



CANTERBURY BEEKEEPERS



A branch of Kent Beekeepers Association

EDITORS MESSAGE

At last the warm weather has arrived and what a difference this has made after a cold and miserable May. The supers are being filled and the bees are now in full swarm mode. The swarm phone lines throughout the country are red hot!

I'm helping to man the BBKA swarm line this year, it's always interesting, ranging from the elderly lady who is a little frightened and needs a comforting chat about the four bees seen on her garden path, to the multiple times you have explain why Bumble bees are not honey bees and the gentleman who was convinced that he had an 'Asian Ant Wasp' in his garden as all the insects in his garden had disappeared and he knew he had 450 insects in his garden this time last year as he had counted them all. The most humorous though was the beekeeper who had put his name on the swarm line and was desperate to get it removed as his wife was so fed up

with the multiple calls that she was about to divorce him...and he couldn't find a way to get his details removed. Manning the swarm lines is never dull!

As everything has been so delayed by the weather, we may find that the normal June Gap is not as noticeable as in past years. The Bramble is now flowering and hopefully the bees will find lots of forage to help them fill up their supers And our honey pots.

However, there has been a major shortage of honey this spring and many of our local distributors are desperate for supplies, so if anyone has jars of honey available Adrian would be pleased to hear from you. His contact details are at the top of the column to the right.

Keep a look out for those hidden queen cells and enjoy your extraction days ahead.

Lisa

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David Cockburn

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Dougal Hendry ([courses](#))

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Maggie McKenzie

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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.

JUNE 2021

A newsletter for friends and members of the Canterbury branch of Kent BKA

2021 YEAR PROGRAMME

June 10th 2021 – Member Apiary meeting

FUTURE MEETINGS

July 10th 2021 – Visit to a members Apiary. Saturday 2pm to 4pm. An open afternoon visit to a member apiary and a welcome to your local Thorne distributor.

George and Lisa Jenkins would like to welcome you to their home Apiary and fledgling Thorne supply outlet.

Agenda:

The Apiary tour: This is our home apiary, we have several hives (plus extras, where we have recently made splits). We are happy to share our hives with you and welcome your views as we are, and always will be, continually learning. Please bring a freshly laundered bee suit, new gloves, and washed footwear for reasons of hygiene.

Following the Apiary tour there will be an opportunity to view and buy from our range of Thorne products (including a 5% discount on the day) and enjoy some home-made cakes. For COVID -19 reasons please bring your own beverages.

The Raffle: we have a selection of items available in a free raffle which will be drawn during drinks and cakes.

There is sufficient parking in the grounds and directions will be provided for travel.

Social distancing is a challenging thing to do around a beehive. With that in mind, we propose to limit the number of people at the meeting to 24, so that we can give everyone a decent apiary experience without crowding.

EXTRACTORS – HOW TO BORROW

The club has two extractors available to members and friends who do not have their own extraction equipment. If you would like to borrow one of these extractors from the club, please contact Magdelene Mei Halkes on magdelene.chau@gmail.com or 07587203808.

The hire charge is £5 direct to the clubs bank account and Magdelene Mei will provide these details.

Both extractors are manual ones, with one able to take 14 x 12 frames.

How the hire process works:

- Contact Magdelene Mei for club payment details.
- Magdelene Mei will provide the contact and location details of the last person to hire the extractor.
- You then arrange collection arrangements with this last person.
- At the end of the season, the last member using the extractor stores it over winter if they have space available.



(Image for illustration purposes only)



BRANCH NEWS

Julian Audsley – A Legend!

Many of you will have learnt a great deal from Julian during one of his training courses, where he freely shared his years of wisdom and experience in beekeeping. I remember mine clearly as they were always such fun, making frames together as a group with the intense noise of the hammering in Barham Village Hall meeting room. The practical demonstration of how to collect a swarm using a cardboard box with a member of the group standing up and pretending to be a tree whilst another played the part of the swarm collector. Hilarious but also very instructive. Julian's courses were for many the start of their own great journey in bee keeping.



Why am I reminiscing you may ask?

