



CANTERBURY BEEKEEPERS

A branch of Kent Beekeepers Association

EDITOR'S NOTES

The season is almost over – both from a honey collecting point of view, and the social calendar at Ascot, Henley and Wimbledon. There seems to have been a decent summer honey flow, although perhaps the spring was more difficult, as colonies built up later in April and May, rather than being large enough to take advantage of the spring crop for surpluses. Those of you who were hoping for swarms to start or bolster your apiaries have probably found this year a little frustrating, as the swarms are still being collected now, having started much later in May than we typically are used to seeing. For those of you producing new colonies or queens, you should now have a few “red queens” laying in colonies

(red being the marking colour for queens produced in years ending 8 or 3). Hopefully all Red Queens will have the characteristic of their namesake in Lewis

Carroll's *Through the Looking Glass*: “her passion must be cold and calm - she must be formal and strict, yet not unkindly”. I interpret this to mean well-behaved bees that don't sting or follow, showing a neat and regular laying pattern, with strong hygienic

tendencies! Not to be confused with the Queen of Hearts from *Alice in Wonderland*, who is “a sort of embodiment of ungovernable passion - a blind and aimless Fury”. Any honey bee queens answering to that description should be despatched with the same enthusiasm that the Queen of Hearts herself showed for bee-heading!

Adrian

Apiary Meeting

Bee Safari

Multiple locations

**Saturday 14th
July**

10.30am-3.30pm

Details on p2

CBKA Officers

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Committee Members

Julian Audsley
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Magdalene Mei Halkes
Maggie McKenzie
Michael Roberts
Jan Soetaert

The easiest way to contact us is via email using the links above, but you can also use the contacts page on the website.

Contact [Newsletter Editor](#) to contribute articles

JULY 2018

DATES FOR DIARY: yearbook at <http://canterburybeekeepers.org.uk/calendar/cbka-list/>

6-8 July	Kent Honey Show, Kent showground, Detling, ME14 3JF
Sat July 14	Branch summer safari with SBI Kay Wreford
Sun July 15	Brogdale Cherry Festival
Sat August 04	Apiary meeting (Steve and Malindi, Westbere)
Fri August 24	Complete application for BBKA microscopy certificate
Sat August 25	Meet the public BeeDay in Whitefriars precincts, 10-4pm
Sat September 01	Apiary meeting (Debbie B, Sanford)
Tue September 04	Committee meeting, The Old Gate Inn, 162-164 New Dover Rd, Canterbury CT1 3EL, UK
Sun September 23	Apply for BBKA module examinations.
Wed September 26	East Kent Ploughing Match, Malmaims Farm, Waldershare, Dover CT15 5BG, UK
Wed October 07	branch indoor meeting, Barham Village Hall, Valley Rd, Barham, CT4 6NX wax production
October 13-14	Brogdale Apple Festival
Thu October 25	National Honey Show, Sandown Park Racecourse, Portsmouth Rd, Esher KT10 9AJ, UK
Wed November 07	branch AGM, Whitefriars Management Suite, Canterbury CT1 2TF, UK
Sat November 10	BBKA modules examination day https://www.bbka.org.uk/modules
Sat November 24	BBKA microscopy examinations
Sat December 08	Christmas party

You can get our calendar, either as a google calendar (cantbees@gmail.com), or for other programmes using this URL: <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/ical/cantbees%40gmail.com/public/basic.ics>

APIARY MEETING

Saturday 14th July, 10-4pm

We will be touring around the Canterbury area to visit several apiaries in the company of Kay Wreford, our seasonal Bee Inspector. All members are welcome to join us at as many apiaries as they wish. We suggest that you try to visit an apiary that is perhaps a little different from your own – Isabelle, Andy and Norman have their bees in suburban locations whilst Maggie and Chris are more rural. If you are interested in gardening, then you might make an effort to join us at Maggie's apiary, as her garden regularly features in National Garden Society open days!

Final Programme		start time	inspection time
Isabelle Fauquet	90 Linden Crescent, Folkestone, CT19 5SD	10:00	0:40
Maggie Mackenzie	Well Cottage, The Street, Womenswold, CT4 6HE	11:00	0:45
	Go straight past the church and my cottage on the right hand side past the thatched cottage. There is parking on my drive for about 4 cars (I will move mine) but there is parking for extra cars behind the church. I will put my yellow NGS sign saying Well Cottage in the front garden!		
Chris d'Cruz and Sally Stonier - branch apiary	Palmsted Wood, Bekesbourne Lane, Bekesbourne CT4 5DX Map of location Approaching from Womenswold, it is ~50yds past Highfield Care Home on RHS. As a courtesy to our hosts, Sally and Chris, and to their neighbours, please make sure that you park inside the gate, so that no obstruction of the entrance place takes place. Drive along the track for about 100 yds and park on the left.	12:00	1:00
tea and cake	22 New Dover Rd, Canterbury CT1 3AP	13:10	Parking on Ersham Road or St Augustine's Road
Andy&Hazel King	22 New Dover Rd, Canterbury CT1 3AP	13:55	0:40
Norman Adams	98 Northwood Rd Tankerton CT5 2HA	15:00	0:30

