



# CANTERBURY BEEKEEPERS

A branch of Kent Beekeepers Association

## EDITOR'S NOTES

With crocuses and snowdrops coming into flower, we can be optimistic about the coming season.

Perhaps you've already stocked up your bee-shed with winter bargains, but if not, BeeTradEx and the BBKA Spring convention both offer good opportunities to claim some discounts on new equipment.

You'll see at the back of this newsletter that BBwear have a 25% off offer on their protective clothing.

In Canterbury branch committee meetings, we have drawn up a diary for the year, at least in terms of apiary and winter meetings, and have established the backbone of our "meet the public" events where we can share our passion for beekeeping (and sell a bit of honey). The Spring calendar can be found on

p2, and you can also pick it up on your smartphone.

Our upcoming branch meetings are opportunities to discuss two key elements of beekeeping – raising new

queens and dealing with Foulbrood disease. 2017 was the first year that the branch ran a coordinated effort to raise new queens, in part to improve the behaviour of our bees in Bekesbourne, but also because the techniques of queen raising are

useful husbandry skills that makes you think a little deeper about the biology of bees.

We hope there will also be a good turnout for our March meeting, as we have Kay Wreford, one of the Seasonal bee inspectors for Kent, and a wise and experienced beekeeper, who can tell us about the symptoms of European foulbrood, but also how to minimise your chances of an apiary infection. Adrian

Apiary Meeting

### Branch Queen Rearing

Whitefriars Management Suite

**Wednesday 7th February**

7.30-9.30pm

Details on p2

### CBKA Officers

Chairman: David Cockburn

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Canterbury CT2 8DQ  
01227 457517

Treasurer and Membership:

Joan McAllister  
42 Canterbury Road  
Lydden, Dover  
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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

**FEBRUARY 2018**

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

Sat February 03	complete applications for BBKA module examinations. For those interested in taking a BBKA module examination, forms must be submitted by 10 Feb
<b>Wed February 07</b>	<b>branch indoor meeting. Branch queen rearing (led by Jan Soetaert)</b> <b>Whitefriars Management Suite Canterbury CT1 2TF</b>
Wed February 21	complete application for practical examinations
Sat March 03	Bee TradEx <a href="http://www.beetradex.co.uk/">http://www.beetradex.co.uk/</a> Stoneleigh Park, Stoneleigh, Kenilworth CV8 2LA
<b>Wed March 07</b>	<b>branch indoor meeting with Kay Wreford (North Kent Seasonal Bee Inspector)</b> <b>on European Foul Brood management and prevention</b> <b>Whitefriars Management Suite Canterbury CT1 2TF</b>
Fri March 23	Complete applications for Bee Health Certificate
Sat March 24	BBKA modules examination day
Tue March 27	Committee meeting The Old Gate Inn, 162-164 New Dover Rd, Canterbury CT1 3EL
<b>Sat April 07</b>	<b>Apiary meeting, Bekesbourne apiary (tbc)</b>
Fri April 13	BBKA Spring Convention Harper Adams University, Newport, TF10 8NB
Wed April 18	Julian's beginner beekeeping course (1) this course is fully booked – Barham Village Hall Valley Road Barham CT4 6NX
Thu April 19	Julian's beginner beekeeping course (2) this course is fully booked – Barham Village Hall Valley Road Barham CT4 6NX
<b>Sat May 05</b>	<b>Branch Spring Safari</b>
Tue May 22	Committee meeting The Old Gate Inn, 162-164 New Dover Rd, Canterbury CT1 3EL
<b>Sat June 02</b>	<b>Branch apiary meeting</b>
Sun June 10	Brogdale Strawberry Fair

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

## INDOOR MEETING, 7<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

This meeting will be a general discussion about **Queen Rearing**. The intention is to review last year's branch queen rearing efforts, look at the successes and challenges, and get an idea for how we will approach Queen rearing in 2018.

