



CANTERBURY BEEKEEPERS



A branch of Kent Beekeepers Association

EDITOR'S NOTES

We had a nice apiary meeting in the peaceful surroundings of an orchard in Preston, courtesy of Richard and Caroline Charnock in July. Caroline and Richard have generously made their bees available, having also

played host to a visit by the Young Farmers, as well as CBKA members undertaking practicing for the BBKA basic certificate in beekeeping.

I'm very pleased to report that 9 members passed their "Basic" –Mike

and Karen Turner, Rebecca Waite, Jenny Cotterill, Chris Bristow, Maggie MacKenzie, Michael Roberts and David Cockburn. In addition, Dougal Hendrie also passed his "basic" slightly earlier, working in a group from DDBKA. Well done all! We are also crossing our fingers for Julian Audsley, who recently was assessed for the General

Husbandry Certificate, the next level of practical beekeeping achievement.

The season rushes by remarkably quickly, particularly as it started so late this year. We will walk through the practicalities of honey extraction (and possibly wax preparation) at

Next Meeting
BREDLANDS LANE
WESTBERE
With a focus on
honey extraction

**Sat 3rd August, 2.30-
4.30pm**

Joining instructions
– see page 2

this month's meeting. This should also be a prompt for folk to start thinking about setting aside some time to prepare for a honey show: the Dover, Thanet, and National Honey Shows are all less than 3 months away. Sue

Clapson has showed us all the way – later in this newsletter is a report of her success at the recent Kent County Show. Let's all follow her example, and support the local and/or national events!

We're still keen to get more people involved in our meet the public events, so look out for more emails from Maggie and Jenny this month

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The easiest way to contact us is via the website, but you can also e-mail

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Contact Newsletter editor to contribute articles

AUGUST 2013

A newsletter for friends and members of Canterbury BKA

DATES FOR DIARY

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 3 rd August 2013 | Apiary inspection and honey extraction discussion, Westbere |
| 17 August 2013 | Bee Day at Whitefriars |
| 24-25 August 2013 | Brogdale Cider Festival |
| 26 August 2013 | Kent Festival of Bees, Highland Court Farm, Bridge |
| 7 September 2013 (tbc) | Last apiary meeting of the season |
| 21 September 2013 | Bee Day at Whitefriars |
| 23 September 2013 | Applications for BBKA modules 1,2,3,5,7 examinations in November should be completed and sent to KBKA |
| 25 September 2013 | East Kent Ploughing Match, Hardres Court http://www.ekpma.co.uk/ |
| 28 th September 2013 | Thanet Honey Show, Village Hall, Acol |
| 19-20 October 2013 | Brogdale Apple Festival |
| 19 October 2013 | Dover Honey Show, Bruderhof Community, Nonington |
| 22 October 2013 | Thanet BKA quiz night |
| 24-26 October 2013 | National Honey Show, St Georges College, Weybridge www.honeyshow.co.uk |
| 9 November 2013 | BBKA module exams, Lynsted |
| 17 November 2013 | KBKA autumn lectures, Village Hall, Lenham |

APIARY VISIT TO WESTBERE

Saturday 3rd August 2013, 2.30pm

This will be at our branch apiary, Bredlands Lane, Westbere, Canterbury CT2 0HD. This is just off the A28 Canterbury to Margate Road on the left hand side before Hersden. Go up the road past Spires Academy, and the apiary is on the right hand side of the road. Contact on the day 07816 975286

As always make sure you wear freshly washed clothing and clean plastic gloves. No leather gloves may be used to handle frames.

There are 3 hives installed there (thanks to William Money for supplying two colonies recently). Originally we had hoped to demonstrate honey extraction, but unfortunately there is no covered shelter now, following a fire, so we'll make do with simulation rather than demonstration.

SUE CLAPSON WINS AGRICULTURAL CUP

Kent County Show

Whilst Sue was helping out with our stall at the Brogdale Cherry Festival, she told us about her recent triumph at the Kent County Show. Whilst she entered fewer categories than in previous years, she managed to to achieve 5 - 2nd's, 1 - 3rd and 1 Very Highly Commended which then made her the winning candidate for the Agricultural Cup. As Sue said, "it just goes to show that quantity doesn't necessarily mean prizes, it is the points that count."

As you can see from the photo, the trophy is a huge great thing that will have to stay at the Show Ground for insurance reasons. Sue said "It's a lovely thing to do and if this inspires others to do the same then that's fantastic. I consider myself very fortunate to have won these awards as I never consider my entries worthy of a prize, so it just goes to show that its always worth a go as you never know and I think that's how you need to approach the whole showing thing."

With the Thanet Honey Show scheduled for 28th September in Acol, the Dover Honey Show planned on 19th October at the Bruderhof Community, Nonington, the National Honey Show on 24-26 October, there

are plenty of categories to enter, whether you are a novice or seasoned "shower-er"! There's a class for all beekeepers, whichever direction your interests in bees takes you. It doesn't have to be honey – most shows have categories for wax, educational objects, mead, photography, baking and confectionary, as well as composite classes. Whilst the judging is taken seriously, the events are always fun, and it's a good excuse to talk more about the trials and tribulations of keeping bees.

Go on, enter a Honey Show this year!