Although not part of the safari, David Wells would like the assistance of eagle-eyed beekeepers to find and mark his queens, at his apiary (40 Mill Lane, Herne Bay CT6 7EB) at ~4pm.

Please let the secretary know which apiaries you plan to join at, so we can let the apiary owners know how many cars to expect. Email Adrian by [clicking this link](#). Strict 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 make sure to have an appropriate number of suits available at the correct location.

On the day, please [email Adrian](#), or text 07816 975286



BRANCH NEWS

Meet the Public Events

We had another very successful Bee Day in the at the Brogdale Strawberry Fair on Sunday 10th June, and whilst we didn't challenge our record-breaking sales at the Whitefriars May event, we sold nearly all the honey we had to offer. We also introduced a new way of collecting money from folks – we have an iZettle card reader, which allows us to do card transactions very cheaply. Thanks to Jan and Joan for sorting this out. We are grateful to Joan, Simon, David, Adrian, Jan, Becca and John for helping out with various aspects of the day, and continuing to make these events a success.



There's another great opportunity at the Brogdale Cherry Festival on Sunday 15th July, and we could still do with offers of honey for sale, or to help out working on the stand. Please contact us as soon as possible using [this form](#).



Winter Program

The branch's committee met this week, and we are pleased that we have almost completed planning for all of our meetings through the winter. We have invited Lauren Kennedy of the Bumblebee Conservation Trust to talk about their project *Making a Buzz for the Coast*.

We are planning to invite a commercial beekeeper in March 2019, so if anyone has a contact amongst the bee-farming community, please let us know.

Extractor

One of the advantages of branch membership is access to our two extractors, which are an expensive piece of kit for a beekeeper with 2 or 3 hives. We have two – one with an integral settling tank; the other without the tank, and both are perfect for extracting a few supers' worth of honey. July and August are the times of peak demand. All we ask is £5 for a hire slot (24 hr), and mostly importantly an email message (or text) to tell us when you've picked up, and passed on the extractor. You may have noticed that we temporarily lost track of one of the extractors, but it was safely being stored by one of our members. For ease of remembering, just email extractor@canterburybeekeepers.org.uk if you want to borrow/return/ask questions about the two extractors.



KENT BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION



General Secretary:

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4th July 2018

NOTICE of RECONVENED ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The reconvened Annual General Meeting will be held at the Lenham Community Centre at 10.30 a.m. on Saturday, 28th July 2018

The reconvened Annual General Meeting is for administrative purposes only but those wishing to attend are invited to attend the preceding reconvened Council meeting at 10.00 a.m.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. To adopt the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 30th September 2017
3. To appoint an Independent Examiner for the accounts in accordance with statutory requirements.

Jennifer Spon-Smith
County Secretary



BBKA NEWS - POSITIVE THINKING

June, 2018

This is the first Newsletter using our long-awaited new CRM system (which has primarily been implemented to communicate with donors). With a new and improved look with better usability, it will also provide great benefit in our communications to you, our Members.

You can subscribe to this directly by signing up at [this link](#)



Welcome

This has been a busy month with several meetings, Chatsworth Flower Show, statistical surveys and not forgetting our own beekeeping, if we have time, to check on our own colonies. At least it is cooler at the moment, quite a relief after the high temperatures we have endured whilst fully suited inspecting the hives.

Margaret Wilson

Show at Chatsworth A great success

This year the Marquee was in a good position at the show and of course the weather was great, slight rain on the Friday which soon cleared up, then sunshine for the rest of the day. The 'Hive Alive' was again a big hit and we worked in conjunction with Derbyshire Beekeepers who gave a really good show.

The set initial up was over the previous weekend and this year Stephen Barnes, our Vice Chair arrived to help get everything in place. He said he has an enormous amount of respect for the Shows Committee volunteers as they never stopped until everything was perfect. The garden design by Andrew Caine was lovely and visitors were stopping to take photographs so they could copy the planting in their own gardens. The volunteers started on the Sunday getting the equipment ready and it was the following Sunday, at the close of the show before they could start to pack up and go home. I think the BBKA membership and Trustees owe these people a very big vote of thanks.



