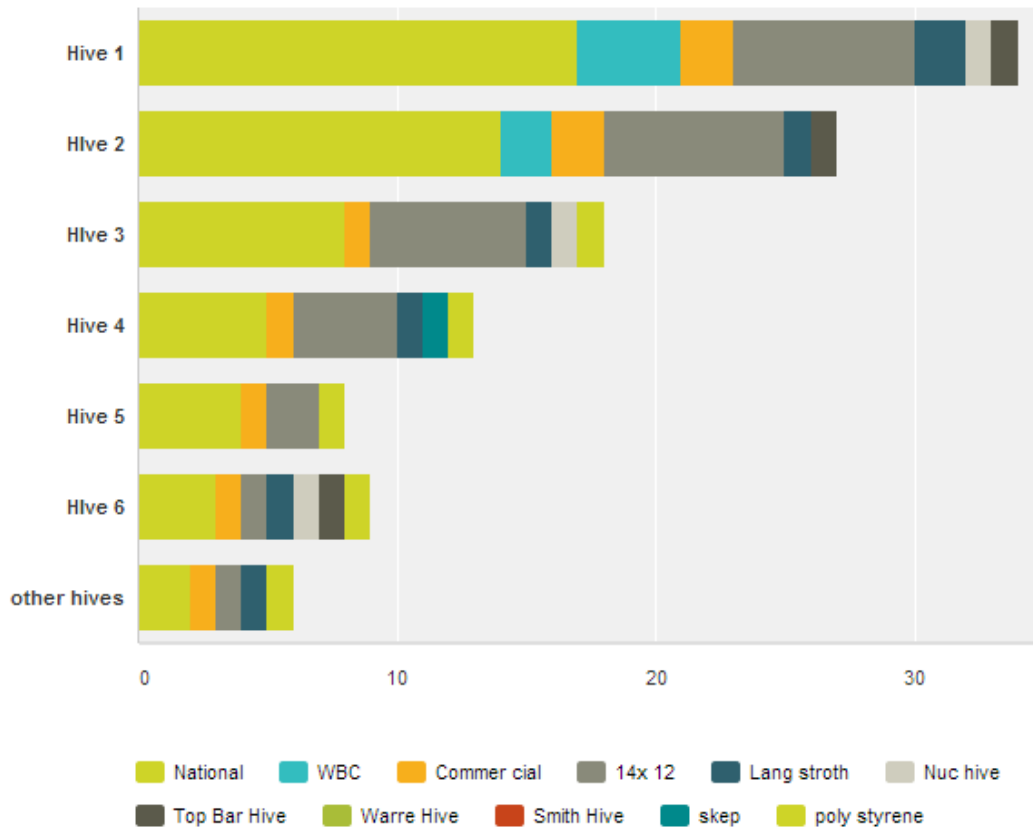
							the second field on your left. An Iron gate and sign bigbury orchard are a giveaway and across the road there is a field with goats (photo with goats on it). Hives are in the far right corner. There is parking for about 6 cars if there is cattle. Otherwise the whole of canterbury can park in the field. Phone 07849 603168 Google map <a href="#">link</a>
1445	Carl Smye	60 min (5 hives)	40 min	Sandfield Farm, Northwall Road, Deal	Deal	CT14 6PP	Turn into Northwall Road and go right to the end where there is a level crossing, the road bears right between a bungalow and the farm house. Follow the signs for Crushintons. DO NOT GO OVER THE CROSSING ! I have 5 colonies and there will be plenty of room for people and I can make tea etc. Phone 0797 453 7697
1630	Elisabeth van der Leij	60 min (5 hives)	10 min	Archway House School Rd	Hythe	CT21 4PP	Should be ok for about 10 people I should say . The house can be a little difficult to find , in school rd go up the drive next to Beckley Cottage , Archway house is at the top of the drive , there is parking for 4 or 5 cars , maybe a few more . Alternatively you can park in Brockhill road , just after no 50 Brockhill rd there is a public footpath with a big conker tree and a bench ( on the bend ) , this is where the back gate to Archway house is , I will put a big sign on the gate . My phone number is 01303 262831
1730	Mick Jager	30 min (1 hive)		Old Castle Stores, The Street, Lympne	Lympne	CT21 4LQ	The Street, Lympne (down near the castle) The Street is adjacent to County Members pub. After sharp left bend, three cottages with red doors, Mick is the last door. My tel is 07867 804373

[This link](#) gives an overview of the safari route.

