



CANTERBURY BEEKEEPERS

A branch of Kent Beekeepers Association

EDITOR'S NOTES

So with honey harvests taken, the beekeeping year is considered to be at its end, and the new year starts by getting our colonies ready for winter. As we usually have very pleasant temperatures in September, there's still time to

treat for varroa with thymol products, and (after the ivy flow), give a good feed of syrup for any colony without substantial stores. A critical purpose of both activities is to produce worker bees well-adapted to the long winter confinements. This requires lots of

pollen (thank goodness for ivy), to produce healthy well-fed larvae and bees – as well as a low level of varroa, which are now at their peak numbers in untreated hives. It's also much better to take one strong colony into winter than two small colonies, so be critical of your hives, and if there's one that isn't doing well, then combine it with another colony (provided

there's no disease). The outbreak of EFB in Dunkirk recently reminds us all that a focused inspection (shaking bees from every frame to look for disease) is best practice.

We have a number of events coming up in September. We are running a stand on 19th September in

Whitefriars, so Jenny Cotterill is looking for volunteers to help on the stand, and supply honey. [Email](#) to express your interest.

Next weekend we are having our first meeting in Palmsted Wood. As well as an apiary

inspection, we are planning to do some wax extraction, and have a barbeque. So please let us know if you can come, so we can cater appropriately. If you have any small bits of comb, or wax scrapings, or even wax cappings, bring them along. The idea is to add up lots of little bits of wax to make something substantial.

Adrian

Next Meeting
**Opening our
Palmsted Wood
Apiary**
Bekesbourne Lane
CT4 5DX
**Saturday 5th
September
2.30-5pm**
Joining instructions
– see page 2

CBKA OFFICERS

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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

SEPTEMBER 2015

DATES FOR DIARY

31 st August	Last day for applications for BBKA microscopy certificate assessment (contact KBKA exams secretary) Kent Festival of Bees, Highland Court Farm, CT4 5HN Website: http://www.kent-festival-of-bees.co.uk/
5th September	Apiary meeting, Palmsted Wood, Bekesbourne Lane, Bekesbourne CT4 5DX 2.30-5pm.
19 th September	Meet the public: BeeDay at Whitefriars
23 rd September	Last day for applications for BBKA module examinations
28 th September	CBKA committee meeting
30 th September	71st East Kent Ploughing Match, Adisham Court, Chalkpit Farm and Lower Garrington Farm near Adisham, Canterbury, CT4 5HD. See website . We will have a stand selling honey
3 or 10 October (tbc)	CBKA Fun Honey Show
17-18 October	Meet the public: Brogdale Apple Festival
24 October	Dover Honey Show, Beech Grove, Nonington CT15 4FB
29-31 October	National Honey Show, St Georges College, Weybridge KT15 2QS website
4th November	CBKA AGM, Whitefriars management suite
14 th November	BBKA module examination day

JOINING INSTRUCTIONS

We are delighted to invite everyone to our new apiary at 2.30pm on 5th September in Palmsted Wood, Bekesbourne Lane, Bekesbourne CT4 5DX, where Chris d'Souza and Sally Stonier are our hosts. As well as an apiary inspection, we are planning to do some wax extraction, and have a barbeque. So please let us know if you can come, so we can cater appropriately. Bring along any old wax you have too. Usual apiary hygiene – clean suits and disposable gloves only please.

If you are coming *from Canterbury on A257*, turn right onto Bekesbourne Lane at Canterbury Golf Club, and go along the Lane for 1 mile. The road turns sharply to right, and immediately after there is a track on RHS. The entrance to Palmsted Wood is 50m along on LHS. If you get to Highfield Care Home (on your RHS), you've gone too far!

From Patricxbourne/Littlebourne, turn into Bekesbourne Hill, just by the railway bridge. Half a mile up the hill is Highfield Care Home on LHS, and Palmsted Wood is the next entrance on your right.

AMERICAN IN CANTERBURY

David meets Floridan Beekeeper

Returning from holiday I knew I'd need to take a good look at my bees to see what mischief they'd got up to while I was away, so I invited the Floridan beekeeper mentioned in the last newsletter to join me.

Robert Schuler, originally from Michigan, moved to Florida and worked there until he retired, was over in England on holiday. As a backyard beekeeper at home he had the good idea of visiting others when travelling.

