



CANTERBURY BEEKEEPERS

A branch of Kent Beekeepers Association

EDITOR'S NOTES

Our recent Christmas party marked the end of the year, and we are grateful to Magdalene Halkes for all the work she put into catering that event. Whilst we traditionally do not have a CBKA meeting in January, it is a time to be getting ready for Spring activities.

This month's newsletter has information about a number of training courses that you could attend, for both the beginner beekeeper, as well as those who consider themselves improvers. I'd

encourage you to take the opportunity to extend your beekeeping knowledge – and some may even be motivated to study for the BBKA module examinations (described on page 5). You will see from the diary section that your new committee has now confirmed our winter programme – which should be a nice balance between husbandry skills and general

beekeeping knowledge.

We're particularly pleased that Dr Stewart from Medway Maritime Hospital is coming to discuss sting desensitization in March.

One other piece of news from the committee is that we've added Martin Neame to the committee, as he has volunteered to help organise

the activities in our new apiary in Bekesbourne. Whilst there are a lot of tasks associated with maintaining a Branch Apiary, provided that many members do volunteer occasionally, it won't be onerous for any

of us. Martin introduces how we hope to run the apiary on page 4.

An important date in the BBKA calendar is the annual delegate meeting in January. David Cockburn is currently in discussions with KBKA to seek clarification of the financial relationship between BBKA (the charity) and BBKA Enterprises (the trading company), at the ADM.

Adrian

Next Meeting

Varroa Control

Whitefriars

Management Suite
Canterbury CT1 2TF

Wednesday 3rd

February

7.30-9.30pm

CBKA OFFICERS

Chairman: David Cockburn

34 Whitstable Road
Canterbury CT2 8DQ
01227 457517

Treasurer: Joan McAllister

42 Canterbury Road
Lydden, Dover
CT15 7ER
07824 668042

Secretary & Newsletter

Editor: Adrian Davis

24 The Grove
Deal CT14 9TL
07816 975286

Membership Secretary

Jan Soetaert
90 Heaton Road
Canterbury CT1 3QA
07849 603168

Committee Members

Julian Audsley
Simon Daniell
Magdalene Mei Halkes
Maggie McKenzie
Martin Neame
Michael Roberts

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

DECEMBER 2015

A newsletter for friends and members of Canterbury BKA

DATES FOR DIARY

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Saturday 9 January | BBKA 56 th annual delegate meeting, Chesford Grange, Kenilworth, Warks, CV8 2LD. Meeting papers here |
| Tuesday 19 January | CBKA committee meeting, 7-9pm, Old Gate Inn, Canterbury |
| Wednesday 3 February | CBKA branch meeting, "Varroa Control", 7.30-9.30pm, Whitefriars Management Suite, Canterbury |
| Friday 5 February | Applications for BBKA module examinations must be sent to KBKA examination secretary |
| Sunday 21 February | Application for BBKA General Husbandry/Advanced Husbandry assessment must be sent to KBKA exam secretary |
| Tuesday 1 March | Introduction to Beekeeping course starts, Julian Audsley, 6 evenings at Barham Village Hall, 7-9pm |
| Wednesday 2 March | CBKA branch meeting, "Sting de-sensitization", Alasdair Stewart (Medway NHS) 7.30-9.30pm, Whitefriars Management Suite, Canterbury |
| Saturday 5 March | Bee Tradex, 9am-4.30pm, Stoneleigh Park, Warks, CV8 2LG website here |
| Thursday 10 March | CBKA committee meeting, 7-9pm, Old Gate Inn, Canterbury |
| Saturday 19 March | BBKA module examination day (location tbc) |
| Wednesday 6 April | CBKA branch meeting, "Swarms, casts and control", 7.30-9.30pm, Whitefriars Management Suite, Canterbury |
| 8-10 April | BBKA Spring Convention, Harper Adams University, Newport, Shropshire TF10 8NB |
| Tuesday 10 May | CBKA committee meeting, 7-9pm, Old Gate Inn, Canterbury |

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL – FINAL NOTICE

Subs were due 1st October

Our new year started on the 1st October and you will have received by email information to enable you to renew your membership of the Kent Beekeepers Association. If you haven't renewed by the end of December, then your membership will be considered to have lapsed, and newsletters and other information will no longer be sent to you.

The renewal forms are available from our website [here](#) – and if it is convenient for you, the transaction can be completely electronic, as we can accept BACS transfers into our bank account.



Jan

LOOKING FOR AN APIARY LOCATION?