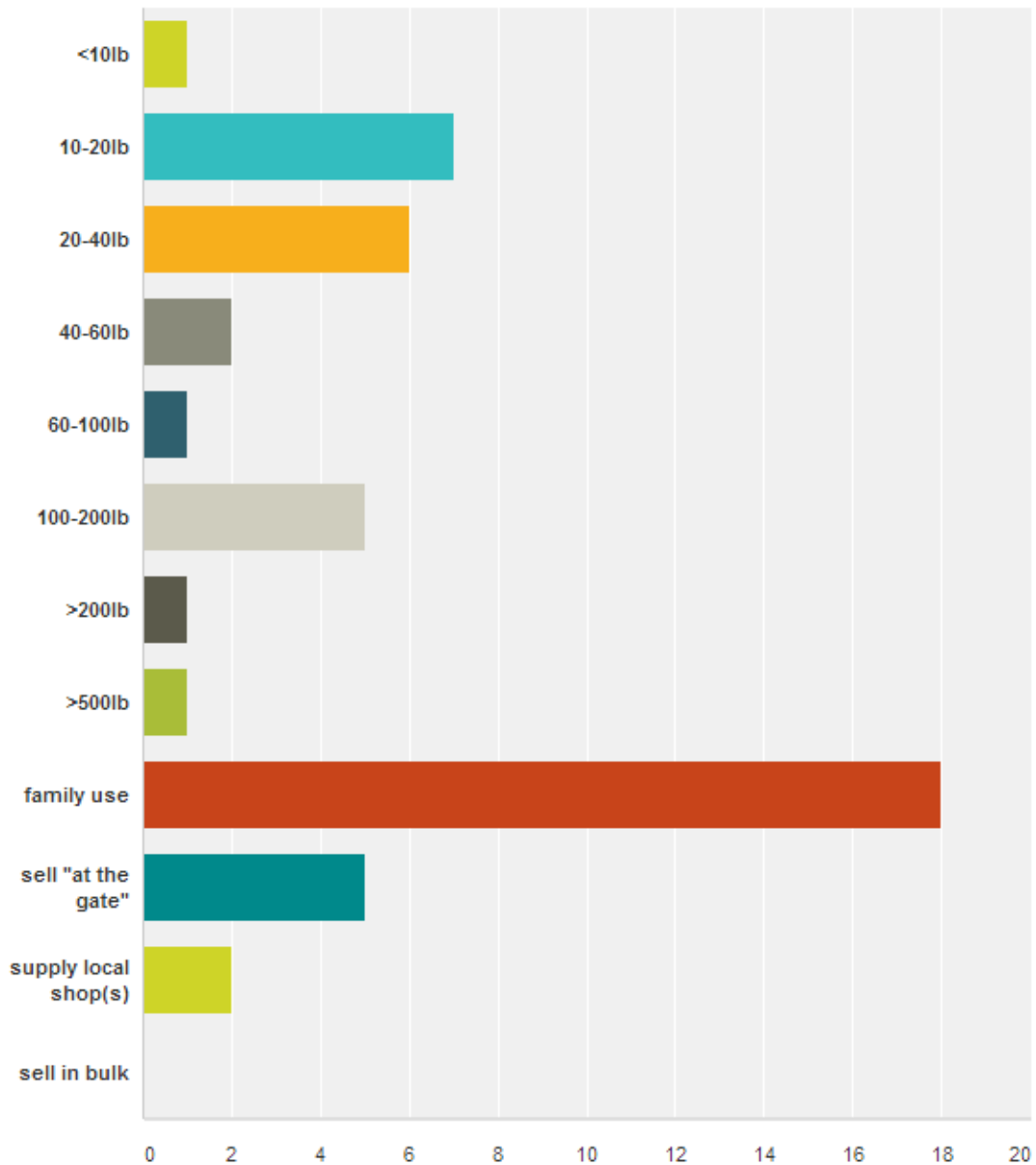
## SPRING SURVEY RESULTS

Here are the data from the informal CBKA survey in April. This is raw, and it will be interesting to hear what conclusions you draw from the numbers and comments!  
Adrian