## DIRECTIONS

Whitefriars Conference room Canterbury

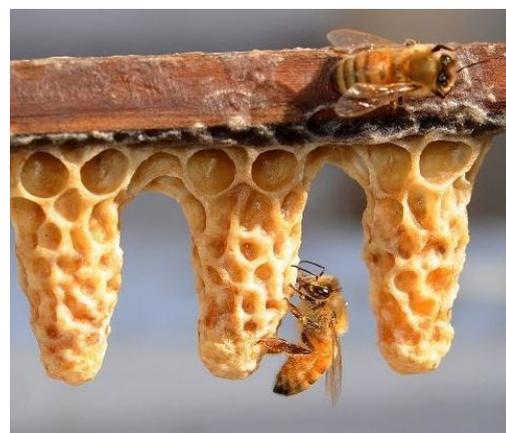
Free parking in the multi-storey car park. Collect your ticket and this will be processed during the meeting. Park on the 1st floor on the left and take the corridor down to the management suite at the bottom of the corridor on the left. Please car share if you can, since Whitefriars have to pay the 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

### Apiary Management

We are hoping to find a few members who can take a lead in managing the branch's apiary in Bekesbourne (Palmsted Wood). Last year we tried to do this on a rotating basis; in such ways a lot of information gets lost in the handover from person to person. Perhaps this year there are a few people who can make an on-going commitment to attend the apiary regularly. Whilst it would be great if some of our most experienced beekeepers can help out, what we really need is continuity. Our ideal apiary team would be 2-3 people who can get to Bekesbourne regularly through the season. If by installing a few of your own hives there, that would help you to commit, that would be fine. If you are willing to help out, please let [David](#) or [Adrian](#) know.

### Swarms 2018

For those of you interested in collecting swarms, or receiving the same to start an apiary, please look out for messages soon about how to register your interest. Swarm collection is managed mostly through the BBKA swarm removal pages. Last year we got a message in early February to update members' details on these pages, but as I write this, it looks like the BBKA haven't yet updated their pages just yet. For those of you hoping to acquire a swarm, over the next few weeks I will update the Canterbury Beekeepers webpages to collect the names and contact details of people who would like to receive a swarm.

### Basic Certificate in beekeeping husbandry

For those of you who have been keeping bees for a season or two, why not consider putting yourself forward to be assessed for the Basic Certificate? Many of our members do this after 2-3 years beekeeping; the syllabus is not unduly onerous to study, and the assessment takes place in a local apiary with experienced beekeepers from other branches in Kent. Julian and Adrian will assist by running a few sessions to give some coaching to help your preparation. If you've previously attended Julian's introductory course, you will find that most of the requirements are reminders of things you've already learnt, with the emphasis on demonstration of practical knowledge in

beekeeping. The assessment typically takes place in May-July, so if you are interested, contact [Julian](#), so he can make arrangements to support your preparations.

### Other Studying Opportunities

For those of you who are interested in more formal study, a quick reminder that if you wish to enter for the written examinations that are held on 24<sup>th</sup> March, then you should hurry up to submit your application forms – they should be with BBKA by 10<sup>th</sup> February. If you've already been successful in the Basic certificate, then there are a number of other practical assessments that you might consider, for which application forms need to be submitted by 28<sup>th</sup> February: General Certificate in Beekeeping Husbandry, Bee Breeding Certificate and Advanced Certificate in Beekeeping Husbandry. The Bee Breeding Certificate is new for 2018, and you can find out more about all these assessments at [this link](#).

### Mentor and Neighbourhood groups

We appreciate that not everyone is motivated by tests and exams, but we hope everyone is interested to learn more about being a good beekeeper.

We always recommend that folks attend as many apiary meetings as possible, to see bees in different hives and situations, and also watch how people approach the management of bees. To that end, we promote "Neighbourhood groups", which is simply a way for branch members who are geographically close to each other can get together in a mutually supportive way. We currently have groups in Canterbury Central, Folkestone J11, Womenswold and Deal. This year we want to emphasise the mentorship of new beekeepers, and so will be asking those of you with a few years' experience to offer your help as a mentor for 2018.

The way you do this is up to you, but the idea is to provide a first port of call for advice and support. Most of the beginners will not have bees at the start so will need to get experience handling bees and help in getting bees. Once keeping their own bees most help will probably be just phone or email support with occasional visits, but this will be up to you. Look out for specific emails inviting you to be a mentor.

## KENT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION



KBKA council have been having somewhat heated discussion with the Yalding branch of KBKA, about membership fees. Yalding would like KBKA to separate membership fees out, so that the BeeCraft element is optional for all membership classes. It's currently the view of Canterbury committee that whilst Yalding have raised a perfectly legitimate topic for debate, Yalding's tactics for "persuading" the rest of KBKA that their strongly held views must be enacted instantaneously are not acceptable. At the moment, because many Yalding members have under-paid their membership fees, the KBKA treasurer has not renewed their subscriptions, or their Bee Disease Insurance.

It's all rather unfortunate, and hopefully both Yalding and the KBKA Council will be able to find a way to navigate themselves out of the dispute.



