



Canterbury Beekeepers

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

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NEWSLETTER

September 2011

These are the details for the tour. This is an opportunity to see Michael Cooper, our seasonal bee inspector, at work. The tour is split into a morning and afternoon session. It might work best for numbers if you were to choose which to join but this is up to you and if you want to come to just one or stay with us for the whole day this is up to you. Bear in mind that some locations cannot hold more than a few people in making your decision.

Make sure your clothing has been washed and please bring new thin nitrile gloves/marigolds – no handling of bees with leather gloves. The location of any diseases found are confidential and not to be released to third parties.

Please try to share cars during the tour. There will be a shared lunch.

Phone contact for the day 0776 183 9119

| Start time | Host | Address | Hives | Details |
|------------|--|---|------------|---|
| 10.00 am | Maggie McKenzie | Well Cottage Womenswold CT4 6HE | 1 hive | On the right hand side just before church. |
| 11.15 am | Chris Bailes and Jenny Cotterill | 94 Old Dover Road, Canterbury CT1 3PF | 2 hives | Entrance and parking in Ethlebert Road. Very limited space for viewing hives |
| 12.30 am | Philip & Patricia Webb | 21 Deansway Avenue Sturry CT2 0NL | 1 hive | Lunch stop There will be some nibbles but please bring a small something to share. This is the point to leave or join the tour. |
| 2.15 pm | William Money | 3 Glenbervie Drive, Beltinge, Herne Bay CT6 6QL | 2 hives | Limited space for viewing. |
| 3.45 pm | Alison West | Kemsdale Hernhill, Faversham ME13 9JP | 3 hives | |
| 5.15 pm | Mike & Karen Turner | 122 Rough Common Rd Canterbury | 1 Hive | Limited space to view hive. Finish tour with refreshments and chat. |

My apologies to those people I was unable to fit into the tour.

APIARY NOTES



Most of you will now have taken your honey off and started varroa treatment, if necessary. A warning here. I have recently been shown a frame of brood from which all the bees hatching had shrunken and deformed wings caused by a virus. There were lots of varroa present. This same colony had previously been strong and produced lots of honey. The most likely cause is the robbing of a failing colony, possibly in the wild. Every trip the bees make can then bring back more varroa.

After treatment we then need to assess stores for the winter. You are looking for about 20kg (say 40lb) of stores. A National brood frame holds 5lb, a super frame holds 3lb, Commercial, Langstroth and 14x12 brood frames hold about 6-7lb.

Brogdale Cider and Apple Festivals 24th & 25th September and 22 & 23rd October

We will have a stall to sell our honey and other produce at Brogdale and I will again be giving bee talks. We need volunteers to man the stall. Last time there was a lot of interest from the public and we sold lots of our honey so make sure you get some ready. We also need to get a banner designed and made and develop some good leaflets for people. If you want advice about preparing and labelling honey for sale do ask. It's fairly straightforward but the starting point is to ensure your honey is clean through straining when you extract.

If you want to help prepare and/or man the stall do get in touch.

National Honey Show

27th October - 29th October 2011

International classes & beekeepers' lecture convention St George's College, Weybridge, Surrey KT15 2QS. See the Kent Newsletter attached for more details.

Thanet Beekeepers are running a series of talks on beekeeping and I attach the leaflet.

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.

Honey Survey for Alan Byham Regional Bee Inspector. I will shortly forward this survey for you to complete. It relies on you keeping accurate records of the honey you remove, the prices you sell honey for and the number of hives you have. After collection all data remains anonymous.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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|-------------------------|---|
| Wed 5 th Oct | 1st indoor meeting |
| Wed 2 nd Nov | Canterbury AGM and short films. |
| Sun 6 th Nov | Kent BKA Lectures Two speakers, Bookstall and equipment stand at Lenham |
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