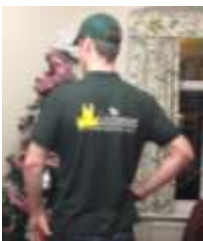
Dunkirk, Faversham

I've been approached by a smallholder who has two small orchards in Dunkirk. They have about 100 trees in each, apples, pears, cherries and plums, and also blackberries are everywhere. They would like to offer the orchards for use to a beekeeper or keepers.

If you are interested in an apiary in this location, please contact Adrian at cantbees@gmail.com, and I will put you in touch with the smallholder, so you can assess the potential.

CBKA CLOTHING

We have a small supply of CBKA branded baseball caps and shirts, which are available for members to purchase. These might make an ideal Christmas present for your favourite beekeeper! If you are interested, contact Jan at j.soetaert@qmul.ac.uk for information on prices and sizes – we currently have shirts in medium and large, as well as adjustable caps.



APIARY MANAGEMENT

The Apiary at Bekesbourne is really turning into a fantastic resource for the club. It now has a number of different makes of hive and a shed for storing equipment.

We now need to turn our minds to managing the Apiary going forward. In order to keep it under control in the professional way that we would all want it to be, we will need to find volunteers to come along and assist. If enough people step forward, the duties will not be burdensome and may only amount to a couple or three visits over the season.

In terms of time commitment, I think that each session would be 2.5 hours on a Saturday, from 1400 – 1630. One advantage to keeping the work time the same each week is that other non working CBKA members would be able to pop in during the timeslot and say hi to those “on duty”.

There are several areas that need attention as follows:

Colony Management.

During the season, we will need to inspect the colonies once a week. As a minimum this will take 2 people. Let's call them “lead” and “assistant”. Each week we will need to find someone suitably qualified to be the lead, and then another (perhaps even a novice) to be the assistant. Duties will range from inspecting each colony, recording the results, updating a central database online, taking any preventative actions etc.

Grounds Maintenance

The Apiary sits in woodland which will also need maintenance. This might be a 3-4 weekly rota (depending on growth) of at least 2 people per visit (it's more fun with someone else!). Duties will include cutting down weeds and other growth around the hives, chopping larger branches, cutting back growth around the paths.



Equipment Maintenance

The shed will be stocked with a variety of beekeeping equipment. This will need sorting to keep it under control. In addition, the shed itself will need routine maintenance. Duties will include: Maintain the shed (painting), Catalogue the equipment, purchase any replacement equipment required, maintain the equipment etc. It may be that this will need to be carried out once per month.

In order to manage all this, I will set up a calendar, made available to everyone. You will be able to see this calendar online and thus check your duties etc. The colony central records will also be available online.

Once the duties have been assigned, I will produce an instruction for each of the duties above explaining what is to be done on each visit. This will assist you to ensure that the Apiary is kept to the highest standard.

What I need now is for you make yourself available to assist with these duties. Let me know if you can help. Which duties you can undertake and how often you would be willing to assist. Also, please contact me if you have any other ideas. Please bear in mind that everyone has holidays and sickness, so we will need more volunteers than slots!

Send your email to:

CBKA.apiary.manager@gmail.com

If you are a member of CBKA now is the time for you to step forward to assist!!!

Martin Neame



WINTER STUDYING

Preparation for BBKA modules

We've got quite a group of people in our branch who have passed their first level Husbandry certificate ("the Basic") – but the step to the next practical assessment (general husbandry) is quite a large one. One way to bridge the gap is to study for BBKA module examinations. The areas of study 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

KBKA exams secretary
Sharon Bassey
61 Nunhead Lane, London,
SE15 3TR
sharonbassey@outlook.com.

More details of the syllabus for each paper can be found at [this link](#). A

recent improvement is the free availability of past papers, for all BBKA members (this [link](#)). If you are interested to know more, or perhaps are thinking of studying for a module, please contact Julian or Adrian. You'll need to submit application forms (from [here](#)) to sit the examination to Sharon Bassey of KBKA by 5th February, to ensure she gets you registered. The actual examination(s) will be on 19th March.

If you are interested in doing the Basic Certificate in apiculture, we'll arrange that with KBKA in the Spring; if you are considering the General Husbandry or Advanced Husbandry assessments, applications need to be with Sharon by 21st February.



For those of you who don't want to sit examinations, it's worthwhile having a browse through the ARK – Apiarists' Record of Knowledge. This covers the same study material as the formal examinations, involves no written tests, and is done at a pace that suits you. <https://bbka-ark.com/> is the website; you'll need your BBKA membership number to login.