Adrian

WINTER LEARNING

Study Groups

Whilst we are flushed with the success of our recent assessments, it's a good time to consider how to continue building beekeeping knowledge and skills in the winter period. In the August edition of BBKA news, there's an article extolling the virtues of Study Groups (pp 27-28). The principal objective of such groups is an interest in increasing your depth of beekeeping knowledge. For convenience, the study areas are usually determined by the preparations needed to sit the BBKA written tests, but no one should feel obliged to take the tests. They do dictate the timings, as tests can be sat in early November, or late March. At the Kent beekeeping initiative, KSRC, we are thinking about how we can best support such study groups, and one important question is



to judge how many people might be interested to join.

The topic areas that would be the focus for a study group would be taken from the following list:

- 1 - Honey bee Management
- 2 - Honey bee Products and Forage
- 3 - Honey bee Pests, Diseases and Poisoning
- 5 - Honey bee Biology
- 6 - Honey bee Behaviour
- 7 - Selection & Breeding of Honey bees
- 8 - Honey bee Management, Health and History

You can read more about study groups in the August 2013 BBKA news [here](#), and the detailed topic lists for the above modules [here](#)

If you are interested to take part in a winter study group, please contact Adrian at cantbees@gmail.com

EAST KENT ASSOCIATIONS

Here's a quick digest of what the other local associations are doing over the next few weeks.

[Whitstable and Herne Bay](#) will be inspecting hives on 3rd August, in their teaching apiary at the University of Kent's Canterbury campus. [Dover and District](#) are meeting at Steve Boyce's apiary at the Romney Marsh Visitors Centre on August 31st. [Thanet beekeepers](#) have an apiary meeting in Kingsgate on 10th August, at 3pm. The dates for our local honey shows are: 28th September at Acol, organized by TBKA, and 19th October at Nonington, run by DDBKA.

COURSES AT KSRC



The course series for Kentish beekeepers continue. Due to popular demand, Jennifer Dinsmore's course on Beeswax products is being repeated on September 7th. Go to their [website](#) to find out more, and make bookings.

NDB COURSES

Bob Smith will be running NDB short courses on *Brood Diseases* on 9-10 September, and on *Microscopy* on 18-19 October, both in the KSRC facilities. The courses are attractively priced (compared to alternative offerings) at £75, and are well worth attending for folks ready to take their beekeeping to a higher level. More information from the National Diploma of Beekeeping [website here](#).

BBKA BUSINESS



The British Beekeepers Association

Education News

You may have seen an advert in July's *BBKA News* for two courses organized at Harper Adams University near Newport in Shropshire, one entitled "Towards Improved Husbandry", the other "3D honey bee anatomy". These will be run on 7-8 September. Follow [this link](#), if you've misplaced your *BBKA News* (you'll need your membership card to login).

CBKA COMMITTEE ROLES

Joan McAllister has been serving our association for several years, both as secretary, and more recently as treasurer. At the AGM in November, she wants to adjust her commitments to the association, and we have been discussing how best to transition the duties which she undertakes, which for the most part she does quietly in the background.

Joan's suggestion is that the current treasurer role could be split into two parts, which could be handled by separate committee members. This would make sense, looking at the steady increase in the size of the association (a trend seen across the county and the country). In order to encourage more people to participate in the running of the association, Joan has prepared role profiles for a treasurer and membership manager combination, which should limit the time commitment required. Please consider whether you might like to contribute by filling one of these roles. You can talk to any of the committee, and particularly Joan, Julian or Adrian, if you want more details on these roles. The AGM in November is where volunteers for all committee positions will be elected by the association's membership.

Treasurer's Duties

To keep accurate records of the financial affairs of Canterbury Beekeepers and report annually to the County Treasurer

Annually

- After subscription year end and before the AGM – reconcile all financial transactions during the year. Complete and have audited, financial reports using templates provided by the County Treasurer.
- Reconcile subscriber list from the Beecraft Secretary with our membership list.

At AGM

- Present a Treasurer's Report for the membership on the financial dealings during the year and the current financial position of the Branch.

Dec, April and August each year

- Complete a Return, and send to John Hendrie, County Membership Secretary, giving a breakdown of all subscriptions, Beecraft receipts, donations, extra BDI received during the period. Forward to John together with Membership Forms, copy receipts and Branch countersigned cheque.

At the end of each month

- Advise the Secretary of Beecraft of any new subscribers to the magazine that month and await a response before forwarding subscription monies by countersigned cheque.

Branch Meetings

- Record receipts for refreshments and pay any outgoings for speakers, hire of hall, refreshments, etc.

Ongoing

- Record and pay, either by countersigned cheque or cash, expenses incurred by the activities of Canterbury Beekeepers.
- Report on current financial position and membership numbers at Committee Meetings.

Membership Manager's Duties.

To keep accurate records of the membership of Canterbury Beekeepers and report three times a year to the County Membership Secretary

Annually

- Advise members of the new Subscription Year commencing 1st October and by email forward a PDF of the new Membership Form (together with membership guide) for completion and return, together with payment either by cheque, cash or a transfer direct to CBKA bank account.
- Issue KBKA receipt and send to member with covering letter.
- Keep a record of current membership in spreadsheet format – recording name, address, email and telephone number, membership status and whether consent given for release of email address.
- Chase up by phone, and/or email, members who have not renewed membership.

At AGM

- Provide an indication of membership numbers and movement compared with past years

Dec, April and August each year

- Pass all Membership Forms and copy receipts received during the period to Treasurer to enable the completion of the Return to KBKA

At the end of each month

- Scan membership forms of members joining that month and email to KBKA secretary and branch treasurer.
- Advise Branch Secretary and Chairman of new members so they may be included in email distribution and for website registration.

Ongoing

- Continue to record new members during the year – responding to any queries relating to membership.