



CANTERBURY BEEKEEPERS

A branch of Kent Beekeepers Association

EDITOR'S NOTES

The days are lengthening again, and with that the bees' willingness to raise brood will be rekindled. I see that that hazel catkins are already well on their way to flowering – the first significant source of pollen in late winter. So before there's much sealed brood in your box, it's time to get in with an oxalic acid treatment. This won't enhance the survival chances of the colony through winter, but it will give them a low level of varroa to contend with, as the colony grows in the Spring. Some folks like to trickle a syrup onto the seams of bees, others will apply as a fumigant. Either way, late December and early January is the most efficacious time to apply (as a single treatment).

Apiary Meeting

Good Beekeeping Husbandry

Whitefriars
Management
Suite

**Wednesday 10th
January**

7.30-9.30pm

Details on p2

Through the winter, the main thing is to keep the bees dry, out of the worst of the winds, and protected from opportunistic scavengers, be they mice, woodpeckers or bears (!). I've taken to insulating my national hives with sleeves of 100mm Celotex, as well as squares directly over the crown-board. Everyone frets about food for their bees, and it will never do harm to add a block of fondant, provided it's very close to the cluster.

Remember though that the food consumption doesn't really take off until late February or March, when brood numerically starts to exceed the number of adult bees. If you are worried at all about your overwintering bees, come along to our meeting on Wednesday, where we will share questions and answers on all aspects of husbandry, whether for Winter or Spring.

Adrian

CBKA Officers

Chairman: David
Cockburn

34 Whitstable Road
Canterbury CT2 8DQ
01227 457517

**Treasurer and
Membership:**

Joan McAllister
42 Canterbury Road
Lydden, Dover
CT15 7ER
07824 668042

Secretary & Newsletter Editor:

Adrian Davis
24 The Grove
Deal CT14 9TL
07816 975286

Committee Members

Julian Audsley
Simon Daniell
Magdalene Mei Halkes
Maggie McKenzie
Michael Roberts
Jan Soetaert

The easiest way to contact us is via email using the links above, but you can also use the contacts page on the website.

Contact [Newsletter Editor](#) to contribute articles

JANUARY 2018

DATES FOR DIARY: yearbook at <http://canterburybeekeepers.org.uk/calendar/cbka-list/>

Wednesday 10th January	Indoor meeting, Whitefriars Management Suite, CT1 2LF 7.30-9.30pm Members tips on good beekeeping husbandry
Saturday 13 th January	BBKA annual delegates meeting, Myton School, Myton Rd, Warwick CV34 6PJ.
Saturday 3 rd February	Closing date for applications for BBKA module examinations
Wednesday 7th February	Indoor meeting, Whitefriars Management Suite, CT1 2LF 7.30-9.30pm Branch queen rearing (led by Jan Soetaert)
Wednesday 7th March	Indoor meeting, Whitefriars Management Suite, CT1 2LF 7.30-9.30pm Kay Wreford (North Kent Seasonal Bee Inspector) on European Foul Brood management and prevention

You can get our calendar, either as a google calendar (cantbees@gmail.com), or for other programmes using this URL: <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/ical/cantbees%40gmail.com/public/basic.ics>

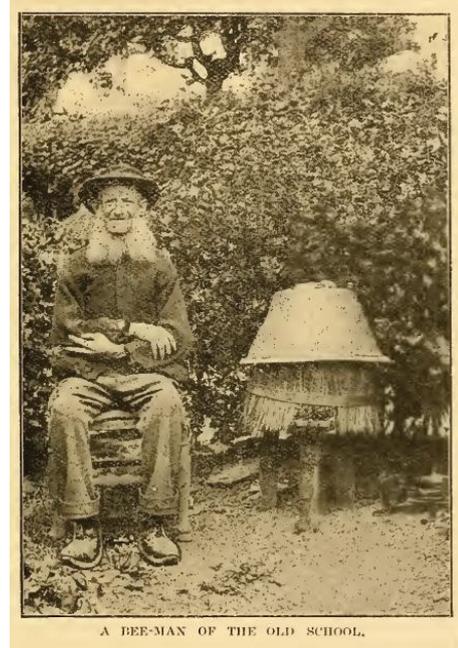
INDOOR MEETING, 10TH JANUARY

This meeting will be a general discussion about **beekeeping husbandry**, with questions and answers provided by branch members. To that end, we need some information from you.