### Question 2: hive patterns and occupancy



Question 3: Honey yield and use



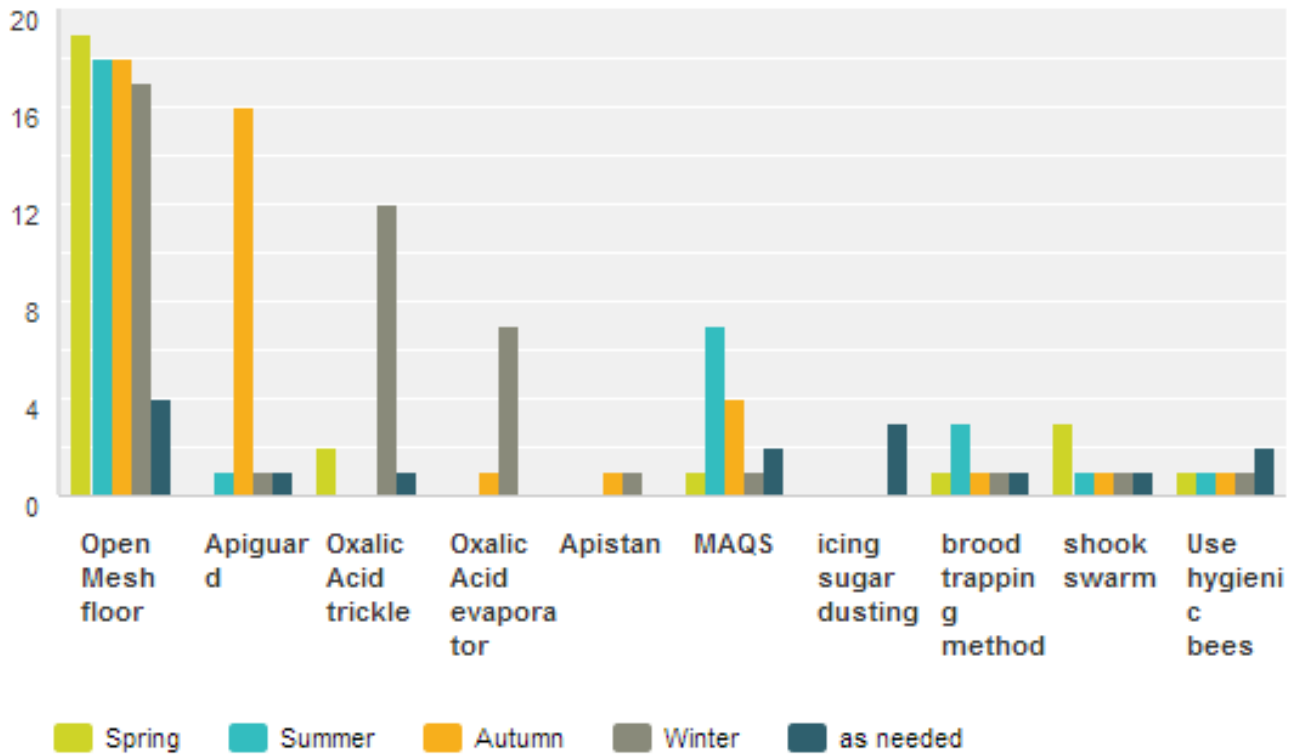
Question 4: where do our queens come from?

Answer Choices	Responses
new colonies established with collected swarms	48.15% 13
Queens produced as part of normal swarm management	48.15% 13
Introduce Queens from commercial supplier	25.93% 7
Queen rearing program - simple methods	11.11% 3
Queen rearing program - grafting/Cupkit	3.70% 1
Total Respondents: 27	

Questions 5&6: The Health and Treatment of our Bees

Answer Choices	Responses
chalkbrood	11.11% 1
baldbrood	0.00% 0
deformed wing virus	55.56% 5
nosema	0.00% 0
wax moth	44.44% 4
sacbrood	11.11% 1
notifiable foulbroods	0.00% 0

Total Respondents: 9





## Question 7: Any problems with queens?

---

No.

4/24/2015 5:24 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

---

No problems

4/21/2015 10:08 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

---

No

4/20/2015 9:42 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

---

MAQS treatment late Autumn seemed to knock out queens in 2 colonies. Now you mention it, the 2 colonies that went queenless were those founded from commercial queen stock. 2 local queens were OK. 1 queen is problematically feisty, but perfectly strong.

4/11/2015 9:15 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

---

Had a week Nuc purchased last season that didn't build up enough for winter. Also a weak colony was taken over quickly by wax moth.

4/11/2015 7:56 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

---

One DLQ at first 2014 inspection. One early supercedure in 2014 of a 2014 Q.

4/11/2015 7:35 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

---

no

4/11/2015 6:59 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

---

no

4/11/2015 6:25 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

---

no

4/11/2015 6:18 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

---

One young queen superseded.

