



# CANTERBURY BEEKEEPERS

A branch of Kent Beekeepers Association

## EDITOR'S NOTES

With the temperatures creeping up, and the longest day of the year only 3 weeks away, the natural urge of bees to swarm is at its peak. Whether you've "artificially swarmed" your bees, collected a swarm, or are still waiting to fill your new hives, everything in beekeeping is now proceeding at full speed. Lest we forget though, there is a difficult side to beekeeping, in the form of diseases. European Foulbrood has been found in our area – an outbreak in Worth was found at the beginning of May. This has led to quarantines being put in place at local commercial beekeeping companies, which will protect us all, but clearly is frustrating for those directly concerned. Those of you who met our new local Bee Inspector, Kay Wreford on our Bee Safari will, I'm sure, be impressed by her pragmatism and positive approach – so you should

always err on the side of caution if you think there is a problem in your beehive that you don't understand. Ask a more experienced beekeeper to help! News of the beautiful apiary in Bekesbourne travels far and wide – at this week's inspection we were joined by Allen Nearing and his family from Phoenix, Arizona, and

### Next Meeting Branch Apiary Meeting Saturday 4th June 2.30-4.30pm

Jan and Magdalene's  
apiary  
Bigbury Orchard  
Tonford Lane  
Harbledown CT2 9BH  
Joining instructions  
See p2

they were excited to help us to perform an artificial swarm on one of the colonies in the apiary. If you haven't been down to Palmsted Wood, try to fit it into your schedule -see p3 for more details.

We've just completed the first "meet the public" event of the season at Whitefriars, so thanks to Michael, David C, Jan, Magdalene and David Wells for their work on Saturday. We'll be at the Brogdale Strawberry Fair on 12 June, so volunteers to help out there are keenly sought. Adrian

## 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

## JUNE 2016

A newsletter for friends and members of Canterbury BKA

## DATES FOR DIARY

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June**

**CBKA branch apiary meeting, 2.30-4.30pm  
Bigbury Orchard, Tonford Lane, Harbledown CT2 9BH**

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June

Brogdale Strawberry Fair, demonstrations and stall

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July

CBKA committee meeting, 7-9pm, Old Gate Inn,  
Canterbury

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July**

**CBKA branch apiary meeting, 2.30-4.30pm  
Bekesbourne apiary meeting and barbeque**

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July

Brogdale Cherry Fair, demonstration and stall

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August**

**CBKA branch apiary meeting, 2.30-4.30pm**

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> August

BeeDay, Whitefriars Precincts, information & stall

## APIARY MEETING

Bigbury Orchard, Tonford Lane, Harbledown CT2 9BH

**The postcode is not a precise location, so use long/lat if relying on satnav: 51.27485, 1.0371**

[https://goo.gl/maps/aoSiC7LQ\\$bk2](https://goo.gl/maps/aoSiC7LQ$bk2)

Tonford Lane is accessed from the Harbledown end only: cross the A2 on Faulkners Lane, then bear left into Tonford Lane. Continue on, passing Pilgrims Way on right after 100m. A further 350m down Tonford Lane is a sharp left in the road. On the elbow of this corner is the entrance to the apiary (large plywood gates, which are to the right as you face the grand manor house gates. Drive through and up a track, best to park on the flat bit before another turning, the hives are further up the track to the left. There are at least 4 hives to inspect.

Normal apiary hygiene rules apply – so please bring clean bee-suits, clean disposable gloves (no leather gloves), and wellington boots. If you need to borrow PPE, please let us know ASAP, so we can try to get a spare suit in the right location!

