



# CANTERBURY BEEKEEPERS



A branch of Kent Beekeepers Association

## EDITORS MESSAGE

February has certainly blown in with a frenzy. I hope you and your bees are all safe and that any damage has been minimal. At this time of year, the bees should ordinarily be nicely snug in their cluster, however, the beekeepers year is again not following any normal patterns. The biggest danger at this time of year is starvation which has been compounded by the large amount of activity seen in both January and February, with the bees confused by a succession of mild days. I'm sure like us, you are checking your fondant levels and ensuring entrances are free from dead bees. A sliding Varroa board is a non invasive way to learn what's going on in your hive, you can see and evaluate the pattern in the debris, which will give you a good idea of how many seams are being worked on.

Sadly, I've heard many reports of colony losses, both before Christmas and in the new year. The majority view being that the mild autumn/winter created ideal conditions for a

'Varroa bomb' (a phrase I've borrowed from Andy King) particularly in larger and more established colonies. Let's hope the bees are able to recover swiftly in the spring and have a good summer this year.

For those of you who attended the January meeting, we were lucky to be both informed and entertained. Adrian Davis facilitated a great discussion on winter preparations in our apiaries, with lots of discussion and excellent tips shared. This was followed by a humorous and educational presentation on how to make your own equipment from Andy King, who delighted us with examples of his own home made boxes and roofs. I confess I was so engrossed by both presentations that I completely forgot to take any photos (with apologies to our readers).

Our March meeting provides an opportunity for beginners and mentors to meet. For some this will be their first chance to meet face to face. It's open to all members in the club, so come along and support our fledgling beekeepers

Lisa

### Next Meeting

**Wed 2<sup>nd</sup>  
March  
7.30-9.00pm**

**Q&A for new  
beginners and  
mentors**

**Littlebourne  
Village hall**

**Get your  
questions  
ready!**

### CBKA Officers

#### Chairman:

Adrian Davis

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07380 399167

#### Treasurer:

Andy King

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Canterbury  
CT1 3AP

#### Secretary and Membership

Jan Soetaert

90 Heaton Road  
Canterbury  
CT1 3QA

#### Committee Members

Julian Audsley ([courses](#))

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.

## FEBRUARY 2022

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

[newsletter@canterburybeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@canterburybeekeepers.org.uk)

## 2022 YEAR PROGRAMME

### 02 MARCH 2022

#### Q&A for new beginners and mentors

Branch Meeting to be held at Littlebourne Village Hall [Map of Littlebourne Village Hall, Littlebourne, Canterbury, Kent, United Kingdom. \(scale: 17\) \(danceweb.co.uk\)](#)

It's not been an easy last two years for any new or aspiring beekeepers with limited contact available to support in the day to day practicalities of having bees. This is an opportunity for novice and fledgling beekeepers to come and ask all those questions that have been hard to answer on your own. It's also an invitation to our more experienced members who would like to support and mentor a new beekeeper to come along and introduce themselves.

We're anticipating a lively session with lots of advice and support for all!

**We'd love to see your questions in advance, so please send in your questions to [committee@canterburybeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:committee@canterburybeekeepers.org.uk) beforehand.**

### 06 APRIL 2022

Branch Meeting to be held at Littlebourne Village Hall

Swarm Control and Swarm Collection.

### 23RD APRIL 2022

First outdoor meeting of the season. Come along to help/observe how to check hives for space and disease.

### 7TH MAY 2022.

General inspection of the branch apiary at Palmsted

## BROGDALE EVENTS

- Cherry festival 16th July
- Apple festival 16th October

## 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 during March, please drop an email to Adrian ([chairman@canterburybeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:chairman@canterburybeekeepers.org.uk)) to express interest in this project. Whether you are a skilled tradesperson, architect, or just a willing DIYer or tea-maker, we'd like your help!

## 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 has now moved to an intensive new work role 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](mailto:chairman@canterburybeekeepers.org.uk))



## BRANCH NEWS

### The Canterbury Beekeepers Google Calendar for iPhone & Android

Dougal Hendry

We publish a 'Diary' of club events as a "Google Calendar" so that everyone can get notice of events (and immediate updates on any changes) in a convenient, no-fuss form. It is, of course, available on our website, but with a few extra steps, you can have our events added automatically to the calendar on your smart phone, be that an Android or Apple device

After you have set up the link to the calendar, you can choose (and change whenever you like) whether or not you want to be shown club events mixed with your own, and whether or not you want automatic notification of upcoming club events.

I find it incredibly useful, and I'm sure others would too. My concern is that not every member might know this amazing facility is available to them, and that some of those who do know about it might not understand how to access it. It isn't difficult, but there are a few things to take care.

Whichever type of phone or tablet you happen to use, please give the Club Calendar a try. It is neat, useful and its kept up-to-date with the latest changes.

For the full details on how to set up the club calendar, please follow this link

<https://canterburybeekeepers.org.uk/2022/02/using-the-calendar/>,



### Rev Magdalene Mei Halkes, Ministry of Body Wisdom

I wrote this on a very special day 22 02 2022, the numbers are like a mirror to each other. The question is, how often do you look at yourself in the mirror?  
It is about time to start looking. When you do, you will sooner or later notice something which may lead you to do something for yourself.

We all sit around a lot, in front of the screen, or a table on a chair. Here is an invitation to do something for you.

- Sit up on a chair
- Fold your elbows by your waist
- Relax your wrists
- Then keeping the elbows close to your waist, keep your face looking forward, align with the centre of your body and slowly turn the entire upper body to the right, as far right as you can, make sure you do not turn your neck.
- Pay attention to what and how you can feel.
- Slowly turn the entire body to the centre, take a rest.
- Then repeat the same on the left side.

Did the right side feel the same as the left?  
Is there any part of your body calling for your attention?

When the phone rings we always pick up. If your body is calling you pick up the phone, consider doing something to make a difference.

Every little helps!

May this 2202 in 2022 inspire you to pay more attention to how you can boost your immune system.

Rev Magdalene Mei Halkes  
Ministry of Body Wisdom

Information from our branch secretary -  
Jan Soetaert

## 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>



**Back Again - Face to Face!**

 **Spring 2022  
Convention**

Lectures - Courses - Workshops - Trade Show - Accommodation - Great Food

**Friday 8 - Saturday 9 - Sunday 10 April 2022**

**Harper Adams University, Shropshire TF10 8NB**

For further information visit: [springconvention.bbka.org.uk](http://springconvention.bbka.org.uk)

Full Programme available on-line mid-January; Tickets on Sale 31 January



Spring Convention 8-10 April 2022 @  
Harper Adams University, Shropshire, TF10  
8NB

## 5 good reasons to visit the BBKA Spring Convention

1. Great lecture programme for all beekeepers
2. Practical workshops to learn new skills
3. Amazing bargains to be had at the trade show and maybe try on that new beesuit for size
4. Chat to other beekeepers and enjoy a break in any of these places: Graze; Kaldi Café; Teaching Block; Regional Food Academy; Trade Show Cafe & Bar
5. Listen and join in with the debates in Speakers' Corner

Extra workshops are now available!

More For more information, including the programme and to book [click here](#)

Several presentations from Spring Convention 2021, are available on the [BBKA YouTube Channel](#)

And Finally... from around the world!

A Tip for cooking with honey



Humour from Being Apis

