



# CANTERBURY BEEKEEPERS



A branch of Kent Beekeepers Association

## EDITOR'S NOTES

This month's newsletter will be kept uncharacteristically short, with just a few reminders for you for August. Firstly, we will be the guests of Malindi and Steve this coming weekend in Westbere. They have a beautiful location for beekeeping, overlooking the Westbere marshes, and with the sun on our backs, it promises to be an enjoyable afternoon.

Fresh from the successes of our events at

Brogdale in June and July, we will be holding a BeeDay in Whitefriars, in Canterbury city centre on 25<sup>th</sup> August. Unfortunately our chief organiser, Michael Roberts is indisposed at the moment, but we still need folks to volunteer to man the stand to talk about bees and beekeeping. Please [sign up here](#) if you can give a couple of hours' time, and/or supply (newly extracted) honey for sale.

If you are yet to extract your honey, why not crack on, and borrow one of the branch's two extractors for

the modest sum of £5/day? For ease of remembering, just email

[extractor@canterburybeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:extractor@canterburybeekeepers.org.uk) if you want to borrow/return/ask questions about the two extractors.

If you have already taken your honey harvest, then August is the perfect time to treat your colony for varroa – commonly Apiguard is used at this time of year, using two treatments per hive, 14 days apart, for a minimum of 4 weeks. It's important to observe the timing properly, as you will recall that from egg-adult takes 21 days for workers and 24

days for drones, and the treatment is effective provided it's warm, and at least one full cycle of bees emerges in a varroacidal atmosphere. Best practice is to use an eke or empty super over the broodbox, insert a dropboard, and close the entrance right down for the duration. Some folk also get their (winter) insulation in place. If you treat now, then any late flows in September from the ivy may be harvestable without being tainted by the strong taste of thymol.

Adrian

### Apiary Meeting **Malindi and Steve's Westbere**

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

2-4pm

Details on p2

## CBKA Officers

**Chairman:** David Cockburn

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**Treasurer and  
Membership:**

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**Secretary & Newsletter Editor:**

Adrian Davis  
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## Committee Members

Julian Audsley  
Simon Daniell  
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

**AUGUST 2018**

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

<b>Sat August 04</b>	<b>Apiary meeting (Steve and Malindi, Westbere)</b>
Fri August 24	Complete application for BBKA microscopy certificate
Sat August 25	Meet the public BeeDay in Whitefriars precincts, 10-4pm
<b>Sat September 01</b>	<b>Apiary meeting (Debbie B, Sanford)</b>
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, Malmains Farm, Waldershare, Dover CT15 5BG, UK
<b>Wed October 07</b>	<b>branch indoor meeting, Barham Village Hall, Valley Rd, Barham, CT4 6NX</b>
	<b>wax production</b>
October 13-14	Brogdale Apple Festival
Thu October 25	National Honey Show, Sandown Park Racecourse, Portsmouth Rd, Esher KT10 9AJ, UK
<b>Wed November 07</b>	<b>branch AGM, Whitefriars Management Suite, Canterbury CT1 2TF, UK</b>
Sat November 10	BBKA modules examination day <a href="https://www.bbka.org.uk/modules">https://www.bbka.org.uk/modules</a>
Sat November 24	BBKA microscopy examinations
<b>Sat December 08</b>	<b>Christmas party</b>

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

## APIARY MEETING

At Malindi Tucker and Steve Gough's apiary

Saturday 4th August, 2-4pm

Ashby Meadow, 6a Westbere Lane, Westbere CT2 0HH

Malindi offers the following guidance for parking. Folk can park in the driveway, or anywhere on the road. Walk down the right-hand side of Ashby Meadow, 6a Westbere Lane and you will see the hives at the bottom of my garden.

We have two hives occupied. One is a new, small swarm and just drawing out comb on plastic foundation. We are not sure it will survive the winter and would welcome any advice. The second hive is large and strong. We have spun off two supers of honey this week. The main problem is the queen (she was marked but it has rubbed off) who has got into the supers and we have brood everywhere. We think we have now confined her to the brood chamber but perhaps this could be a learning point on Saturday!

Lots of wasps at present so we have fitted entrance blocks but wondered if there is a recommended wasp trap we should use.

As ever, usual apiary hygiene rules apply, so bring clean bee-suits, and no leather gloves, only disposable or washable Marigold types. If you need to borrow a suit, please let us know beforehand.





## BBKA NEWS - POSITIVE THINKING



### Welcome

I hope you are all having a very fruitful Summer with your bees so far.

I have been asked to explain the tasks that the Trustees cover for the BBKA, so I will try to give you information each month about particular committees and the trustees involved.

Introducing the Executive Committee...

-Margaret Wilson, Chair of the BBKA

### Executive Committee (EC)

To start with, each and every Trustee and the President attend the Executive Committee meetings at Stoneleigh, these occur 9 times a year usually on a Saturday. On top of this other committees have their meetings on the same days to keep travel expenses at a minimum. So, there may be a meeting of Finance, Governance, Education and Husbandry, Research, Human Resources and Communications all running consecutively over the Friday as well sometimes going on into the evening, and continuing through Saturday. The Shows Committee meet on a separate day as most members are volunteers and not Trustees so the EC weekend is not appropriate. Also the BBKA News committee usually communicate by e mail and phone and that suffices to make sure all runs well without too much cost.