## SOME SWARMS ARE EASIER THAN OTHERS

This swarm in Haverfordwest made national and international news in the last week, deciding that a car was a good resting place. There was some debate as to the difficulties of recovery. In the [Daily Telegraph](#), "Swarm of bees follow grandmother's car for over 24 hours attempting to rescue their queen" with a nice musical accompaniment to the video, whilst [Wales Online](#) went with the more dramatic "professionals were called in twice to remove this swarm of bees on a car after it followed the driver home". Really? [The Guardian](#) was less hysterical, going with "Bee swarm clinging to car boot has Welsh town abuzz", and some detail about how a park ranger helped to recover the bees. Presumably somewhere near the high street in Haverfordwest is a beekeeper keeping very quiet about where their hives are kept.





## BRANCH NEWS



### Whitefriars Bee Day

On Saturday 28 May we held our first 'Bee-Day' in the Whitefriars precinct. This is a bit early in the year for us but it is the day that Canterbury in Bloom is launched so we like to do our bit to help them put on a show. A small team led by Michael worked hard all day talking to many passers-by about bees and selling honey. The honey from the hives on the roof of the shopping centre proved a big hit particularly with people looking for 'local' honey to assuage their hay fever. No promises of efficacy were made, but we sold out anyway! The many children had fun finding the queen and were very pleased to receive a bee buddy badge, while the adults were secretly fascinated by our observation hive as well.

### Photo Gallery

You can see photos taken on the Bee Safari earlier in May, as well as photos from the Whitefriars BeeDay on our website at [this link](#). If you have any other pictures you'd like to share, just send them along to [cantbees@gmail.com](mailto:cantbees@gmail.com) and I'll put them on the website. Here's a gang of beekeepers waiting for the SBI at Bekesbourne on 14<sup>th</sup> May.



### Honey Sales

If the BeeDay was anything to go by, then local honey continues to be something that we can readily sell at meet-the-public events. The next event is on 12<sup>th</sup> June at Brogdale, so if you have got some good quality honey in jars, we can take it along to add to the diversity of honeys on sale. 12oz

jars seem to sell well at £5. Contact one of the committee to make arrangements to sell your honey.

If you want to give your honey a colour, then David Cockburn holds a set of official honey grading glasses which belong to CBKA and are used to help ensure that a honey sample is entered into the right colour class at the Kent Show or National Honey Show.

### Bekesbourne Apiary

Inspections are now proceeding at a regular weekly interval, and there has been the opportunity to split colonies as well as see some colonies not doing well. We do rely on participation from all members to keep the apiary running, so if you haven't joined in an inspection yet, please contact Martin Neame at [CBKA.apiary.manager@gmail.com](mailto:CBKA.apiary.manager@gmail.com) to get involved.

### Swarm Collection

I'm told that swarms are being reported regularly at the moment, and folks are even getting out in time to actually collect the swarms. I was lucky enough to be told of a swarm onsite at work, on a Friday afternoon, which was enough of an excuse to finish a little early. As you can see from the photo, this wasn't exactly a challenging recovery, requiring my nuc box to be lifted 12" off the ground in order to make it easy to sweep the bees in.





## KENT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Honey Show 2016



The traditional Kent County Show is fast approaching, and is a showcase event for farming, countryside and rural life. The three day event brings together the very best of Kent with animals and food, fun and excitement and above all a sense of what 'The Garden of England' has to offer, for the whole family.

The KBKA Honey Show, is one of the events at the Kent Show, and as usual, KBKA encourages participation either as an exhibitor, or as an assistant in manning the stalls. If you do volunteer to help out, you get free access to the whole County Show event, so it's worth a couple of hours of your time. The Kent Show runs from 8-10 July, but entry forms should be submitted by 17<sup>th</sup> June. The show schedule and entry forms are attached to this newsletter for your convenience. Check whether you have light, medium or dark honey with our official grading glasses – David Cockburn holds these for members' use.

Website for County Show: <http://kentshowground.co.uk/the-show/about-the-kent-county-show/>

## LASI QUEEN BEES

We are emailing you to inform you about the launch of LASI Queen Bees – rearers of Queen Bees bred for hygienic behaviour. LASI provide UK beekeepers with honey bees bred for disease resistance using hygienic behaviour based on scientific research.



