



Canterbury Beekeepers

Branch of the
KENT BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION
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NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2012

NEXT MEETING – Wed 8th Feb - Swarm Control by Nick Withers A seasonal bee inspector His talk should be of great interest to everyone who wants to improve their bee management skills.

7.30 -9.30 Whitefriars Conference room Canterbury.

Parking will be free in the multi-storey car park so collect your ticket as normal and this will be processed during the meeting. Park on the 1st floor on the left and take the double doors to a corridor down to the management suite at the bottom of the corridor on the left.

By car Set Sat Nav 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

Between the Bus Station and Whitefriars center 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 yds along this corridor.

Apiary visits during the summer

If you would like to offer your apiary for a visit during the summer we would be pleased to hear from you. If you only have one or two hives that is still OK because we can combine visits to more than one apiary. Contact Julian

Security warning

Vincent Wright who has an apiary at Ash last had two 6ft hive stands go missing. One had a colony on it and this was left abandoned on its side and will probably be lost. It looks as though someone – possibly not a beekeeper - thought they would steal them for some other purpose. However if you see or hear anything let me know. The top bars of the stand were constructed from grooved decking timber and they stood about 12" high. This just highlights the reality that opportunistic thieves will take anything. Brand your equipment!

Bee Courses at Science Park in Sittingbourne – leaflet attached 4th March

We are supporting an initiative to run courses for those with at least a couple of years' experience of keeping bees. They are run at the very well-equipped centre in the Science Park. The first one is on the Sun 4th March and is already nearly full so don't delay. There is an email you can use.

APIARY NOTES



The warm weather is over for now but has resulted in a very high use of stores. Do please check your hives by hefting or quickly peeking in the top when the temperature is over 8 deg. Feed with any honey stores held back, purchased fondant or candy made up. Sugar syrup can be used, ideally with thymol in it to prevent fermentation. In emergency it is better to feed than not and if there are no stores at all syrup can even be poured into empty frames on their sides and then inserted. The combs will hold the sugar syrup. Sometimes in very cold weather the cluster can get isolated from the stores and when checking if there are empty frames between the cluster and the stores – say at the sides – you can move them to be adjacent to the cluster. However in February some beekeepers do start

trickle feeding with a perforated inverted honey jar of syrup to stimulate the Queen to lay in time to get a good Oil seed rape harvest.

If you are unfortunate to lose a colony I or Adrian would be happy to look at samples of bees that remain to check for nosema. Put at least 30 bees in an envelope and post or give to us. Unfortunately if bees die of starvation the signs are all too obvious. Bees dead in a cluster heads in the cells to get the last remnants of honey.

Julian

Whitefriars Apiary

A new display board will be going up in the centre on beekeeping produced by both Whitefriars and ourselves. We are organising planters to go on the roof to act as a windbreak and to make it more attractive.

If you have spare bee friendly plants we'd be happy to give them a home so let us know.

We are ordering a couple of Thornes basic beekeeping hives and David Coburn is inviting anyone who hasn't put a hive together before to assist him at his home in Canterbury. Drop me an email if you'd like to take part. This will be done in two small workshop sessions.

Support for your beekeeping

As I mentioned in my last newsletter, whether you do or do not have bees, I will be trying to match up those needing a helping hand or more experience with practising beekeepers. To make this easier to organise I will shortly be sending round an email to collect the information I need. But don't feel you need to wait. I will be happy to take details from those wishing to participate.

Apiary Site Available in Canterbury for a few hives

This is small farm in Whitehall Road, Canterbury CT2 8NL if interested let me know and I will put you in contact.

Beekeeping Course

Next Introductory Bee course starts at Barham on the Tuesday 21st February 7.30. There are still a few vacancies so I would be pleased if you would let anyone interested know about it.

Julian Audsley

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Canterbury Beekeepers – Autumn/Winter Meetings

Wednesday evenings – Whitefriars management centre Canterbury – 7.30 pm

Wed 7 th Mar	Talk on the short haired bumblebee re-introduction project Dr Nikki Gamman
Sat 7 th April 2.30	First apiary meeting