



CANTERBURY BEEKEEPERS

A branch of Kent Beekeepers Association

EDITOR'S NOTES

November is very much the quiet part of the year for beekeepers – time to bask in the glory of successes at Honey Shows, luxuriate in the quality of the honey you produced, and enjoy the warm glow of a candle produced entirely from the wax of your own beehives.

I'm pleased to report that a frame of honey from our Bekesbourne apiary won third prize in the Dover Honey Show, although David Cockburn opined that it was indistinguishable from the frame that won first prize in the same category at the National Honey Show in Epsom. We should prove this next year!

The first week of November gave us the first hoar frosts of the autumn, but otherwise October has been mild, and the bees have been active, at least if my hives are representative of the area. I did open one hive last weekend, to find four frames with brood, which was

heartening, as the key to successful overwintering, in addition to substantial honey stores, is a healthy population of winter bees. As Jürgen Tautz described in this month's *BBKA News*, bees raised at slightly lower nest temperatures will have the characteristics of winter bees – lifespans of 4-6 months, and high fat body content

Next Meeting

Christmas Party

St Michael's
Hall,
Roman Road,
Upper
Harbledown,
CT2 9AT

Saturday 3rd

December

7-10pm

see page 2

enabling them to remain useful members of a colony through to April when brood-rearing accelerates in response to nectar flows and high light levels.

A surprise at the end of October was the number of wasps that are still being a nuisance in one of my apiaries.

They are only

interested in robbing honey stores, but with colonies in temperature-protective clusters, it can be easy for the wasps to enter colonies.

Frosts should see off the wasps, and supplementary feeding with fondant should correct any problems.

I hope to see you at our Christmas party. Adrian

CBKA OFFICERS

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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

NOVEMBER 2016

A newsletter for friends and members of Canterbury BKA

CHRISTMAS PARTY

We have organised a party for Canterbury beekeepers at St Mary's Hall in Upper Harbledown on Saturday 3rd December at 7pm. Beekeepers, friends and partners are all welcome: we'll be charging £10/head to cover food and hall hire. We are still finalising the details, but it will be a three course meal, with options for both vegetarians and omnivores. Magdalene Mei Halkes has kindly offered to organise the catering for us, so the price will be substantially less than what we might pay at a commercial location. Here's an approximate idea of the menu, which will expand or contract, dependent on the numbers attending:

Cold:

- tomatoes / mozzarella cheese platter
- Mixed green salad leaves
- Boiled Gammon
- Grilled Veggies.(pepper/courgettes) salad

Hot:

- Roast Duck Chinese style
- Chicken Satay sticks
- Grilled prawns
- Mixed vegetables stew /curry
- Roasted root vegetables
- Rice
- Baked potatoes

Puddings:

- Carrot cake/Fruit cake
- Apple flan/Lemon drizzle cake
- Fruit crumble



If you want to bring along something to drink (alcoholic or not), that would be very welcome! Please let us know that you are coming by Monday 28th November, so we can get the catering right. Email cantbees@gmail.com or phone David Cockburn on 01227 457517. Ideally you'll pay by bank transfer: Account name: Kent Beekeepers' Association/Canterbury Branch Sort code: 30-91-60, Account number: 00371771

Alternatively, send a cheque payable to Kent Beekeepers' Association to our treasurer, Joan – whose address is on the front page.

DIRECTIONS

St Mary's Hall, Roman Road, Upper Harbledown, Canterbury CT2 9AT

Coming out of Canterbury on the A2050, pass through the traffic lights at Palmars Cross Hill, and look out for a right turn onto Roman Road, about 200m past the lights. Try not to miss it, you will end up on the A2, and have to go up to Dunkirk! Follow Roman Road for about 600m through Upper Harbledown. There is a left turn signed to "Boughton, Faversham, A2": the hall is on the right hand side at this junction. Parking is on the street – please be considerate of the neighbours and park beyond the "access to London Road" sign.



or

By foot / BUS

The 3/3B service from Canterbury to Faversham stops very close to St Mary's Hall, and takes about 10min from the Canterbury bus station.

DATES FOR DIARY

Saturday 12 th November	BBKA examination day (details)
Saturday 3rd December	Xmas social event, 7.30-11pm, St Mary's Hall, Harbledown
Saturday 14 th January	BBKA annual delegates meeting, National Beekeeping Centre, Stoneleigh (link to papers here)
Wednesday 18th January 2017	tbc, Lecture on Bumblebee Research, Dr Lars Chittka Professor in Sensory and Behavioural Ecology Queen Mary, University of London
Wednesday 15th February 2017	tbc, talk on the management of Top Bar hives
Wednesday 15th March 2017	Queen rearing principles – planning for queen rearing as a branch activity Julian, Joan and Adrian
Saturday 18 th March (tbc)	BBKA modules examination day
7-9 April 2017	BBKA Spring Convention, Harper Adams University

We keep a google calendar up-to-date with all branch meetings, and relevant other activities. You can integrate this with your own calendars using the following information:

- For use with a Calendar app such as Google calendar, Apple Calendar, Outlook or Thunderbird, the first thing you need is the public address of our branch calendar, and in some cases you may also need to reference our email address (cantbees@gmail.com):

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/ical/cantbees%40gmail.com/public/basic.ics>