We went through my hives: my bees behaved themselves and put on a decent show. I was also pleased to see they'd put away some honey while I was away. We took a few photos and talked about beekeeping in Florida and England; he found beekeeping the same wherever he'd been: Europe, South America, Asia, and while in Morocco they still use reed hives, the similarities are greater than the differences.

One difference is that Floridan beekeeping is much more formally regulated than ours: beekeepers there have to register, pay a fee and be inspected, with a \$10 penalty for late payment. The registration must be renewed annually with a further fee to be paid. Hives must be imprinted with the beekeepers registration number, if they are to be moved out of state they need a special inspection, a certificate and another \$25 fee. While I'm sure English bureaucrats would love to have such a regime to administer, I'm not sure our beekeepers would be so positive and the biosecurity effort has failed to protect against varroa or SHB.



The Floridan flora is different than ours but they follow a similar schedule of actions; early spring feeding to prepare for the citrus in March when the first supers are added. The main honey flow starts in April as does the swarming season while it is all over in June/July. Colony growth shuts down in August as it's too hot but the varroa population peaks and must be treated.

A wide range of pest treatments is available to US beekeepers including Hoggard, Miteaway and Apivar in addition to our usual ones. They still have fumagillin and use antibiotic dusts for foul brood prevention though they also use destruction for treatment. I saw no mention of oxalic acid but with their warm winters they have brood and varroa all year round. SHB is tackled with various traps and treatments.

Backyard beekeeping is permitted and growing in Florida, Robert is a member of a very active club (SuncoastBeekeepers.com) which is dedicated to the improvement of beekeeping through best management practices and the education, encouragement and mentoring of people who want to be involved in the fascinating world of honeybees.

David Cockburn

HONEY PREPARATION

CBKA Honey Show draws near

Most people will have extracted their honey by now – some straight into jars, and the luckier ones may have a few buckets to bottle up later. Of course, there's a skill to preparing the best looking honey – requiring the careful use of heat (to prevent early crystallization) and filtration (to remove foreign matter). As we've mentioned in previous newsletters, we are hoping you can all participate in a light-hearted honey show in early October, so make sure you've got a few jars ready to show! If you need any pointers, pop along to The Kent Festival of Bees on Bank Holiday Monday.

We hope that the CBKA honey show will be another opportunity to demonstrate the wide variety of honey that is produced in a small geographic area – most people will be producing one mono-floral crop from oil seed rape honey in May, but the summer honey is generally a multi-floral crop, with no flower species dominating. The exception is often the late summer crop of Ivy Honey. As an article in the August *Beecraft* magazine shows, Ivy Honey is likely to split opinions. Some people really like its strong flavour (though I prefer to wait 6 months for the flavour to smooth out). Beekeepers are also divided on its utility as a winter food for bees – it tends to granulate hard and quickly, and some say that bees find it hard to use in the depths of winter. Personally speaking, I've found that you must take a harvest very quickly to prevent granulation, and that the bees will be happy to use it throughout January – March.

Hopefully our new event will show a diversity of honey as rich as the supermarket shelves in New York, where I've been visiting my brother and his family. Here are the honey sections of the market in Grand Central Station, and the local supermarket in Scarsdale, north of the Big Apple. A half pound of honeycomb retails for \$20 (£13) in NY!



BBKA BUSINESS



The British Beekeepers Association

Subscription News

Our new financial year starts on the 1st October and you will be soon receiving invitations to renew your subscriptions. The BBKA increased capitation by £1.00 which has resulted in a £1.00 increase in the subscription. The figures for your renewal will be as follows:-

Registered member	£46.00
Partner member without BBKA publications	£1.00
Partner member with BBKA publications	£14.00
Junior	£20.00
Friend	£8.00
Friend with Beecraft	£29.00
Friend with BBKA News	£18.00
Friend with Beecraft and BBKA News	£39.00
Electronic Beecraft required	-£5.00

Look out for an email with more details including a renewal form in the next few weeks (when Jan is back from his holiday!)

BBKA EXAMINATION APPLICATIONS

A quick reminder that if you want to test your beekeeping knowledge in the BBKA module examinations, then you need to send in an application, before 23rd September. All the written modules are offered; the examination day is Saturday 14th November. You need to fill out a form (from [this BBKA webpage](#)), have it signed by a committee member, and then post it to the KBKA examination secretary. Sharon Bassey is the new-ish incumbent of this position and her details are below:

Sharon Bassey
61 Nunhead Lane, London, SE15 3TR
Email: sharonbassey@outlook.com

As a reminder the modules are:

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