So the next question is, 'who attends which committee?' well usually and certainly since I have been a trustee everyone goes to the Finance Meeting, which is really good as it is one of the most important elements of the BBKA. Howard Pool chairs it and Leigh Sidaway acts as Secretary and takes the minutes. Every expenditure is discussed and monitored to make sure that we get value for money. We watch our income from advertising in the BBKA News, to the income from the online shop, donations, capitation, corporate sponsorship and anything else that can bring in a few coppers to keep the wheels well oiled.

### National Trust Property, Wildlife Trust and others

We have been told that there are certain National Trust properties where they do not allow honey bees on their land as they feel that they compete with bumble bees.

I do not think for one moment that this is true because in my large garden I have every kind of plant for pollinators and the bumble bees have their own preferences and seldom do I see both kinds of bee on the same flower.

Nevertheless, can you all do some research please and let us know if there are any such sites in your area where they do not allow honey bees on their land. This will give us the details to then question what is happening before it all gets out of hand.

### Bloom & Wild

Diane Roberts our Press Officer has been approached by this company who wants to work with us and to donate to the BBKA for every bouquet that they sell, they

We do have funds invested to make sure that every penny works for us. These can go up or down but Howard who manages this has his hand on the rudder and keeps a close eye on our investments. I must also mention here that Lyn Barker who is treasurer for the BBKA attends this meeting as well as often visiting the office to keep an eye on the accounts. We would then go into the account team who are Jacqueline Vagg who is the lead and manages everything exactly to the penny and Michelle Walsh who has been with us from early this year but has come to grips with the accounts system and if you want your expenses paid, then you had better have them with all receipts and vouchers or you will not get a penny from her and well done for that as far as I am concerned because after all we are dispensing the money you put into the BBKA.

## CIO

I have been asked to remind you that you need to check the documents sent to your secretaries regarding the CIO constitution, you need to read it and make any comments by the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018, after that time there will be no other changes.

After further consultation with the Solicitor taking into account any changes which have been identified the final article will be presented at the ADM. I have to add at that time no further changes will be made, so if you want to have any input, please do it now and certainly before 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018.

## IMYB

The IMYB's philosophy is to make beekeeping attractive to today's youth and include elements of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, including travel, cultural and social exchange, interaction in foreign language or online communication and to live in a global society and not just their own backyard.

This year's IMYB is complete and all the reports received are that everything went very well and the young people who represented our country did us proud. There were 29 countries represented including a team from Kazakhstan. The three girls, who were selected a few months ago, did the BBKA proud and participated with a lot of enthusiasm and learnt a lot about the 'French' way of beekeeping, overcoming any language barriers. For example, they had never wired wax foundation before, so this is something new they can add to their beekeeping CVs.

Simon Cavill (Trustee), who organised IMYB on our behalf, was accompanied by Gareth Morgan (Trustee) and Gareth's wife who is a qualified teacher acting as chaperone. All enjoyed the meeting, despite the early mornings and late nights. The adults had a good chance to talk about beekeeping for youngsters in their own countries and lots of ideas were exchanged. There is more about the IMYB meeting in BBKA news this month.

want all the flowers to be grown in the UK as at the moment most of the flowers that arrive in the supermarket or in the florist come from abroad.

They know that the cost may be higher but they want to get across to the public that it is important for our pollinators to have home grown blooms which give all our pollinators a chance to survive.

If you have ever had one of their bouquets delivered as a gift you will know that the quality is excellent. Diane Roberts and Claire Hartry are managing this so I hope you join me in wishing them great success.

## Apiary at Stoneleigh

We have mentioned that we intend to expand on the apiary facilities at Stoneleigh and plant and improve the planting including wildflowers, but the current lease is just for 6 months, so we have approached the land owners and they have agreed to give us a 10 year lease, this will enable us to invest in the area without fear of eviction. And if we can make it a centre of excellence, who knows, they may continue to lease it to us long-term as it will certainly be a welcome attraction to the site.

## **Queen Rearing**

### **Training for Queen Raising**

It is intended that we run six basic skills queen raising courses - for people who can be trained to rear queens in their own branches as association activities. A total of 72 people trained at this level is what we envisage initially.

This initiative fits in nicely with the new proposals by Defra for much more reliance on good local queen supplies therefore diminishing the number of imported queens.

We hope to start the theory sessions during the winter. This programme 'queen rearing for beginners,' will concentrate on beekeepers with a small number of colonies and use the likes of the Miller method. There will be no grafting involved.

It is hoped that from this beginning members will start their own queen rearing groups. We realise that many AAs already have their own queen rearing programmes and we are not in any way trying to usurp or interfere with those. However a lot of members are asking us about queen rearing so this programme is designed for them. More information will be available soon in BBKA News and on the website.

### **Training More Queen Raising Trainers**

Thinking wider than just the 72 competent people as will be provided as above, and then to extend the queen raising abilities to as many associations and branches as quickly as possible, we plan a higher level training to provide for the 'Training of Trainers,' to equip them with higher level skills and a variety of queen raising competencies, who can then train others in the basic skills. There will be 4 higher level skills courses of 10 people. This will likely appeal to General Husbandry (GH) and Advanced Husbandry (GH) qualified people.

It is intended to run queen rearing courses where there will be six centres where twelve people per centre can be trained to rear queens in their own branches. We are hoping to cascade this out across the country if it is successful, so we are putting plans in place to start this early next year in order to take advantage of the season in 2019.