



CANTERBURY BEEKEEPERS



A branch of Kent Beekeepers Association

EDITORS MESSAGE

Merry Christmas everyone!

Hopefully, you are making the final preparations for the Christmas you enjoy... whatever that may be for you. For myself, I have already eaten a mountain of mince pies along with a mulled wine or several.

The presents are wrapped under the tree.... Well they would be if only I could find the tree stand, sometimes, you just need Amazon to come to the rescue! I'm sure it will all be fine by Christmas day!

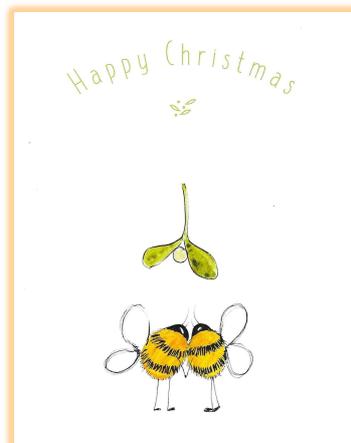
Like us, many of you may have spent the weekend just gone, checking your bees food supplies and with the weather being kind and cool (and not too cold) you were able to provide an oxalic treatment. Hopefully, we've got the timing just right while the bees have no brood. (Giving the varroa a very stern telling off, with any luck!)

Whilst anticipating a quiet period in the apiary, we've noticed that on warmish days the bees are being very active, so we've already started laying on our fondant supplies as they are eating more of their stores during these active sessions. On one sunny day, the noise reminded me of swarming! It's continuing to be a very strange year!

The Christmas party was a great end to this very strange year, both in terms of odd weather conditions which threw the bees routine haywire and the months of lockdowns. It was wonderful therefore to be able to celebrate together face to face in Littlebourne Hall, sharing great food, good conversation and to have a little fun. (Full write up and photos in the Branch news section)

The arrival of Omicron has rather thrown initial plans for next years meetings, however, an outline of the years dates taking this into consideration will be provided very soon.

This month will be a short newsletter, so in the meantime, enjoy all your festivities and we'll see you soon for another exciting bee year, hopefully, one that is kinder to the bees!



Lisa

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David Cockburn

Simon Daniell

Dougal Hendry ([courses](#))

George Jenkins

Lisa Jenkins

Maggie McKenzie

Magdalene Mei Halkes

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.

DECEMBER 2021

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

SUPPORT FOR THE CLUB

WINTER WORK IN THE APIARY – Volunteers needed at our Palmstead Apiary. If you are available to do a branch “barn raising” activity, with building in the quiet months of Jan/Feb, please drop an email to Adrian (chairman@canterburybeekeepers.org.uk) to express interest in the planning, design or build phases of the project. Whether you are a skilled tradesperson, architect, or just a willing DIYer or tea-maker, we'd like your help!

NEW MEMBERS FOR THE COMMITTEE NEEDED

If you would like to support your club and play an active part in club activities and planning, then why not join as a committee member. Please contact Adrian (chairman@canterburybeekeepers.org.uk) to express an interest in joining the team.

BRANCH APIARY MANAGER NEEDED

Andy King has done a fabulous job as our Apiary Manager, maintaining and improving the stock and equipment during his time, using his creative and woodworking skills in much restoration and replacement of broken hives and stands for the clubs benefit. Sadly for us, Andy will be moving to an intensive new role in January and will no longer have the time to devote to the branch apiary. We are therefore looking for volunteers to look after the branch Apiary. If you would like to discuss this role further, please contact Adrian (chairman@canterburybeekeepers.org.uk)

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Don't forget to renew your annual membership this month. It's quick and easy to complete on the on-line form here <https://canterburybeekeepers.org.uk/membership-renewal-2021-22/>

Your club subscription enrolls you not only as a member of Canterbury Beekeeping Association but also to the BBKA and provides added benefits of the Bee Craft magazine, Insurance cover and the BBKA website which has a wealth of information available. <https://www.bbka.org.uk/>

MENTORING

Our recent survey highlighted that many of you are keen to help a new beekeeping learn their craft with your support, guidance and knowledge? Join our mentorship scheme here [local support | Canterbury Beekeepers](#)





BRANCH NEWS

Christmas Party - 01 December 2021

The Christmas party provided a fun 'end of term' event. Littlebourne hall has been a delightful find, proving to be an excellent venue with good facilities.

Magdalene Mei provided the succulent main courses - a delicious selection of chicken breast baked on a bed of celery, ginger and leeks, baked salmon with grated ginger and lemon juice and a tasty vegetarian dish. There were also puddings on offer from Maggie and Janet which included mince pies, meringue nests and a tray bake.



Magdalene Mei and Sally

Special guests were Sally and Chris who kindly allow us to use their woodland for our branch Apiary



David, Els, Norman and Janet

A couple of comments from those present...

"a terrific evening, great food from Magdalene, Maggie and Janet, jolly company, a superior location"

"I thought it was one of the best events that we've had on a long, long time"



Adrian, Maggie, Joan and Anne-Marie



Jan, Chris, Sally, Andy and Mark



Rajini and Sue with guests

A great evening was had by all with many compliments for the delicious food on offer, and with the added bonus that as everyone bought their own crockery and cutlery there was no washing up! Not only talented but well organised beekeepers!