Julian after many years of running the training courses has decided to have a break and pass the training baton on to someone else. These are just a few of the comments received on hearing Julian's news:

Andy King – Teaching is exhausting, so quite frankly, I think you have done an amazing job running these courses for so many years - you have educated many generations of beekeepers, many of whom, like myself will always be indebted to you, so your legacy will carry on even if you are not personally running these courses.

Stuart Andrews – May I add my personal thanks to you Julian. I can still vividly remember you introducing me to the fascinating goings on inside one of your hives in Barham, you helped set me on the road to work I have been doing for Bees Abroad over many years.

Maggie McKenzie – Julian has been such a wonderful teacher and I remember going on his course, when I met David and others. He has been invaluable to me as an individual helping me in many times of stress and helping me at the moment - always calm!

Branch Apiary Visits at Palmsted

We have been incredibly lucky this month to have two Palmsted Apiary meetings.



Adrian Davis welcomes attendees to the second of the Palmsted meetings... smokers at the ready!

Both meetings have been training and learning opportunities for both novice and the more experienced beekeepers. The first meeting focussed on queen rearing and the different methods available with three methods demonstrated.

Queens to be reared in an Apidea: A super full of Apidea frames in which the bees had produced multiple queen cells on several frames in a modified super box created by Andy King.



The queen cells generated in this way were placed with their frame directly into an Apidea with an entourage of accompanying bees, a much less stressful way of transferring the bees into these mini mating Nucs than the normal Apidea method.

Another two methods of Queen rearing were demonstrated by Jan Soetaert, as shown below



using strips of cut comb attached to a frame by wire. This set up encourages the bees to draw Queen cells on multiple cell bars.

He also gave a demonstration of the Miller method where

the comb is cut into a dog tooth shape which encourages queen cells to be drawn. Both methods



are simple and don't rely on having a lot more equipment.

These methods and their success were reviewed during the second meeting where the hives were inspected again.

Whilst the Queen rearing was being demonstrated by Andy and Jan, Adrian led a group of Novice beekeepers through an inspection of a hive with specific focus on how to identify queen cells and where they may be 'lurking' to the untrained eye.



Here he supports a novice in the manipulation of a hive as well as providing a shining light in the shadowy areas of Palmsted wood.

Both events were a great success and appreciated by all who attended. A tremendous restart of face to face branch activities after the many months of lockdown.

Update on Roy King and 'Evie' – the bees in the stump!

Some of you may recall from the start of the year, a story where Roy rescued a colony of bees from a felled tree stump and named the queen Evie.



Unfortunately, not all stories have a happy ending, and we have to report that Evie has created bees with rather unpleasant traits and

has therefore had to be replaced. Sadly, it's farewell to Evie.

Beekeepers Health May 2021

We beekeepers pay a lot of attention to the Queen. She has all the eggs she needs for her entire tour of duty in her colony.

I know from scientific research a female foetus while developing in mum's tum already has in place all her lifelong supply of eggs.

Nature is magnificent. I recognise and acknowledge the same principle also applies in our human life and I am forever curious in finding out how I can uncover the mystery that keeps us going. I discovered Body Wisdom which has been within all of us from the moment of conception and this has long been ignored. I would like to bring this to everyone I come into contact with. This is not an instruction but a self-exploratory process to enhance our internal communications among the 50 trillion cells leading to efficiency and making wiser choices all day every day.

I created a term 'Keys to Body Wisdom' which consists of simple things we can do throughout the day, to wake up our senses to support the brain, the CPU of the entire being to create better strategy in everyday life.

This month I am going to introduce a few keys focusing on the head and face. The head is almost like the Queen Bee and the face is our PR department. Most of us are spending time in front of the screen. No matter how busy you are there must be some 'dead minutes' when you are waiting for something to happen. I invite you to try out one or more of the following keys, in a count of 20 seconds to start:

1. Raise your eyebrows and hold for 20 seconds and release SLOWLY
2. Stretch your lips forward as if you are kissing an angel in front of your face and hold for 20 seconds and release SLOWLY
3. Stretch your lips again, but this time stretch it to the right and hold for 20 seconds and release SLOWLY
4. Repeat no. 3 stretching to the left.
5. Crunch up the entire face, squeeze eyes shut as tight as possible and hold for 20 seconds and release SLOWLY.