President's Project

We have sent out requests for quotations to provide additional toilet facilities and a disabled access and WC at Stoneleigh. We have also started enquiries to get some help with developing the apiary. We contacted Pershore University as they have a garden design department and they are interested in helping us by providing a design for the apiary which will be bee-friendly and lovely to look at and sit in. We will need a very large cabin with one wall of glass to allow people to see what is going on inside a hive without the need for bee suits.

It is all very exciting and we are hoping to have much of the work either completed or well advanced by Spring next year. If you are down at Stoneleigh for any reason, do make a visit to the offices to see how we are developing our Centre of Excellence. Margaret Murdin and George Brown are leading on this project so I know that it will be absolutely superb when it is finished.

General and Advanced Husbandry

In 2018 there were a total of 92 BBKA members who expressed an interest in the GH training. There were 7 training venues based on their addresses and proximity to the venue.

Marin Anastasov organised and took part in both the General and Advanced Husbandry training, he also surveyed all the participants after the training to judge how they considered the value of the training was.

96% of the participants of the survey stated that the training met their expectations. Many expressed that the training may be better on a residential three-day course. This is something that we will look at in the future.

The Exam Board is working tirelessly to get as many people through this as possible and I believe that the pass rate is getting better. I hope that our Special Editions are having a part to play in this and if you are thinking of doing either the General or Advanced Husbandry in the future, please do get the Special Edition books to help you on the way.

Again, we have to thank volunteers and Trustees for giving their time to this, they have been up and down the country getting people prepared at first and later covering the exams. I must add, that if one person trains you they are not allowed to assess you, just to keep everything fair.

There were 45 applicants for General Husbandry and 27 for Advanced Husbandry for this year. General Husbandry numbers were up by 3 from last year but the Advanced Husbandry is down by 8 although last year was considered to be an exception. The Honey Bee Heath and Hygiene assessment is new this year and is purely practical...post Basic creating a step between the Basic and General Husbandry.

Office Staff

I believe that we will need to recruit additional staff for the office to cater for the success of the shop and also to help with the new database.

Jacqueline Vagg looks after the accounts and has had additional work to do. Initially, because of the Spring Convention and then of course with changing banks and setting up payment details all over again as the bank we are leaving is not able to do an automatic transfer as other banks are able to do. All this has added to Jacqueline's work load and equally the other staff have had to accommodate the additional work transferring the old database of Members to the new database. Eventually this will make life easier but the transition is not easy. Add to that the success of the Special Editions and the Shop.

Sarah who manages this is run off her feet and there are days when everyone has to lend a hand to get the goods out of the office door for members. We are looking to recruit a full time person to help with the accounts and a junior to help with the shop. It certainly is not cost efficient for our specialist staff to be wrapping up books for sale. This will add to the salary bill, but the rewards will be the income from the increased sales and the ease of the new membership database when it is all completed.

Charities Commission

Last year we were legally obliged to send a full report to the Charities Commission regarding the accusation of staff bullying by a Trustee. We have now received a letter from the Charities Commission which asks several pertinent questions regarding this report which included the decision of the Delegates not to support the suspension.

We are required to provide several documents to the Commission including the minutes of the AGM and they have also asked what action was taken regarding the decision at the ADM not to uphold the suspension. In fact, we did not take action at all and now find that we may be in breach of the Charities Commission Rules. All other aspects of their enquiry we are able to cover, except this one item. As Chair this year, it would have been my responsibility to take any necessary action so I apologise for not completing this task after the ADM.

All the current Trustees are committed to ensuring that your staff are treated with respect and in line with the Charities Commission, the law and good employment practice. Bullying in any form will not be tolerated no matter what excuse people may have.

Budgets for 2018/19

All Trustees who are budget holders are having to sharpen their pencils for next year's budgets. This is not an easy task, more like looking through a crystal ball in some cases! We have to calculate what the income will be, take into account the standard running costs of the Head Office, look at research, education, print costs, development of the site, exams, shows, communications, legal, insurance cover, auditors fee's the cost of transfer to a CIO cost of meetings (ADM) etc., Spring Convention, travel costs and a myriad of other items which all have to be costed by each budget holder. The budget has to match the projected income exactly, just as we all have to match our household spending to our own income.

We then have to monitor the budget each month and we depend on the office staff to produce figures to allow us to do that and to make sure that we are able to control our spending but be able to respond to emergencies as well.

We all hope that by the end of the year we have managed the finances to match the budgets, this is not easy as the Capitation comes in twice a year, but other items come in on a monthly basis so we have to rely on each other to be in complete control of our own allocation of funds.

Let's hope that this year we achieve the hat trick and manage this year's budget without going over our spending.