## BBKA NEWS

New website design – new sign up

Thank you for your patience during this time of transition.

Our new site requires your details to be entered afresh, so please [click here](#) the first time you use it.

Also, if you have any problems please email [Claire.hartry@bbka.org.uk](mailto:Claire.hartry@bbka.org.uk) or call the office on 02476 698 620





## BBKA NEWS

### New Link Trustee

Dear members of Dover, Thanet, Kent, Medway and Sussex BKAs,

I am pleased to announce that I have recently been elected to the Board of Trustees of BBKA and I am now your Link Trustee. In addition, I am currently the Chair of the Examinations Board and also responsible for Research Funding. If there are any matters you have any questions on in these areas please don't hesitate to contact me. I would welcome attending any meetings that you have if you think it would be relevant and I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible during the coming year.

Your new Chairman, Margaret Wilson and President, Margaret Murdin are both enthusiastic and hard working. They have the interests of BBKA at heart and have lots of ideas to take us forward. I hope that you will support BBKA in the various ventures planned. I attach the latest Chairman's letter which gives a good update on current happenings. Please will you ensure that this letter is circulated as widely as possible to members (via your branches if you have them). These letters are designed to keep members as informed as possible on current activities and as a back up to BBKA News.

With kind regards,

Pam Hunter

### Positive Thinking January 2018

Dear Members,

We are into a new year with new Trustees and we are all looking forward to the coming years and its never-ending challenges.

#### Link Trustees

First of all we have some changes with the relationship between the Link associations and the Link Trustees, these will be shown on the new Web Site and I am sure that your own Link Trustee will also make contact.

**The New All Risks Insurance** cover is now in place with Bucklands Harvester hosting a website so that you can subscribe directly with them, it sounds very good, at £12 a year for cover of £5,000 of

equipment including bees, if you have buildings there is a sliding scale so you can see exactly what is covered for the various premiums.

**The Bees in the Curriculum** is on target to be ready for the spring convention, you would not believe the effort and the various contributions from Beekeepers of all standings. I was able to go through the printed matter and it is certainly excellent from the descriptions to the photographs, the original one was good, but this one is in a different league. It will be available on a memory stick for those who want a copy and it is designed to go into schools so it is part of the teaching programme.

**Schools again.** Another venture which is nearing completion is the School Pack, designed for beekeepers who visit schools and spread the word, last week my car was completely full of bags and boxes of materials for the haversacks, Sue Webster has designed these and she will be making sure that everything is assembled in time for Harper Adams.

**We have a new member of staff** in the Office, Michelle Walsh joined the team last week and her role is to support Jacqueline in the account section and also to help in the main office when things become hectic, which they often do. This appointment is because **Anna Chapman** who has been looking after the accounts for the BBKA will be leaving to have her baby, I hope you all join me in wishing her well in the future, I am sure she will make an excellent mother and will thoroughly enjoy being home with her family.

The bookings for the **Spring Convention** are coming in thick and fast, the Queen Rearing course was sold out on the first day, so if you want to join a workshop, please apply sooner rather than later.

Talks have started with the **Scout Association**. This contact is the direct result of our specific request to see if we could encourage them to reintroduce their Beekeeping Badge. The Scouts are very keen to work with the BBKA but their badge programme has evolved. They now offer an Environmental Protection Badge for which beekeeping could be a qualifying activity.





The Scouts would be keen to develop a relationship which provides a programme that;

- \* delivers an activity in which beekeeping could be demonstrated to a whole group
- \* provides an opportunity for those who develop a particular interest in beekeeping to be supported in to the activity

We will also work with the Scouts to see how the BBKA's existing series of qualifications could support scouts who wish to work towards their Environmental Conservation badge. The Scout Association is the leading youth activity organisation.

**The information below is as a result of initiating a programme with schools to discover how best to help get children interested in bees whilst they are still of a school age. Howard Towl joined us last year and here is a copy of his report. I am sure you will find this very interesting. Read on:**

### Bees in schools, by Howard Towl

The British Beekeepers' Association (BBKA) exists to promote beekeeping and to advance education about bees in the environment. To help meet these aims, it is consulting with schools to discover how best to support them.

The schools' consultation is moving on apace with over one-hundred having now responded. The National Beekeeping Centre in Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire is receiving an average of three enquires each day from schools considering keeping honeybees.

The BBKA started its consultation by speaking with known beekeeping schools. The schools have been explaining how they use bees in the education and development of their young people.