The link to the LASI Queen Bee website is - <http://www.lasiqueenbees.com/> and the original launch announcement on U of Sussex website is [here](#).

As the contact for your beekeeping association, we would like to invite you to explore our new website, visit our store and buy your very own hygienic Queen Bee. We also ask if you could inform the beekeepers in your association about LASI and our hygienic bees.

Adrian's tip: you will probably be more interested in the "Open-Mated Daughters of Hygienic Breeder Queens" for £45, than in the "Tested Open-Mated Daughters of Hygienic Breeder Queens" for £500!!

## BEEKEEPERS @ KSRC

Courses in Summer 2016

## Beekeepers @ KSRC



We continue to be able to offer practical bee-handling events in Bridge on 18<sup>th</sup> June or **5<sup>th</sup> July (new date)**. 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.

Terry Clare will once again offer his popular "queen rearing for small scale beekeepers" courses. There is one remaining date for the classroom course –4<sup>th</sup> June in Bridge. This course will be complemented by a practical course on 11<sup>th</sup> July at the Detling Show Ground.

All these sessions are not intended for novices; our target audience is definitely "Improvers" - those who have kept bees for a season or two and are keen to learn more, to improve their understanding and management of their bees. So, if you are interested, bookings may be made from the KSRC website - [www.ksrcbees.org.uk](http://www.ksrcbees.org.uk)

Bob Smith, Julie Coleman and Adrian Davis

## RULES

- 1 All exhibitors must be members of Dover, Kent, Medway or Thanet BKAs and the honey and wax must be the produce of the exhibitor's own bees.
- 2 Entry forms with **S.A.E.** must reach the Show Secretary by the Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June.
- 3 Exhibitors may make more than one entry in any class, but will **only receive** one award per class. Awards for classes 1 to 15 will be counted for points for Challenge Trophies.
- 4 Honey must be exhibited in clear 454g (1 lb) squat jars of British Standard Pattern with standard lacquered or plastic screw tops (gold or white).
- 5 Labels will be supplied and must be affixed to exhibits as follows:  
**jars and mead bottles** – 15mm (½ in) from the bottom  
**comb** – one label on the top bar and the other on the glass of the case.  
**candles** – one on each candle fixed near the base of the candle.  
**blocks of wax** – a label on the top of the block and one on the container.  
**photographs** – mounted colour print photograph about bees or beekeeping, for the general public (non-beekeeper). There should be a title or caption. Photographs to have been taken by the exhibitor and mounted on plain card of any colour (160gsm grade), A4 size. Photographs to be labelled on the bottom left-hand corner of the mount.  
**cakes** – a label on the top of the cake and the other on the plastic bag.  
**biscuits** – a label on the plate and the other on the plastic bag.
- 6 Beeswax must be plainly moulded and not exhibited in boxes. All entries will be placed in a display case.
- 7 Mead to be shown in a clear punted bottle with little or no lettering or ornamentation containing approximately 750ml (27 fluid oz). Only cork stoppers with white plastic flanges to be used (supplied at the show).
- 8 Candles must be displayed upright in a suitable holder.
- 9 Cakes and Biscuits will be exhibited on a white paper plate in a plastic bag.
- 10 Exhibits will be accepted at the Show from 2pm – 6pm on the day prior to the Show opening. They will be staged by the appointed stewards. **Judging starts at 10.00am and exhibits may only be removed after 5.30pm on the last day of the Show.**
- 11 All exhibits except those in the Gift Classes will remain the property of the exhibitor. Gift classes may be bought back ( talk to the Show Secretary). All reasonable care will be taken with the exhibits but the Show Committee cannot be responsible for any loss or damage.
- 12 Any points not covered in the above rules will be referred to the rules applying to the National Honey Show. A copy of these rules will be available for scrutiny.
- 13 Any appeals should be addressed to the Show Secretary by 4pm on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2016.
- 14 A Novice is any exhibitor, who has never won a First Prize at the Kent Honey Show.  
Points awarded: First – 6, Second – 5, Third – 4, VHC – 3, HC – 2, C – 1