- Details on how to use this address for **iPhones** are [here](#) If you are not a gmail user, and [here](#) if you already have a gmail account
- I am not so familiar with **Android phones** (e.g. Samsung). This is what I've read, but can't verify myself. If you use Google Mail on your phone, it's pretty easy – follow Google's [instructions](#). If you don't run a Google mail account, then you'll need to look at [these instructions](#).
- If these instructions don't work, and you figure out a better way for your device, please share it will us at our branch discussion forum [here](#)



BRANCH NEWS



AGM

This year's AGM on the 2nd November was a sparsely attended affair, but we were still able to conduct the necessary business, to elect branch officers for 2017, review the financial situation of the branch, and receive reports from the branch officers for 2016. You will receive draft minutes of the AGM in a few days' time. Given that relatively few people were able to attend (and so missed out on Simon and Jan's excellent B-themed quiz), we will undertake a brief member survey to get a better picture of what went well in 2016, and on what we should focus our limited resources in 2017.

Apiary Manager

We are very grateful to Martin Neame for his work to support our first full year of running a branch apiary in Bekesbourne. He's done a great job of establishing the operating principles for the apiary, and successfully recruited a good cross-section of the branch membership to help out in managing the bees through the season. Martin's growing business interests prevent him from committing to this role in 2017, so we are looking for someone to help us out by managing the overall inspection and housekeeping activities – i.e. to organize branch members into a sensible roster. Martin is more than willing to provide guidance to anyone who is interested to step up, so please contact either the secretary ([Adrian](#)) or [Martin](#) to express interest. Beekeeping (in)experience is not a requirement for the role, just a good feel for organizing people.

Committee

There are limited changes to the committee for 2017 – your Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary have been re-elected – David Cockburn, Joan McAllister and Adrian Davis, and the other members of the committee are happy to continue to support the branch. We haven't re-appointed a membership secretary, in part because the

electronic forms for membership renewal and application are proving to reduce the amount of administration required to run the branch.

Membership Subscriptions

These become due on 1st October for all members and friends of the branch. Our new electronic renewal system this year seems to be working fine, as 42 members (~67%) have already renewed. We'd be delighted if those remaining outstanding would renew their membership using the online form at:

<http://canterburybeekeepers.org.uk/membership-renewal-2016-7/>

This allows you to send us your address details, and membership selections. However, it will not take any money from you. Shortly after submitting your renewal information, you will receive an email with instructions on how to pay – we'd prefer if you use electronic funds transfer, but a cheque is OK too.

Beekeeping Anthropology

I've received a couple of different requests from students at the University of Kent, who are interested in contacting beekeepers to learn more about beekeeping as part of their Masters research. For one of their projects they are having to make a video about conservation and the effects of extinction/changes in biodiversity on people. They want to create a video on the disappearance of bees and were wondering if they could come and visit one day, film your bees and perhaps interview some members on their views/experience as honeybee numbers decline.

Contact Adrian if you would like to help out these students understand their community a little better.

BEEKEEPERS @ KSRC

Courses in Winter 2016/7

Beekeepers @ KSRC



Through the winter, Beekeepers at KSRC will repeat its very successful "Improver Key Skills" course. It's a five session course as follows:

The five sessions can be booked together for £25 (non-refundable). 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.
- winter management
- Health and Hygiene

We plan to hold the course in East Kent from 10 January – 7th February. This local course will be at The BeeBarn - the training centre that is part of Bee Equipment's facilities at Highland Court Farm in Bridge, near Canterbury. It has a modern, well-equipped meeting/lecture room, with room for 35 delegates.

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

A number of Canterbury branch members have attended this course previously, and found it useful. Magdalene Mei Halkes offered this comment:

I attended this course earlier this year and found it most informative, useful and refreshing. It is a good continuation course from Julian's beginner's course. I highly recommend it.

Bob Smith, Julie Coleman and Adrian Davis

BROGDALE

We continue to work with Brogdale to help educate the public about bees. We recently received this request to help them in a fundraising competition:

We aim to educate and inspire our visitors with the huge collection of apples and other fruit that we grow at Brogdale. The National Fruit Collection is also used year round to educate and inspire educational groups.

So we're appealing for your help, please vote for us to gain some funding for our educational 'beastie' garden!

Click here: <https://community-fund.aviva.co.uk/voting/project/view/16-659>

This costs you nothing apart from a little time! You just need to register with your email details and then you have **10** votes to put against our project – **Beastie Garden, Brogdale Collections, Ospringe.**

You can cast all 10 for our project or spread your support across multiple projects. Please do let anyone else know or share these details on social media if you tweet or share on facebook!





BBKA NEWS



EDUCATION AND HUSBANDRY COMMITTEE

GENERAL HUSBANDRY ASSESSMENT PREPARATION TRAINING

We are very pleased to announce that a successful bid to DEFRA under the Healthy Bees Plan will provide the funds for the local support to those who plan to take the General Husbandry assessment in the near future.

The training is running between January and April 2017, and will be facilitated by a team of 14 Master Beekeepers who are also General Husbandry assessors in the following areas of the country:

North West, North East, South Wales, South West, Midlands, East Anglia, South East and Yorkshire

The programme of 20 hours will cover both practical and theoretical aspects of the General Husbandry assessment, aiming to give the participants an understanding of what the assessment entails and what they need to do in order to be successful.

The candidates are required to have taken the Basic certificate and be registered on BeeBase.

Enrolment fee £50

For more information or to subscribe contact Marin Anastassov
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