Some schools have found imaginative ways of linking bees to the curriculum and others prefer an extra-curricular approach. All of them said how their bees have become woven into the fabric of school life.

Matthew Jessop, head of Crosthwaite CE School in Cumbria explained the extent of involvement

at his school "several teachers attended training and one of the governors is a beekeeper. We have excellent support from Cumbria Beekeepers' Association and the children are involved in all aspects including the honey harvest and frame-making".

The most surprising finding from the study perhaps is the significant body of evidence emerging on how beekeeping can benefit young people with challenging behaviours or those with special educational needs.

The project officer for the schools' consultation, Howard Towl said "I was amazed to hear just how much beekeeping can help. I've already met some really inspiring young people who have used the skills they've learnt in beekeeping to help them in their everyday lives".

This came as no surprise to Jacqui Cottam, chair of governors at Heron Hill School in Kendal who said that it was a local beekeeper who helped her through her difficult schooling. "Now I keep bees at the school and support older children at other schools. With the help of our local bee inspector Julie Piggott, we're prioritising those kids who sometimes need extra help"

THE BBKA is developing a project to get more schools interested in beekeeping. "This might be running an apiary themselves or sharing one with other schools or visiting the National Beekeeping Centre near Kenilworth or an apiary near their school". Explained Margaret Murdin, President of the British Beekeepers' Association. "We want to hear from schools to help us decide the shape of our future project".

The average age of a UK beekeeper is somewhere near retirement age and honeybees face an ever-increasing range of threats including pollution, pesticides, disease and loss of habitat. The BBKA believes that the best hope for the future lies with our young people. "We also know that bees and beekeeping offer an exciting range of educational opportunities for schools".

Markus Kling at Ardingly College near Haywards Heath has run a beekeeping club for there for over ten years. He has helped several students through the basic exam. Markus is one of many teachers who would like to see the BBKA develop better materials to support teaching.

Best wishes  
The Trustees



# BBwear

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02/02/2018

Dear Chairman/Secretary,

At BBwear there are some big changes afoot with our range of clothing. Because of this we are in a position to offer extra discount to associations until February 28th.

Your usual discount to members is 20%, but until the end of the month we are offering you 25% off all our suits.

Please remind your members that we need emailed confirmation from the Secretary or Chairman that they are paid up association members in order to benefit from our discount.

We wish you success with your courses this spring. If you need any catalogues for your members, please let us know and we will get some sent out to you.

Kind regards

The BBwear Team

01872 562731 - [www.bbwear.co.uk](http://www.bbwear.co.uk) - [shop@bbwear.co.uk](mailto:shop@bbwear.co.uk)

BBwear, Unit NP1  
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TR4 9AN



Follow us on Facebook and  
Twitter for offers  
Join us every 2 weeks @HiveHour on  
Twitter to chat about bees!

## ROYAL THREE COUNTIES SHOW: 15-17 JUNE 2018

Please find attached the Bees and Honey Show schedules for the Royal Three Counties Show which will be hosted at the Three Counties Showground on the 15-17th June 2018. The event continues to be one of the premier shows in the country with around 4,500 livestock entries 3,000 equine entries and a customer base of around 90,000 over three days.

There are two schedules (one regular and one children's version) with multiple sections open to entries from across the UK as well as specialist classes for exhibitors within the three counties of Herefordshire, Gloucestershire and Worcestershire.

Please note that the closing date for applications is the 15th May 2018 and if you have any further queries please direct them to Liz Voyce (Organiser) via 07717708860.

If you could circulate these schedules to the members of your club it would be greatly appreciated. For further information please visit the Three Counties website:

<https://www.royalthreecounties.co.uk/compete/>

Many Thanks,

Tessa Warby  
T 01684 584917

<http://threecounties.co.uk>



## ROYAL THREE COUNTIES SHOW

### BEES & HONEY SCHEDULE

15-17 June 2018

**Entries close on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2018.**

No late entries accepted.

**Judge: Mr P Guthrie (Classes B1-B9 and Classes B13- B30)**

**Judge: Mrs C Cracknell (Class B10-B12 – judged to a WI standard)**

#### ALL ENTRIES TO BE SENT TO

Bees and Honey Section, Royal Three Counties Show,

The Showground, Malvern, Worcestershire WR13 6NW.

Tel (01684) 584917 Fax (01684) 584910

For any queries regarding the schedule contact Elizabeth Voyce, Organiser of Bees and Honey Section (mobile 07717708860)