**CAN YOU HELP AS A STEWARD AT THE SHOW?**  
Please contact **Bob Smith**  
02083001807 or [bsmith12@ntlworld.com](mailto:bsmith12@ntlworld.com)



# Kent Bees and Honey Show

Organised by the Kent Beekeepers' Association  
in conjunction with Dover, Medway and Thanet Beekeepers' Associations

**Friday, Saturday & Sunday**  
**8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2016**  
(entries close 17<sup>th</sup> June)

**Kent County Showground**  
**Detling, Maidstone**

**Judge:**

**Miss Enid Brown (Scotland).**

**Show Secretary:**

**Mr. John Chapman**  
**28 Wallace Road, Rochester, Kent ME1 2TB**  
**01634 400570**

## SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

OPEN TO ALL BEEKEEPERS

Entry forms must reach the Show Secretary by Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2016

### OPEN CLASSES

Open to any Kent beekeeper.

- 1 Two jars of Light Coloured Honey (Sponsored by Maisemore Apiaries Ltd) First - £10, Second - £5.
- 2 Two jars of Medium Coloured Honey (Sponsored by E. H. Thornes(BEEHIVES) Ltd) First – £15, Second - £10, Third - £5.
- 3 Two jars of Dark Coloured Honey.
- 4 Two jars of Naturally Crystallised or Soft Set Honey
- 5 Six jars of one type of Honey (Light, Medium, Dark, Crystallised or Soft Set), labelled as offered for retail sale including Country of origin and best before date (*Rule 4 does not apply. Tamperproof labels ,if used, will be broken for judging*). (Sponsored by B J SHERIFF) First £30
- 6 One Comb of Honey, any size, suitable for extracting (Sponsored by BBWear Ltd). First - £20
- 7 One cake of Beeswax, weight between 200-255g (7-9oz) and not less than 20mm ( ¾ in) thick (Sponsored by Mann Lake) First - £15, Second - £10, Third - £5.
- 8 One bottle of Dry Mead (*Rules 5 & 7*)
- 9 One bottle of Sweet Mead (*Rules 5 & 7*)
- 10 3 Beeswax Candles. Candles need not necessarily be the same size or style. The display will be judged on its artistic merits. They will **not** be lit. (*Rules 1 & 6 do not apply*)
11. Three Plain Beeswax Candles, not patterned, up to and including 38mm(1.5in) in diameter. One to be lit by the judge.
- 12 Two Beeswax Models, moulded, matching in all respects.
- 13 Six 27g (1oz) Wax blocks.
- 14 Exhibition Class. A display of Honey and Wax Products. - to be selected from the following list -2 jars of Clear Honey of any colour, 2 jars of Naturally Crystallised or Soft Set Honey, Frame for Extraction, one cake of Beeswax (as for entry to class 7), bottle of Mead. Size not to exceed 500mm X 500mm.
- 15 Mounted Colour Print Photograph with Title relating to Bees or Beekeeping. Picture can be of any size, but must be taken by the exhibitor and mounted on plain card any colour (160gsm), A4 size. Digital images are permitted.

### NOVICE CLASSES.

Open to Beekeepers who have never won a First Prize Card in the Kent Honey Show.

- 16 NOVICE CLASS for Clear Honey. Two jars of Honey, any one colour.
- 17 NOVICE CLASS for Naturally Crystallised or Soft Set Honey. Two jars of honey.

