



CANTERBURY BEEKEEPERS



A branch of Kent Beekeepers Association

EDITORS MESSAGE

The weather has been warm and dry and the bees are starting to expand and forage. It's a joy to hear their contented buzzing.

The garden is springing to life, with dandelions, willows, fruit trees, maples and some berries starting to bloom, all a major source of pollen and nectar. The queen is busy laying eggs and the bees are raising brood in readiness for a good season, (fingers crossed after last year!).

In some hives, the drones are already wandering through the comb and swarms are being reported already.

Jobs to do in April.

- Begin your regular colony inspections.
- Be prepared for seasonal swarming.
- Prepare your nucleus colonies before getting new queens.
- Frames, frames, and more frames. If you haven't prepared fresh brood and super frames over winter, now is the time to review what you need and spend a few relaxing hours with your

nails hammer, frames and wax... I find a glass of wine also helps.

- Have new boxes with fresh or sanitised frames ready to go for shook swarming to remove the old dark comb with its 'resident' diseases.
- Have your bait hives ready.

Next Meeting

**Sat 7th May
April
2.00 -
4.00pm**

Branch Apiary meeting

**First Apiary
meet of the
season**

Palmstead Apiary

As a branch we've had a good start to the season with our first branch apiary meeting at Palmstead, welcoming both novice and existing members. (See photos later.)

News from the National Bee Unit indicates that Varroa has most likely been the major culprit in catastrophic bee losses over the winter. This may therefore be the time to plan your Varroa checks for the rest of the year, it's

one of those jobs that it's easy to leave until next time, so planning ahead may have some benefit.

Most of all enjoy your bees and plan for a successful season and bumper honey harvest.

Lisa

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CBKA Officers

Chairman:

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Secretary and Membership

Jan Soetaert

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Committee Members

Julian Audsley

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.

APRIL 2022

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

2022 YEAR PROGRAMME

7TH MAY 2022 2.00 PM – 4.00 PM

General inspection of the branch apiary at Palmstead

BROGDALE EVENTS

- Cherry festival 16th and 17th July
- Apple festival 15th and 16th October

SWARMS! SWARM! SWARMS!

With swarm season nearly upon us, the committee has created a register of members who would like to receive swarms and members who are prepared to collect swarms, to help others in their bee keeping career.

Please register your interest by completing your information on the Canterbury Beekeepers Website database.

You will need your log in details and password to access the website – if you have lost/forgotten or are not yet registered, please contact our Secretary Jan Soetaert on <mailto:cbkasecretary2021@gmail.com>

To collect a swarm please use this link;

Collector : - <https://canterburybeekeepers.org.uk/swarm-management/>

To receive a swarm please use this link:

Receiver : - <https://canterburybeekeepers.org.uk/swarm-receipt/>

Please do have all your equipment ready to receive or collect a swarm.

For more information on swarms, please read the handouts on 'Collecting swarms'

<https://canterburybeekeepers.org.uk/2022/03/collecting-swarms/>

and the 'The Swarming process'

<https://canterburybeekeepers.org.uk/2022/03/the-swarming-process/>



Picture courtesy of Jenny Warby and Janet McDonald - Easter weekend 2022



BRANCH NEWS

First Apiary visit of 2022 at Palmstead Branch Apiary

A great first day in the branch apiary at Bekesbourne this Saturday.



Here we see Adrian welcoming both new and existing members to the first training inspection of the season. Happy smiles all round!



Adrian helping new beekeepers in how to hold a frame and what to look for, always nerve racking when it's your first time.



Julian Audsley demonstrating how to open and inspect a hive with beginner and developing bee keepers. The Hives look particularly smart with thanks to Andy King's work.



The experienced team of beekeepers busy at work, building enough 14x12 frames for the season.