4/11/2015 5:40 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

---

Supercedure early spring, drone layer late summer

4/11/2015 4:09 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

---

1 drone layer after winter

4/11/2015 3:29 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

---

None

4/11/2015 12:38 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

---

I had a terrible year in 2013 so I bought in new queens last year to good effect

4/11/2015 12:14 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

---

One queen was a poor layer and probably not properly mated.

4/11/2015 12:13 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

---

Poor mating. Drone laying. Supersedure.

4/11/2015 12:00 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

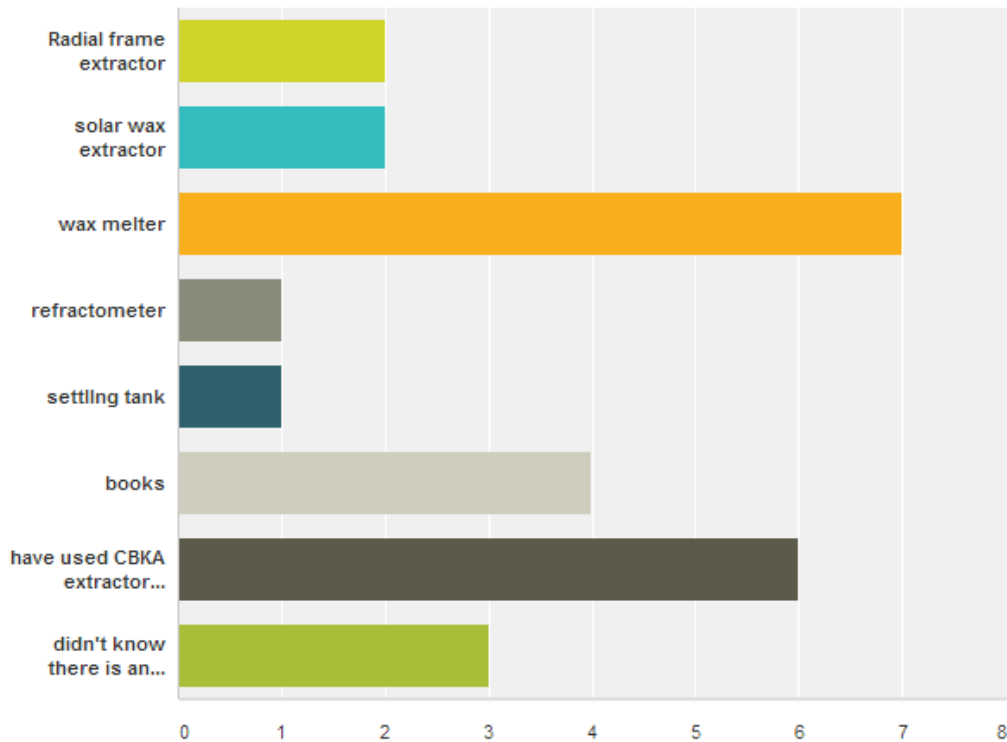
---

bought in queens not very successful

4/11/2015 11:59 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

---

Question 8: What would make us a better equipped Association?



eBay £20 refractometers are perfectly OK. IMHO the club extractor is made unnecessarily awkward by its talk beneath. A different design might be better for subsequent purchases. A "dissecting" microscope A frame-boiling urn - big enough for 14x12 :-)) to sanitise frames before re-use An Apimelter for (non-honey destructive) melting out of crystallised frames? Foundation-making kit? I think the club apiary ought to have a solar wax melter, short-lug hive(s) to allow familiarisation with something different, a topbar hive, Q-rearing kit ...

4/11/2015 8:11 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

no

4/11/2015 6:25 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Beginner but have extractor which I am sharing with local beekeepers..