Magdalene Mei Halkes, Ministry of Body Wisdom

Being Chinese, sound is very important to us because of the words we speak. It is based on contrast. For example, Chinese love the numbers 3, 8, 9 and 10. 3 sounds like alive, living, 8 sounds like expansion, prosperity, 9 sounds like enough, forever and 10 implies perfection. We always avoid the number 4 because it sounds like death! It's Xmas, everyone is looking for gifts for family and friends. Chinese will avoid gifting a clock to anyone as the clock sounds like the end. Gifting a clock sounds like attending one's funeral.

Inspired by Jan who pointed out that I made a spelling mistake in one of our committee emails in which I put Natural Flow Test instead of Lateral Flow Test. This is so funny. The new Covid19 variant is causing a stir inspiring the public to have more 'Self-Testing'. Observing the current trend it is unavoidable that the new variant is going to reach most of us, however we all can do something for ourselves to make the encounter with the virus easier. Here is my contribution this month approaching the Winter Solstice:

What is involved in my Natural Flow Self-Test Kit?

1. Ideally, sleep one hour more
2. If not, close my eyes as often as I can, in a count of 20; the more sets of 20 the better. (please allow yourself to have the first count of 20 first as you read, don't just read this and forget about it.)
3. Hand washing is back, so I can always add 'dry washing my hands' it is to stimulate all the senses on my hands.
4. Rub my face with both hands in a count of 20 or more
5. I am taking vitamin D and Zinc to strengthen the immune system. (if you have not done so, please check out the data on YouTube to decide for yourself)

We all know all of these and it is a matter of getting into the habit of it. We can empower ourselves to get stronger.

Finally, this last bit could be a little out there. As you know, spelling gets me to pause and

think. Earlier I found myself misspelling the new variant often. I made a point to look it up; it is Omicron, representing 15 in Greek. Why did it jump from Delta 4 to Omicron 15? Here is what I saw in my head:

The new variant sounds and looks like OM-micron. The number 15 - 10 implies very, the number 5 sounds like fast and speedy.

Anyone who practises Yoga or meditation is aware of OM, chanting OM at the beginning or the end of a session is a regular practice, casting good vibration to ourselves and to the world. OM-micron becomes micro vibration penetrating each cell in our body.

Imagine more of us are practising the Natural Flow Self-Test kit; we all get stronger to defend our body against the virus. Every now and then we chant OM to strengthen our cells, just like the sound we hear when we open our hive. We become a colony of wellbeing individuals and health and wealth are here with us all.

Last year 2020, for 2020 vision, inside and outside, this year 2021, for everything we choose to do counts and next year 2022, 2 sounds like easy, so we have easy, easy and easy waiting for us.

So say we all!

Magdalene Mei Halkes, Ministry of Body Wisdom

Information from our branch secretary - Jan Soetaert

Animal and Plant health Agency

Dear Beekeeper,
Please don't forget this year's Hive Count!
To update your BeeBase record, click on the link <https://nationalbeeunit.com/secure/beekeeper/hiveCensus.cfm> and submit your response by 31st December 2021. It is important that you update your record, even if this is to confirm that you currently have no colonies.

If you have any further questions, please visit the Hive Count page on BeeBase or contact us at Hive.count@apha.gov.uk

Thank you for your assistance,
National Bee Unit

**A request from Steve Clarkson
Secretary - The Kent Bee-Keepers' Association**

I have been asked by David Wood, who organises the Living Land event at the Detling County Showground to contact you, to see if you can drum up any volunteers to help him set up the event on Wednesday 4th May 2022, and/or to help deliver it on Thursday 5th May 2022, from 09:00 to 14:30. A packed lunch will be provided.

The Living Land is a one day event for Kent schoolchildren in years 3 and 4 (Key Stage 2).

A maximum of 2800 children are expected to attend. Volunteers set up a display on the previous day and will receive drinks and a packed lunch on Thursday.

If you would like to help and are able to interact proactively with children, please contact David Wood directly on david.wood63@gmail.com.

Thank you,

Steve Clarkson
Secretary - The Kent Bee-Keepers' Association

Bee vacuum – a design made in the UK

Dear fellow beekeepers,
I've designed and fabricated a portable battery powered bee vacuum for the collection of swarms. Would your association or any of your members be interested in one of my units. There was a recent article in the March 2021 edition of BeeCraft where Basingstoke and District BKA have invested in a bee vacuum. Their unit was imported from the USA, whereas mine is fabricated here in England. For further information please visit my website

www.eezeebeevac.co.uk.

Regards,
Richard Stainer.

Updated syllabus for BBKA module Exams for 2022

The updated syllabi are available on the BBKA website alongside updated reading lists: <https://www.bbka.org.uk/modules>
The updated syllabi are also attached to the email receipt when applying for a module.

Nicky Campbell - Exam Board Secretary

Bee keeping site opportunity

Hello,
We have recently moved to a property that has a beautiful orchard that we feel would lend itself to having some beehives in situ. Our Orchard is in CT4 8JA Selling/Chilham area.

We have no experience and would like to offer the site to someone who would like to set up some hives and manage. In return we'd like some produce and to learn more about the bees. Is this something that you can help me with?

Thanks, Natalie Livesey

natalielivesey@hotmail.co.uk

And Finally...

I'm sure you have all your stockings hung and ready!



Wishing you all a great Christmas
and New Year!