Adrian

Introduction to Beekeeping course in East Kent

Tutor: Julian Audsley Canterbury Beekeepers Branch KBKA



**Venue: Barham Village Hall, Valley Road Barham CT4 6NX
near Canterbury**

Tuesdays 7.00 to 9.00 pm

March 1,8,15,22 and April 12,19
2 week break at Easter.

There will be 6 sessions in Barham Village hall and an adjacent apiary and an additional 2 practicals on weekends to be arranged during the course.

Barham Village hall Valley Road, Barham CT4 6NX

The course has a mixture of indoor sessions and practicals and the 2 practical sessions on a weekend are arranged once you are on the course. Cost £80.

A course book is included for use during and after the course together with supplementary handouts and there is plenty of opportunity to handle equipment, assemble frames and ask questions.

The cost also includes membership as a Friend of the Canterbury Beekeepers a branch of the Kent Beekeepers' Association for the year 2015/16 but details of all local associations will be provided.

Purpose

This course is aimed at potential beekeepers and those with an interest in beekeeping. It covers all the needs of those thinking about keeping bees. Novice beekeepers will also benefit by attending this course. Not everyone becomes a beekeeper after the course but everyone will come away with a realistic understanding of the pleasures and practicalities of beekeeping today.

Examples of course contents

- . Know how to start & manage a beehive.
- . The different types of hive and types and assembling of frames.
- . The costs and time involved.
- . Understand the life cycle of a honeybee colony.
- . How to manage swarming.
- . Be able to identify problems in the hive and prevent, or manage these problems
- . Know how to harvest products from the hive, including honey and beeswax.
- . Have enough information to decide if you would like to keep bees.

further details Julian Audsley [Email: julian100@btinternet.com](mailto:julian100@btinternet.com) Tel: 0776 183 9119

IMPROVER KEY SKILLS (EAST KENT EDITION)

Beekeepers @ KSRC



Bob Smith, Julie Coleman and Adrian Davis

Bridge, near Canterbury

A series of 4 sessions on key husbandry skills for beekeepers, running from 26th January - 16th February 2016, 7.30-9.30pm at the BeeBarn on 4 successive Tuesday evenings.

The four sessions can be booked together for £25. Topics that will be covered:



- Bee & colony life-cycles, reading the colony, translating that into management actions
- Swarm control – an in-depth understanding of natural swarming, and its prevention
- Managing varroa – the key to healthy bees; monitoring and treatments, inc. non-chemical.
- A review of bee health and hygiene, emphasising actions the beekeeper can take to maximise the health of their bees

The BeeBarn is the training centre that is part of Mann Lake's facilities at Highland Court Farm in Bridge, near Canterbury. It has a modern, well-equipped meeting/lecture room, with room for 35 delegates.

Location: Highland Court Farm, Off Coldharbour Lane, Nr Bridge, Canterbury, Kent CT4 5HN,; full instructions to find the BeeBarn will be emailed to delegates

To see more details, and to book on the course visit [our website](#)

Wisborough Green Division - West Sussex BKA

Beekeeping Course

Suitable for Beginners, Improvers, and Non – Beekeepers

At:- Village Hall, Lower Street, Pulborough, West Sussex. RH20 2BF

Sat 5th March 2016. Assemble from 9.00 for 9.30-5.00 p.m.

The course is suitable for those who wish to discover what is involved in keeping bees, but will also be suitable for those who have kept bees for some time. It will largely follow the syllabus of the BBKA Basic assessment, but with variations. This course is based on over 50 years experience, not just repeating what is in books.

Subjects covered will include:-

| | |
|---|------------------------------|
| How to learn about bees | Obtaining bees and equipment |
| Different kinds of bees | Where to site hives |
| How bees live naturally and how we can manage them | Protective clothing |
| What bees collect - nectar, pollen, propolis, water | Basic Colony Management |
| How bees store honey and pollen | Handling bees carefully |
| What happens in a beehive and where | Swarming and dealing with it |
| The 3 castes - queen, drones, workers | Dealing with the honey crop |
| How to start | Making colony increase |
| Choosing the type of hive and why | Feeding |
| Essential equipment | The colony in winter |

Course fee £40. Second and subsequent attendees booked together £35*. Under 16 with a paying adult £1 5*. Price is per head to include lunch, refreshments, and our own booklet "Basic Beekeeping".

