



CANTERBURY BEEKEEPERS



A branch of Kent Beekeepers Association

EDITOR'S NOTES

Apologies for the late arrival of this month's newsletter – work and home life have been getting in the way! Hopefully your bees are in fine fettle, as July is traditionally the time of a good honey flow.

We will be demonstrating honey extraction, at Debbie Burton's house later in July. We're keen to see everyone at the meeting – if you haven't extracted before, then come along to see it done; if you have, then others will

benefit from your experience.

We also have a "meet the public" event at the Brogdale Cherry Festival next weekend (19-20 July) – the general public is always keen to talk to people about the production of honey, helping bees, and general beecraft. If you can give a few hours of your time to help out on the stall, that would help to share the load. No special preparation required – just

bring along your enthusiasm for bees.

It's good to see that a number of branch members having been preparing for all three levels of practical

beekeeping assessment – the basic certificate, general husbandry and advanced husbandry. Good luck to those about to undertake assessments! For those of you who haven't yet gone through

the process – please consider it. The preparations **will** make you a better beekeeper, as you get to think about different aspects of your beekeeping practices in more detail.

Due to the lateness of this newsletter, this will cover both July and August – I will try to go to press with the September newsletter a bit early to compensate!

Adrian

Next Apiary
Meeting

Extraction of Honey

Waverley
Stamford
TN25 6DL

Saturday 26th July

2.30-4.30pm

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Maggie McKenzie

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

cantbees@gmail.com

Contact Newsletter editor to contribute articles

JULY/AUG 2014

DATES FOR DIARY

19-20 July	Meet the public: Brogdale cherry festival
26th July	Apiary meeting: Extraction of honey
9th Aug	Apiary meeting: Varroa assessments
6 September	Apiary meeting: Varroa control and IPM
24 September	East Kent Ploughing Match
18-19 October	Brogdale Apple festival

BROGDALE CHERRY FESTIVAL

19-20 JULY

Volunteers wanted

Our next meet the public event is fast approaching – on the 19-20 July, at the Brogdale Cherry Festival. We're covering the whole weekend, so we are keen to involve as many people as possible. We need help to set up our stand, provide bodies on the stall to chat about beekeeping, and pack up at the end. We're happy to take your honey to sell at the branch rate (a small commission is taken for CBKA funds), so please get in contact with Maggie Mackenzie by phone or [email](#), if you are able to help out.

Maggie's phone number is 01227 831 414



EXTRACTOR FOR SALE

We have a manual, two frame honey extractor for sale. It was originally bought as part of Thornes 'Bees on a Budget' kit so a full description can be found on their [website](#). It is in good working condition and we are asking £30.00.

If any members are interested, please phone 07890 541743 or email richard.charnock@btopenworld.com

Many thanks

Caroline and Richard Charnock



HONEY FOR SALE

Where are outlets?

I received an enquiry recently from someone in Littlebourne who wanted to know which local shops sold local honey. Of the top of my head, I didn't know of anyone who was selling honey in Littlebourne. As a branch, we mostly focus on our BeeDays, and the Brogdale festivals as places to offer honey for sale. It got me thinking that it would be useful to know which outlets folks use – in part so we know where to direct people, and also to help people target areas where there may be an opportunity to offer honey for sale.

If you want to make it more widely known which shops are selling your honey, please drop me a line at cantbees@gmail.com, and we can collect that information together – and put it on our website.

Adrian

HIVES FOR SALE

We have 2 Dartington long hives with ventilated floors, complete with supers and empty frames.

If you know of anyone who might be interested, please give them our phone No. (01227 831568)

Many thanks

Jill Watson (via Maggie McKenzie)

CHANCE TO BE ON THE TELLY

If you are a keen gardener

KBKA received this enquiry, and has passed it on to all branches.

I work for a TV production company called Outline Productions. We are currently making a brand new Sky 1 series which explores Britain's beautiful private gardens.

We're looking for people who would like to showcase their gardens to the nation. It's an opportunity for gardening enthusiasts to show off their own gardens as well as explore other interesting gardens in their area, and the programme's ultimate aim is to celebrate gardening as a passion belonging to a wide variety of people around the country.

The show involves hosting an "open day" for two other passionate gardeners, who will take a tour around the garden and ask questions about it over refreshments, and you will also have the opportunity to showcase a particular gardening skill in the form of a demonstration which the other two can participate in. Then, in turn, you will also visit their gardens. The tone will be warm and celebratory and is an opportunity to learn from others as well as provide feedback on other gardens.

One of our episodes will be focusing on gardens in Kent and I was wondering whether this might be of interest to you or members of the Kent Bee-keepers' Association? I've attached a copy of our flyer containing our contact details so people can contact us directly – it would be great if you would be willing to forward it on to your contacts or to see if anyone might be interested in applying.

Unfortunately we're working to a very tight schedule and are looking to speak to people as soon as possible so I'd really appreciate it if you could circulate this at your earliest convenience. If you would like any more information, please give me a call on 020 7424 7626.

Many thanks,

Sally Ainsworth, Casting Researcher, Outline Productions

Direct Line: +44 (0)20 7424 7626

Outline Productions Ltd, Unit 315, Highgate Studios, 53-79 Highgate Road, London NW5 1TL

www.outlineproductions.co.uk

MORE MARTHA!

Fresh from her "success" with "The Wonder of Bees" (if you are wondering about our qualified enthusiasm, see May's newsletter), Martha Kearney is doing another programme about bees, starting on Tuesday. This time she will be in the company of some professional biologists, so perhaps there will be fewer mistakes and bad practices. More Martha, this time with Chris Packham and Prof Adam Hart.

"Hive Alive". Inside a beehive!

It starts on Tuesday 15 July on BBC2 at 8pm, there are 2 programmes in all. Repeated n Saturday 19th July, at 4.25pm.

Set your TV recorders now. Thanks to Dougal for the heads-up

Adrian



HELPING BEES IN THE GARDEN

Hartley Greenhouses are the latest company to recognise the importance of bees, and provide promotional material to assist gardeners and insect lovers promote bee health. It's mostly focused on solitary bees, but I'm sure members will find it interesting. Pick up their information on bee hotels at [this link](#).

Whilst we're on the topic Prof Dave Goulson (U of Sussex, "A sting in the tale") recently gave his seal of approval to this bumblebee nest – ([link](#)).

BEEKEEPERS @ KSRC

Courses in 2014

Beekeepers @ KSRC



Beekeepers @ KSRC is now in its 3rd year and its prime purpose remains essentially the same – to provide training and education opportunities for “Improver Beekeepers” from any of the 16 Kent Associations and Branches. The target audience are those who have kept bees for two seasons, and have achieved the Basic Certificate.

An innovation this year are some practical beekeeping classes. The aim is to provide coaching in reading the bees, proactive management, apiary hygiene and smooth, confident handling. You will get plenty of access to hives, working in small groups so that there's practical learning for each delegate.

All of the classroom and laboratory-based courses are delivered in the excellent facilities available at KSRC (Kent Science Resource Centre) near Sittingbourne, a location that is reasonably central for all of Kent.

Pollen Identification under the Microscope, 20th September

Microscopical Analysis of Honey, 4th October

Skep-making, 8th November

Beeswax Workshop, 8th November

KSRC is also working with branch committees to run a workshop in October on “branch apiary management”, which the committee will send representation along. David Blower, the BBKA training coordinator will be attending.

www.ksrcbees.org.uk

Bob Smith, Julie Coleman and Adrian Davis