I am not going to explain what these can do this time. I would love to see some of you actually doing it and FEEL and NOTICE for yourself, what is going on under your skin, what kind of sensations you can feel etc. etc.

The bonus is, if you choose to do all five keys within your working hours you put 100 seconds back to your body and get paid for it. Have fun.

Magdalene Mei Halkes, Ministry of Body Wisdom

Lisa Jenkins - Product review

My favourite choices this month.

Nail Pliers. Unless you are the one person in the UK who never puts a frame nail in wonky or bent, these are my newly discovered frustration saving aid for frame making. I've always used ordinary pliers or tweezers with varying success to remove the odd errant nail (accompanied by several expletives) that I always managed to hit in the



wrong way, or in the wrong place so that the nail stuck out in all sorts of directions that it shouldn't have. I tried the nail pliers as a bit of a gimmick to see if they really worked... and oh my, they really do. It's a sheer joy to be able to easily remove the odd deformed or misplaced nail with this little tool... I don't know how I ever made frames without it! It will now be forever at my side when making my next set of frames.

Forrest Board. My other discovery this year has been the 'Forrest Board'.



I've always used the Rhombus to great effect when clearing bees from a super ready for extraction. Recently, however, I was given a tip from a 'master beekeeper' that the Forrest Board performs even better, as the bees are removed quicker and they don't propolise it as much as they tend to do with a Rhombus. This week the opportunity arose to extract a super and the

Forrest board was put to use. Placed under the super at 4:30pm, with planned extraction at 10:00am the following morning. The moment arrived and there were only three bees in the previously very full super. I'll still use the Rhombus board as a backup, but the Forrest board will now be first choice for super-fast removal of bees.

Granola Recipe – with the secret honey ingredient

Make your own crunchy granola using your delicious honey.

- 1Kg Jumbo Oats
- 150g Walnuts
- 150g Almonds
- 150g Pecan
- 275g Mixed Seeds
- 100g Pine Nut Kernels
- 100g Sunflower seeds
- 200g Pumpkins seeds
- 1lb jar of honey

Pre heat your oven to 150 degrees.

Mix the oats, nuts and seeds together in a large bowl, then add the honey mixing well together until all the ingredients are covered in honey. (It's messy, but very satisfying).

Place the ingredients into 2 large oven tins.

Place in the oven – after 10 minutes, remove the tins and stir, rotating the mixture to prevent burning. Return to the oven.

Repeat the previous step another 4 times (the toasting takes 50 minutes with the mixture turned every ten minutes)

Leave to cool.

Eat with your choice of milk, yoghurt and dried fruits or on its own for a special crunchy treat.

(P.S. The amounts and nut choices can be varied depending on your preference – it's not prescriptive)

Enjoy!

Wax Exchange

An opportunity has arisen for members to exchange their wax for Thorne foundation at the October Honey Show (Assuming the Honey show goes ahead as planned) Members will bring their clean and weighed wax to Parsonage Farm Bees who will transport and arrange collection of the exchanged foundation, if anyone is interested in

this service, please contact Lisa Jenkins on 07977442282 for more details.

Information from our branch secretary - Jan Soetaert

BBKA Training Programme Summer 2021

The BBKA is pleased to confirm that the following training courses at Stoneleigh will be available summer 2021. Please share this information with your members.

Advanced Queen Rearing: 3rd & 4th July (2 day course)

Basic Queen Rearing: 11th July (1 day course)

Advanced Husbandry Training 30th July to 1st August (3 day course) - Only 3 Places Left!

General Husbandry: 8th August 14th & 15th August (3 day course)

Please go to the BBKA webshop for more details and to book a place:

<https://www.bbka.org.uk/pages/shop/departme nt/training-courses>

If you have any queries, please contact Sarah Snelson: sarah.snelson@bbka.org.uk

Kind regards

Anne Rowberry, Chair

And finally don't forget...

BBKA Calendar

The BBKA calendar where branches can add their own events and view forthcoming lectures and much more.

<https://www.bbka.org.uk/calendar-listing-page>

<https://bibba.com/>