



Canterbury Beekeepers

Branch of the
KENT BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION
www.cantbees.freeuk.com

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NEWSLETTER

MAY 2011

NEXT MEETING – Sat 14th May - 2.30 Meetings in your local area

There are 5 smaller local meetings to choose from. Please choose the nearest location from the list below. It would really help the hosts if you can give them a ring and let them know your are coming. If you need to have clothing then you must ring them and let them know your size since we will need to distribute clothing between the different locations.

Location	Host	Meeting Place all at 2.30pm Sat 14 th May	Contact phone numbers
Canterbury North	David Cockburn	34 Whitstable Rd Canterbury CT2 8DQ	01227 457517 07711 611930
Canterbury South	Stuart Andrews	19, Nackington Road, Canterbury, CT1 3NU	01227 767221 07973 690428
Deal	Adrian Davis	24 The Grove, Deal CT14 9TL	01304 366141 07816 975286
Denton	Joan McAllister	Blakeney House Nurseries, Ager Lane, Denton, Canterbury CT4 6NP	07824 668042
Littlebourne	Chris Bristow Colin Higenbottam	Littlebourne Allotments: Address link As you drive up Church Road from Nargate Street and past Jubilee Road on your left, you will see about 50m along a metal gate on the left. Please enter here and walk along to plot 21 on your left. We will meet at the rear of the plot.	07872 928138

APRIL MEETING REPORT

At the first apiary meeting of the year Joan and Julian opened their hives. The bees were well behaved - Julian demonstrated a shook swarm and a Bailey comb change with the help of those present. In the shook swarm the queen was not found and so all bees were shaken into the new box, not the best thing to do because a queen in full lay is delicate but on this occasion he got away with it. One frame of young eggs and larvae was placed in the brood chamber before leaving to ensure that if any damage had been done to the queen they could raise a new queen however three days later there were no queen cells. This will also serve as a varroa trap if removed when fully sealed. As an update both the Bailey Change and the shook swarm have fully drawn out the new comb. The queen in the bailey comb change was placed above queen excluder after one week when the comb on one frame had been drawn out sufficiently for her to lay in. Supers have now been added.

WEBSITE

In the month since we launched the new site, 26 people have registered, which is a great start, being about one-third of the total CBKA membership. The members' forum has got off to a good start, with over 50 posts on 12 different topics, ranging from swarm lures to plastic frame feeders. The forum is only as good as the questions posed, so please login and participate.

Here are a few tips to help you get the most out of the site. If you want to **change your password**, then you can change this easily. In the "Passwords etc" box shown on the home page, click "site admin". On the site admin page, click "profile", and scroll down to the new password fields. Don't forget to click the "update profile" button, before you leave the page.

On the forum, you can post pictures, as well as words. You can also **save a photo** (known as an avatar), so that people more easily recognise you. To do this, navigate to the Forum page. Towards the top of that page is a button labelled "profile". Click that, and then choose "Select your Avatar". Scroll to "upload an avatar", and click on the browse button to upload an image from your PC. Don't forget to click the "update profile" button before you finish. If you have photos you'd like to show other people, you can attach them to a forum post, or email them to Adrian Davis, and I can put them in the website's gallery.

If you haven't signed up yet, then navigate to <http://canterburybeekeepers.org.uk/>, and register to join in the discussions! And if you are stuck, or have ideas to improve the site, you can send me an email from the "[contact us](#)" page.

APIARY NOTES



Well the weather has been kind to us and strong colonies are filling up the supers and weaker colonies are catching up by building brood. In my area the oil seed rape is coming to an end. You can extract rape honey when two thirds capped providing no droplets of honey fall when shaken on the side. You can always leave runny honey in the hive. If there is any sign of haziness remove quickly. It is often better to shake bees off comb rather than wait overnight for a clearer board to work when the honey will cool down.

Some of you are having problems with swarm after carrying out an artificial swarm. Remember that when the swarming urge is strong they may continue to raise queen cells on young larvae if available even after splitting therefore 3 days after splitting go through both boxes including the one with the queen if you used a frame of eggs and brood and remove any new queen cells.

Julian
Adrian

HONEY EXTRACTOR

The Branch has a stainless steel honey extractor which is available to members at a charge of £5 for each period of hire- max two days. To book the extractor for collection, please contact Stuart on 01227 767221 and he will advise you of the location.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Canterbury	Meetings
14 th May	Distributed local apiary meetings – details in later newsletter
4 th June	Vincent's apiary Ash
2 nd July	Social Outing