Rev Magdalene Mei Halkes, Ministry of Body Wisdom

Life is all about having fun. Here are a few ideas for you to consider:

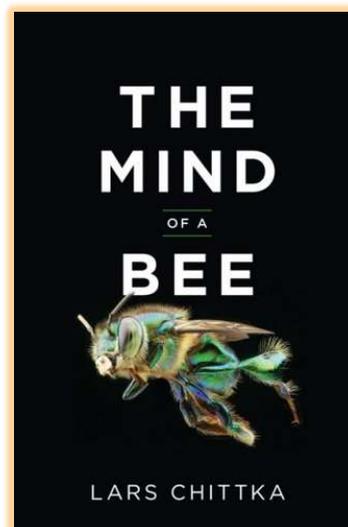
1. Write out the word "FUN" seven times on a piece of paper, in different colours or decorate them. Put this in a place where you can look at it often everyday, see what happens
2. Think of something simple but fun to do and just do it.
3. With your right thumb and index finger, squeeze the side of your left thumb, count from 1 to 9 for four rounds, then change to squeeze the nail side, again count from 1 to 9, 4 rounds. Remember to breathe. Then repeat on the other side if you have time.
4. The face is the pack leader of your entire being. It does not know how to relax and it also tells the world how you are. Next time when you are sitting on the toilet, drop your head and look down to the floor, start counting 1 to 9, repeat 4 times or more, pay attention to how you feel and how long you can keep counting.
5. I trust you will make time to have a go at one or all of the above, create more if you fancy. You are doing something totally for your own self. Have fun.

Rev Magdalene Mei Halkes
Ministry of Body Wisdom



Information from our branch secretary - Jan Soetaert

A new book 'The Mind of the bee; from Lars Chittka, PhD, MSc Professor in Sensory and Behavioural Ecology Sciences is available at a currently reduced 'early bird' price on Amazon for pre-orders.



"A rich and surprising exploration of the intelligence of bees Most of us are aware of the hive mind—the power of bees as an amazing collective. But do we know how uniquely intelligent bees are as individuals? In *The Mind of a Bee*, Lars Chittka draws from decades of research, including his own pioneering work, to argue that bees have remarkable cognitive abilities. He shows that they are profoundly smart, have distinct personalities, can recognize flowers and human faces, exhibit basic emotions, count, use simple tools, solve problems, and learn by observing others. They may even possess consciousness.

https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/0691180474/ref=c_m_sw_em_r_mt_dp_2NPFXTJKYCBCT3ZKQXZC_

BBKA Courses

The following BBKA Training Courses are now available and still have spaces. You can book your place via the BBKA Web Shop by following this link

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

Advanced Husbandry Assessment Preparation Training 2022 – Stoneleigh, Warwickshire

A programme of three days will cover both theoretical and practical aspects of the Advanced Husbandry Assessment, aiming to give the participants an understanding of what the assessment entails and what they need to do to be successful.

An intensive residential course, with high tutor to student ratio, providing time and space for both tutor to student, as well as student to student interactions.

The participants are required to hold the BBKA General Husbandry Certificate and to be eligible to take the Advanced Husbandry assessment in the near future.

Venue Location:

Stoneleigh, Warwickshire

- Course Dates: Friday 15th July, Saturday 16th July and Sunday 17th July 2022
- Course Fee: £350.00 per person – including accommodation and meals
- Maximum number of participants is 12

BBKA Exam Flow Chart

For anyone thinking of 'taking the plunge' into the BBKA Bee examinations, please follow the following link to the exam flow chart, to identify what exams are available and how they fit into the overall exam and assessments system for BBKA

<https://canterburybeekeepers.org.uk/2022/03/bbka-exam-flow-chart/>

News from Around the world



Hello, I'm reaching out to fellow beekeepers in hopes you can help me encourage the next generation to learn more about beekeeping. Currently Lego has not created a true beekeeping set and I feel they should, given how important bees are. With a set like this, I think a large company like LEGO could help shift even more people's impression of bees. This could encourage kids to be less afraid of bees and cultivate interest in bees and beekeeping.

As fellow beekeepers I hope you can help me by giving up 2 minutes to click on the link and vote for it. You will have to set up an account for Lego to count your vote but shouldn't take more than 2 minutes to help make this a reality. I truly believe if we can get this to 10k votes, it stands a good chance of becoming an official Lego set as there is nothing out there like it and would be something for both kids and adults to enjoy, so please support the bees!

<https://ideas.lego.com/projects/97337c9b-87de-47f5-b81b-ce447f857512>

This months carton caper from Bee-ing Apis