1. Will you be attending the meeting on 10th January?
If you are coming, and have some left-over Xmas nibbles to share, bring them along!
2. Do you have any questions that you want to raise? (anonymously or not)

These don't have to be very complex questions. Here's a few examples, but we'd like to know what's actually on your mind. Send them to [Adrian](#), and we will organise them into a semi-structured discussion.

- I'm buying some new boxes/wax/frames in the winter sales. Would anyone like to combine an order with me?
- What should I be doing to make sure my bees make it into Spring?
- I'm getting bees for the first time this Spring. What equipment should I buy, and from where?
- How to I store/sterilise my frames and boxes over the winter?
- I've heard that everyone has treated their bees with oxalic acid over Xmas, but I haven't. Should I be worried?
- I want to make increase this year. Should I raise queens or do splits?
- I don't want to make increase this year, but need some ideas to help me prevent swarming



A BEE-MAN OF THE OLD SCHOOL.

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 SatNav 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 centre 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 yards along this corridor.



BRANCH NEWS

Subscriptions

I'm pleased to say that almost every member has now renewed their membership of KBKA/Canterbury for 2017-8. Thanks to all for using the electronic forms, and to Julian Audsley for reminding some of us to renew. I have now cross-correlated our membership records with our distribution lists, and if you receive this newsletter by email, then I've got it right! Soon I will tidy up access to the website, keeping some of the areas restricted just to *bona fide* members and friends.

Christmas Meeting

Magdalene Mei Halkes treated us all to a great supper at our Christmas party in early December, and this is the formal acknowledgement of our thanks to her. The company was as convivial as the food was tasty, and a good time was had by all. There are even a few photos posted on our Facebook page (See below).

Social Media

A quick reminder that as well as our website, we do have a facebook group for members to use. Here we will post events and other important news for members, but primarily it is a place where we can all interact. Importantly, it's a private group, so you can use it to ask anything about beekeeping, organise *ad hoc* catch-ups with others, post your favourite photos, and all those other things that we love to do on our phones. If you haven't joined the group yet, then search for Canterbury Beekeepers, or click on <https://www.facebook.com/groups/canterburybeekeepers/>

Winter Equipment Sales

Dougal Hendry has been perusing the various emails from equipment suppliers that always arrive after Christmas. Or, in the case of [Bee Equipment](#) in Bridge, almost daily emails since the beginning of December! January is definitely a good time to get frames, hive boxes and sundry bits.

Two particular things Dougal has noted are that (unusually) [Maisemore](#) are having a poly-hive sale (~20% off *inc* nucs and nuc parts) and that [Paynes](#) are offering Apideas for just under £20 each (15% off). As ever [Thorne's](#) have decent deals on frame 2nds.

Thorne still offer free shipping on a £100 order. Maisemore want a £200 order before free shipping kicks in. I think Paynes may be at the £150 mark - but I can't see any reference on their new website.

It is likely that Dougal and some chums will be putting in a combined order to Maisemore, but their Thorne and Paynes wishlists may not make the threshold - so there might be scope for others to join in.

If you have any equipment purchases planned in the next week or two, why not share them on the Facebook page, and see if you can save some P&P?

KENT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION



Sidcup KBKA invite the international expert:

Prof. Dr. Karl Crailsheim - University of Graz Austria

Sunday 14th January 2018

Orpington Village Hall
311, High St, Orpington, Kent. BR6 0NN.

Free parking (at Tesco at the War Memorial)

2pm start - £5.00 in advance £7.00 on the door incl. tea & cakes

Please pay by bank transfer to: Sidcup KBKA, Acc no. 51629569 - Sort code 60-19-19 providing your name as the reference.

"Honeybee Nutrition"

Prof Crailsheim teaches that the social organisation of honeybee colonies is every bit as complex as the way they collect, store and share their nutrients. In fact the colony has a "common stomach": they exchange food by the process of trophallaxis and even share their own products (royal jelly). He also considers that the reasons for colony losses in Europe include many nutritional aspects; therefore key facts about the quality and quantity of food for honeybee colonies will feature in this talk.

Prof. Dr. Crailsheim

Soon after finishing his PhD, Karl Crailsheim started to investigate the honeybee as a super-organism, focusing on behaviour, physiology and health. Concerned about the mounting losses of honeybee colonies, in recent years he has focused increasingly on the threats to honeybees, such as diseases, parasites, malnutrition, weather, climate and agrochemicals.