4/11/2015 12:39 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

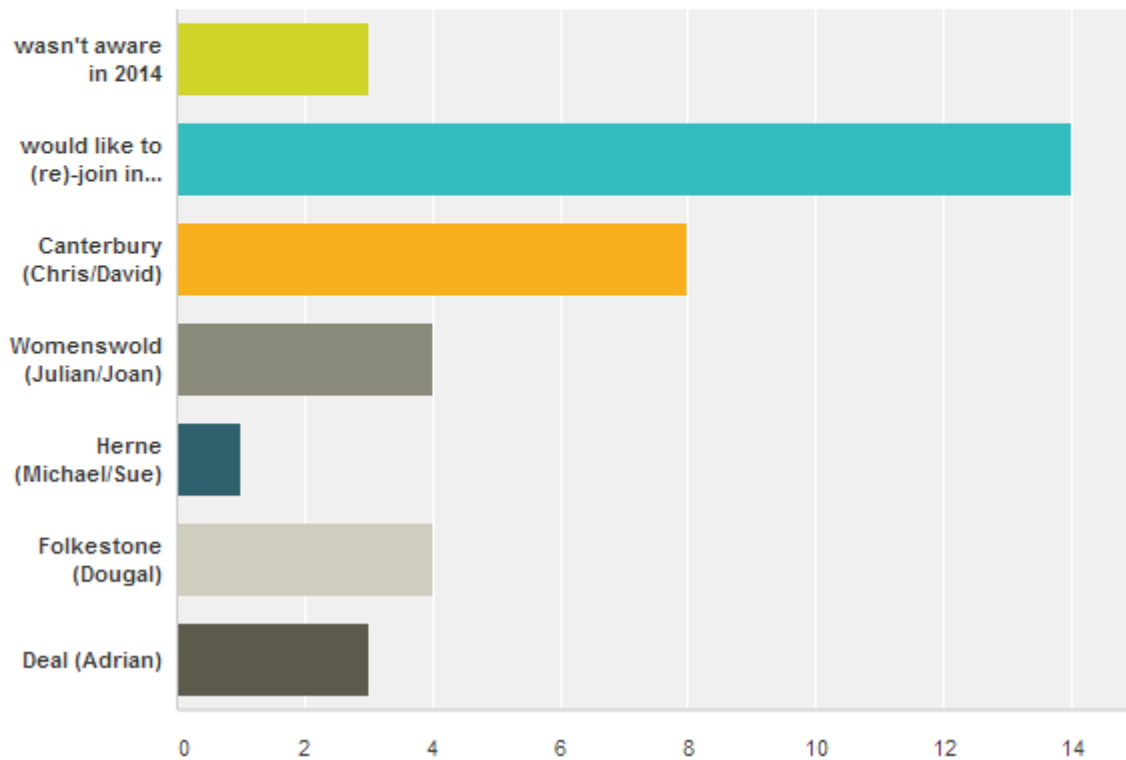
Question 9: Helping out at Brogdale, or in new teaching Apiary

Answer Choices	Responses
occasional jobs at Bekesbourne	72.22% 13
monthly jobs at Bekesbourne	11.11% 2
bi-weekly jobs at Bekesbourne	0.00% 0
Will help out for one am/pm at Brogdale	55.56% 10
Will help out a 2 or 3 sessions at Brogdale	38.89% 7
Love "meeting the public" - ask anytime	27.78% 5
Total Respondents: 18	

Question 10: Helping each other with beekeeping

### Did you take part in a mentor group last year? Would you like to (re)-join a local group this season, to take advantage of local knowledge and experience

Answered: 23 Skipped: 14



General observations:

would have liked to attend apiary meetings and the meeting of Canterbury Beekeepers but have been limited by my own timetable - i.e. meetings are often on Wednesdays and Apiary meetings are often on Saturdays and, unfortunately I am working in London at those times.

4/13/2015 11:02 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

training for novice bee keepers

4/12/2015 11:51 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Bit disappointed there's been no active communication about mentoring or other support as a complete beginner looking to start this spring. There has been no direct follow up from Julian's autumn course, eg opportunity to register interest in acquiring a colony from a member.

4/12/2015 1:03 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

I and my Folkestone/J11 Basic graduates welcome more local beginners! "club bulk purchases" - jars, foundation ... ? club trips (minibus?) to distant events

4/11/2015 8:11 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

As an associate member I have been most welcome and enjoyed the meetings that are worthwhile and most informative. Information is passed in a relaxed manor and never condescending. (Evan if interrupted by a well meaning character!) I thank you all for your endeavours and most informative mailing.

4/11/2015 8:07 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

---

I have found CBKA friendly and supportive. Thank you.

4/11/2015 6:28 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

---

well organised branch, lovely people. great to know there's someone there to help if needed, and I enjoy the meetings, safaris etc

4/11/2015 6:25 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

---

Loved mentor group support really helpful There's a lot to learn as a new beekeeper and appreciated all the support.

4/11/2015 12:50 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

---

I was selling/moving house and the mentor group never really seemed interested in functions. It ended up as Sue and me!

4/11/2015 12:16 PM [View respondent's answers](#)