### HONEY GIFT CLASSES.

- 18 Clear Honey. One jar of clear honey of any colour. (Sponsored by Blue Bell Hill Apiaries) First – £10, Second - £5.
- 19 Naturally Crystallised or Soft Set Honey. One jar of either. (Sponsored by Blue Bell Apiaries) First - £10, Second - £5.  
(For classes 16 and 17 . Please supply one of your own labels in an labelled envelope with your entry number , labels will be applied when the honey is sold.)
- 20 Gift Class. Honey Fruit Cake. Exhibits must be made to the recipe on the opposite page. Cakes are to be displayed on white paper plates inside a plastic bag. Labels to be put on the top of the cake and on the bag. Cakes will be donated to Catering after judging.
- 21 Gift Class. Honey Biscuits. A plate of six biscuits made to the exhibitors own Recipe. The recipe to be displayed with the biscuits.

### BRANCH OR ASSOCIATION APIARY CLASSES.

- 22 Branch or Association Apiary Class. Two jars of honey of any one colour. (Sponsored by Freeman & Harding Ltd .) First - £10.

### SPECIAL AWARDS

#### The Agricultural Society's Trophy.

Exhibitor with the highest points in classes 1 – 15.

#### Clive Watson Memorial Trophy.

Winner of Class 2 for Medium Coloured Honey

#### Mead Cup.

Overall Winner of classes 8 and 9

#### Reginald Tower Rose Bowl.

Best exhibit of candles  
(Classes 11 and 12)

#### Subscribers Cup

Exhibition Class (Class 14).

#### Novice Cup.

Overall Winner of classes 16 & 17

#### Branch or Association Apiary Class.

Geoffrey Dixon Trophy.

#### Best Honey Exhibit in Show.

(Blue Ribbon may be awarded for the Best in Show)

#### Best Exhibit in the Cookery Classes.

Margaret Calder Plate.

#### Branch or Association Winning the Most points in Classes 1 – 15.

Central Division Cup.

#### Honey Cake Recipe for Kent show in 2016.

(Honey Fruit Cake)

**Ingredients:** 200g/7oz self-raising flour, 175g/6oz honey, 110g/4oz butter, 175g/6oz sultanas, 2 medium eggs, 110g/4oz glace cherries (halved).

**Preparation:** Preheat oven to 180 deg C/350 deg F/gas mark 4, Cream butter and honey together. Beat eggs well and add alternatively with sifted flour then fold in sultanas and cherries. A little milk may be added if necessary. Bake in a buttered circular tin 16.5 – 19.00cm (6 1/2-7 1/2 inches) in diameter for approximately 1 1/2 hours. Timing is for conventional ovens and is a guide only as appliances vary.

## KENT COUNTY BEEKEEPING EXHIBITION AND HONEY SHOW 2016.

Entry form must reach the Entries Secretary by the 17<sup>th</sup> June.

	Steward use			CLASSES	Classes entered X
IN	OUT	Class no.			
		1		Light honey	
		2		Medium honey	
		3		Dark honey	
		4		Crystallised or Soft Set honey	
		5		Six jars of one type of honey	
		6		Comb of Honey	
		7		Cake of Beeswax.	
		8		One bottle of Dry Mead	
		9		One bottle of Sweet Mead	
		10		3 Beeswax Candles	
		11		Three Plain Beeswax Candles	
		12		Two Beeswax Models	
		13		Six 27g (1oz) blocks	
		14		Exhibition Class	
		15		Mounted Colour Print Photograph	
				<b>End of Open Classes</b>	
		16		Novice – Honey, any colour	
		17		Novice –Crystallised or Soft Set honey	
		18		Gift – clear honey	
		19		Gift – Crystallised or soft set honey	
		20		Gift – Honey Cake.	
		21		Gift – 6 Biscuits.	
		22		Branch or Association honey.	

I declare the above entries conform to the Rules by which I agree to abide and that my honey and wax exhibits have been produced by my bees.

Class entry cards and labels can be posted if a sae (1<sup>st</sup> class) is enclosed.

I will bring my entries on Thursday afternoon/ sending my entries with ..... DELETE AS APPROPRIATE.

**PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS**

Branch/Association.....

Name.....

Address.....

..... Postcode.....

Phone Number ..... Mobile .....

Signed..... Date .....