Recently retired from Graz University in Austria, his huge range of publications and research papers will continue to be cited in scientific journals around the world.

He is an excellent speaker, and this event will be first rate winter brain food for the region's beekeepers.

For more information go to <http://ruxleybeekeepers.org.uk/Site/Lectures.html>



BBKA NEWS



As you will have seen in the diary, next weekend, 13th January sees the annual delegates' meeting (ADM) of BBKA in Warwickshire. It promises all the usual fun of an ADM – lots of propositions from BKA around the country, and some unseemly squabbling between the volunteers who help to run the BBKA as an organisation of some 25,000 members. The fight this time will feature in the blue corner, Ian Homer, who together with his wife Ruth, took on the major undertaking that was the International Meeting of Young Beekeepers, in July 2017. In the red corner are some of the senior members of BBKA executive, who tried to look after the interests of BBKA during the run-up to the IMYB. And in the green corner will be some of the associations who look on with despair at the rather public fights that are going on.

Ian Homer recently sent along some documents that he will be attempting to present at the ADM. I offer them below for your interest, should you care.

There are also the BBKA ADM papers linked below. Some of the links will require you to log into the BBKA website with your membership details.

Fortunately, being so far from the throbbing gristle at the heart of the BBKA, not much of this will affect the beekeepers of East Kent. However, it is "our" membership money that is central to the arguments, so I have to bring it to your attention. BBKA is trying (double meaning intended).

[BBKA statement](#), July 2017

[ADM papers](#), January 2018

[ADM propositions](#), January 2018 (confirmation of suspension of Ian Homer as trustee are in the last 3 pages)

Ian Homer papers, December 2017

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/8qkrw9f5yp2y7x/Homer%201217%20-%20Rebuttal.pdf?dl=0>

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/23u1wc4wksjj67m/Homer%201217%20-%20Appendix%202.pdf?dl=0>

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/g3ptwj48pantqwn/Homer%201217%20-%20Appendix%201.pdf?dl=0>

Wisborough Green Division - West Sussex BKA

Beekeeping Course

Suitable for Beginners, Improvers and Non - Beekeepers

At:- Rudgwick Village Hall, Guildford Road, Bucks Green, West Sussex. RH12 3JJ.

Sat 3rd March 2018. Assemble from 9.00 for 9.30-5.00 p.m. approx

The course is suitable for those who wish to discover what is involved in keeping bees. It is also suitable for those who have already started keeping bees, but have little experience. This course is based on the knowledge gained from over 50 years beekeeping experience, not just repeating from books.

Subjects covered include:-

How and where to learn about bees	Obtaining bees and equipment
Honey bees and other insects they are confused with	Where to site hives
How bees live naturally and how we manage them	Protective clothing
What bees collect - nectar, pollen, propolis, water	Basic Colony Management
How bees process honey and pollen	Caring for a colony of bees
What happens in a beehive and where	Why and how bees swarm
The 3 castes - queen, drones, workers	Dealing with the honey crop
How to start beekeeping	The beekeeping year - tasks to perform
Bee hive types - how to choose and why	Supplementary feeding
Essential and useful equipment	The colony in winter

Course fee £45. Second and subsequent attendees booked together £40*. Under 16 with a paying adult £15*. Price is per head to include lunch, refreshments, and our own booklet "Basic Beekeeping". Please note: Those marked * will not receive "Basic Beekeeping". Additional copies available on the day at £5. For existing, paid-up WGBKA members the fee is reduced to £35.

Enquiries:- Roger Patterson. roger-patterson@btconnect.com 01403 790 637 or 07976 306 492

Booking:- Gordon Allan, Stone House, High Street, Petworth, West Sussex, GU28 0AU. 01798 343 470, petworthgordon@btopenworld.com preferably using the booking form on the website.

Payment by:- Cheque, Bank transfer or cash. See Booking Form for details.

Website www.wgbka.org.uk

Prepare yourself for a new hobby – **now**

Rudgwick Village Hall is off Guildford Road, Bucks Green, at the top end of the King George V playing field. This is about halfway between the roads to The Haven and Loxwood. There is good signage and car parking.

More information: http://www.wgbka.org.uk/Beginners_Day.html