



Canterbury Beekeepers

Branch of the KENT BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION
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NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2011

NEXT MEETING –Wed 2nd February - Preparations for the new season

7.30 to 9.30 Stelling Minnis Village Hall CT4 6AG

We hope you will all be able to join us for the first meeting of 2011. We will be covering all those activities necessary over the next two months to ensure our colonies survive and we are prepared for the year ahead covering Feeding, Healthy bees, Swarm preparation, Equipment etc.

Welcome to the New Year. I am please we have some new faces on the committee and new members.

Membership List for Canterbury Beekeepers (attached)

This consists of all those who have given permission through the membership form to have their details released. However since this is the first time we have done this I want to be cautious. The idea is to encourage contact between members, particularly where you live close to one another. I don't want that to be too intrusive so have used email as the main first contact.

However if the details are wrong or you want them changed or you do not want to be included please let me know. Similarly if you are not on the list but would like to be please tell me.

I would be very interested to hear if you find this is useful.

NBU Annual report 2010 for the South East (attached)

Key items to catch my eye. 14 beekeepers had European Foul brood in their apiaries – 15 apiaries and 24 colonies infected. In the East Kent Area there were two locations on the edge of our area with instances. This was in the Ordnance survey square TQ94 described as West Ashford which is centered on Little Chart and includes Charing and TR03 which is centered on Bilsington and includes Ashford's apiary at Chessman's Green.

No colonies were found infected by American Foul Brood or exotic pests in the South East.

Honey Survey 2010 (attached)

This report is based on the minority of beekeepers who make a return to the Regional Bee Inspector Alan Byham last year. The average yield per colony was 44lb and the average direct price was £4.31.

Apiary and location of winter meetings

This year we are going to try to find a location for a branch teaching apiary, reasonably close to Canterbury - any suggestions please let me know. Consideration should include access, security and parking.

Secondly we want to improve access to the winter meetings by choosing a location closer to Canterbury and with better winter access than Stelling Minnis. Again any suggestions please let me know.

APIARY NOTES



Please continue to check that hives have not been damaged and that mouse guards are still in place. Do check levels of food stored since I have noticed a couple of my hives are getting a little light. Feeding options are candy/fondant or some people use a kilo bag of sugar with a 2cm hole made in one side water added until all moistened and then inverted over the hole in the coverboard. Once you start feeding you should continue to do so. In emergency feed sugar syrup either in a frame feeder or directly into an empty comb.

It's not too late to treat with oxalic acid given the cold weather we've been having. Check the natural fall. Over 2 a day will mean some action will be required in the Spring.

Julian

Notices

Foundation

I am planning to visit Thorne's in Windsor during February (prices go up in March) to collect my foundation for the year. If anyone also requires some foundation, I am happy to collect it for them. Please give me a call/email on 01304 812881 or vincentwright@ntlworld.com with your order, including number of sheet at each frame size and wired/unwired. Please can you let me know by Thur the 3rd February.

Vincent Wright

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Canterbury Beekeepers – Autumn/Winter Meetings

Wednesday evenings – Stelling Minnis Village Hall Bossingham Road CT4 6AG – 7.30 pm

2 nd February	Preparation for the New Season
March meeting	Commercial Beekeeping date to be confirmed
2 nd April 2.30	First spring inspection Joan and Julian's apiary
14 th May	Distributed local apiary meetings – details in next newsletter
4 th June	Vincent's apiary