Please note: Those marked * will not receive "Basic Beekeeping". Additional copies available on the day at £5. For existing, paid-up WGBKA members the fee is reduced to £30.

Enquiries:- Roger Patterson. roger-patterson@btconnect.com 01403 790 637 or 07976 306 492

Booking:- Gordon Allan, Stone House, High Street, Petworth, West Sussex, GU28 0AU. 01798 343 470, petworthgordon@btopenworld.com preferably using the booking form on the website.

Payment by:- Cheque, Bank transfer or cash. See Booking Form for details.

Website http://www.wgbka.org.uk/Beginners_Day.html

Prepare yourself for the coming season – **now**

Pulborough Village Hall is off Lower Street. Turn down next to the Oddfellows Arms, right to the bottom and turn right into the car park. If this is full then use the main car park immediately before it. We understand the main car park will be free for hall users.

SURREY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Saturday 23rd January 10 till 4pm

Venue: Walton-on-Thames

(Full details will be sent with the confirmation of the booking)

PREPARING HONEY AND WAX

It doesn't matter whether we give Honey to friends, sell it, or enter your local honey show. We all want our honey and wax to make sure it looks its best. These talks will be of interest to all Beekeepers but of particular value to anyone planning to take Module 2

TOPICS

Preparing honey for sale or show. Tom Salter

Wax processing. Andy Willis

Marketing your hive Products. Christine Stevens



£15 SBKA members £17 for non-members

Includes a light lunch

To reserve a place email rickwoodsaka@gmail.com



THE SPEAKERS

Tom was introduced to bees and beekeeping in the 1950s. He currently manages 15 to 20 colonies on three apiary sites. Tom became a Master Beekeeper in 1998 and was awarded the Wax Chandler's prize, is a BBKA Senior Honey Judge, an experienced Senior Assessor for the Examinations Board and past Chairman of the Examinations Board.

Andy has won first prize for moulded candles at the National Honey show and hosted wax workshops for the BBKA. He made the candles which were given as the BBKA gift to the Queen, in her Jubilee Year, 2012

Christine started beekeeping in 1995 and ran up to 40 hives, a mixture of National and WBC, producing and selling up to a ton of honey a year, as well as rearing queens and raising nucs. She has served on the committee of Chichester Beekeepers for a number of years.

GENERAL HUSBANDRY COURSE

Beyond the Basic – improving your
beekeeping skills

Date: 13th February 2016 – 10am to 4pm

Venue: Mitcham (full details will be sent with the booking)

Cost: £25 (SBKA members) £35 (non-members)



This is the first of a two part General Husbandry course is for those that wish to gain further practical training beyond Basic, and those wishing to take the BBKA General Husbandry assessment either this year or sometime in the future. The course content assumes delegates will have two or three years' experience.

Its aim is:

- for those using it as final checks before taking the General Husbandry Assessment
- for those starting out to study and prepare for taking the Assessment at a later date, and
- for those simply wishing to gain some further training beyond Basic Assessment level, and may or may not plan to take the Assessment at a later date.

The first day is on Saturday 13th February 2016, is classroom based.

- Describes the relationship of the General Husbandry to the Basic Assessment and to Advanced Husbandry, and the main aspects of the General Husbandry syllabus,
- Outlines the practical apiary environment expected at General Husbandry level and assessment,

Covers the level of competence expected at General Husbandry level in three of the main areas .

- swarm control
- queen rearing theory, and
- brood disease inspection and management

There will be hands on demonstrations (without bees) of beekeeping techniques

- Ends with a short quiz.

The main aim for those planning to take the Assessment the following year is for them to be able to assess what further studying and/or revising might be needed over the winter.

The second day will be in the spring, a practical apiary based day, and provides final preparations for those aiming to take their Assessment that year, and to provide an advanced view of expectation for those planning to take the Assessments at a later date or just attending for interest.

Course Leader

Alastair Welch MB NDB

Alastair first recalls an interest in bees when, as a small boy, he came across a swarm of bees hanging in a fruit tree; it was something quite fascinating. This fascination continued but it was many years later, after retiring early from the joinery and shop-fitting industry, that he decided to pursue his interest further by actually taking up bee keeping. Alistair is a Master Beekeeper and holds the prestigious National Diploma in Beekeeping.

Alastair sits on the BBKA Exam Committee so is well placed give us tips on taking the assessment.

Alastair will be supported by other beekeepers that have recently passed the assessment.

To reserve a place please email Sandra Rickwood: rickwoodsbka@gmail.com