



CANTERBURY BEEKEEPERS



A branch of Kent Beekeepers Association

EDITORS MESSAGE

June has brought the warmth of the sun and the bees are making the most of it. You will have seen several swarm alerts on our Facebook page recently requesting help with collections, usually in the Canterbury or Bridge areas.

Swarming for Bees is a natural way of reproducing, whereas for us it can be a complete pain, particularly when you get caught unawares that a sneaky queen cell has been laid just where you couldn't see it.

I had an interesting conversation on splitting and queen cells this week with our Regional Bee Inspector, Dan Etheridge, who as part of his career has been a bee farmer. In his many years' experience of splitting colonies, he found that if you split a colony by removing the queen and some bees, leaving the rest of the colony with a queen cell, the bees nearly always create additional multiple

emergency queen cells as soon as your back is turned.

So, whilst you are confident that you have made all the right preparations, the bees are suddenly swarming themselves into extinction. He doesn't know why they do this, but they nearly always do, so, if this sounds familiar to you, you're not alone!

The brambles have been flowering in abundance in our garden, so fingers crossed we have missed the June 'starvation' gap, but it's worth checking with a quick 'heft' that your bees are feeding well and not going hungry.

Hopefully, when you visit your hives, you will be admiring several super boxes heavily laden with a good crop this year.

For those of you looking for a day out, the Kent Show 8th to 10th July features the Kent Bees and Honey Show, at Detling Showground. You might have missed out on putting in your own entry, but worth a visit to see how it's done!

Lisa

newsletter@canterburybeekeepers.org.uk

CBKA Officers

Chairman:

Adrian Davis

24 The Grove
Deal CT14 9TL
07380 399167

Treasurer:

Andy King

22 New Dover Road
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.

JUNE 2022

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

2022 YEAR PROGRAMME

02 JULY 2022 SAFARI MEETING

A great way to experience how other members set up their apiaries and share ideas.

This is just like the American supper or Safari parties of the 70's and 80's but with bees.

- Four beekeepers offer to open their apiary to visitors
- You arrive in your car with a clean bee suit, boots and gloves to visit the first bee keeper on the list. **Cleanliness is imperative and good etiquette when visiting.**
- The visit is led by the local Bee Inspector, showing tips on how to look for bee diseases – with opportunities to ask lots of questions
- The group then drive to the next apiary and the tour continues for the remaining apiaries

It would be ideal if we could have volunteers not only to share their apiaries but also to provide the venue for refreshments in the form of tea and cake! Please can we have some extra volunteers for cake making!

Now that Covid protocols are less of an issue, you may want to consider car sharing!

To Find out more please read the Chairmans message on the next page.

EXTRACTION MEETING. EARLY AUGUST

Demonstration of honey extraction – details to be advised

THE KENT SHOW

The Kent Bees and Honey show is at the Detling showground from the 8th to 10 July 2022.

BROGDAL EEVENTS – VOLUNTEERS AND HONEY NEEDED

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

We are looking for volunteers to man the stall, this is a fun day talking with the public, If you are a new beekeeper, don't worry, you will know more than they do! So come along, it's a pleasant day in the lovely Brogdale atmosphere with lots of honey for people to taste and buy.

If you have honey you would like to sell, this is also an ideal opportunity to get your label on display!

Please contact Maggie McKenzie on maggiemckenzie@vfast.co.uk for details

Looking forward to seeing you all on the day.



BRANCH NEWS

A message from our Chairman - Bee Safari

Adrian Davis

Most years we organize a Bee safari with our seasonal bee inspector. Although the last 2 years have been interrupted by "you know what", we want to get back into the habit in 2022. Therefore, on Saturday 2nd July, our branch meeting will be a traditional Safari, and the special guest will be our area's new Seasonal Bee inspector, Lisa Jenkins.

For those of you who haven't done this before, we visit a series of apiaries of members/friends in the company of a bee inspector. We encourage all members to join the bee-train at their nearest apiary – an ideal opportunity to get to know others in your neighbourhood and help restart our network of neighbourhood groups. Most people will join us at one or two apiaries: there's no need to follow along across all the places we visit.

We strongly encourage any members who haven't had an SBI visit previously to take advantage – Lisa will check the health of your bees, and we invite branch members in the vicinity to "tag along", as it's a great learning opportunity for us all. We are limited in the number of apiaries she can visit, so book early to avoid disappointment! Just let Adrian know by email to:

chairman@canterburybeekeepers.org.uk, by end of Wednesday 29th June.

I will publish the final schedule on Friday 1st July.

Adrian Davis
Chairman, Canterbury Beekeepers
A branch of Kent Beekeepers Association
<https://canterburybeekeepers.org.uk>

Local Groups - Janet McDonald

CBKA offer various local groups which are an excellent way of keeping in touch with beekeepers in your neighbourhood. Hopefully in these smaller groups experienced beekeepers can share their tips and knowledge with those with less experience, and also events on smaller scale can be organised close to where you live. There are various groups which have emerged over the years - if you would value being part of such an inclusive group of beekeepers or would be interested in hearing what a local does, then please contact the co-ordinator. Everyone is very welcome to be part of any group.

Your co-ordinators are:

Canterbury City Centre – Magdalene Mei Halkes: Magdalene.chau@gmail.com

South Canterbury Villages – (Womenswold/Barham etc. – Maggie McKenzie: maggiemckenzie@vfast.co.uk

East Canterbury Villages (Preston/Wingham/Upstreet etc) – Janet McDonald: janet.mcdonald@btinternet.com

Folkestone and surrounding area – Debbie Burton: burton@live.co.uk

Deal and surrounding areas – Adrian Davis: chairman@canterburybeekeepers.org.uk

Faversham – Simon and Emma: si.em@talk21.com

Ramsgate/Thanet – watch this space!

Rev Magdalene Mei Halkes, Ministry of Body Wisdom

Do you realise our neck is working very hard for us day in day out?

Here are a two keys you can do to support the neck, the gateway between the brain and the rest of our body, enhancing the inner communication network:

1. Place one hand covering the collar bones, use the other hand to brush the back of your neck in a count of 5. Repeat a few times.
2. If you have access to a table or desk, rest both elbows on the table, place one hand on your forehead, the other on the back of your neck, breathe out and breathe in, in a count of 5, repeat a few times.

These keys look simple enough. It is a matter of practice and noticing how and what you feel. The feelings you harvested will help to make better choices for you.

Happy harvesting in June and July,

Rev Magdalene Mei Halkes,

Ministry of Body Wisdom

Balancing Up in High Summer – Dr Andy King

Balancing is the colony management technique in which a frame of sealed brood from a strong colony is moved to a weaker one in order to bolster it. Before any frame is moved it is necessary to check that the donating colony is in good health, but it usually is if the colony is crammed with bees.

Balancing is a popular technique down under but is normally only practiced in the Spring in the UK in order to keep a strong colony in check in April or May. Spring is considered to be the time when colonies differ most significantly in size, but there is no reason why balancing cannot be used in high summer when some colonies are bubbling with bees and other colonies (newly-housed small swarms) have plenty of space even in a nuc.

Adding another brood box to a hot colony, will indeed give them space for a few weeks, but double brood slows inspections even if tilt inspections are subsequently applied. In this mode of high-speed inspections, the beekeepers peers into the gap between the bottom of the top brood box and the top of the bottom one, usually with a torch, scanning for queen cells. An alternative to working double brood is to use balancing,

which involves moving frames of brood out of a hot colony so that the queen has sufficient space to lay until the next inspection. There is no point removing a frame with emerging brood as soon (after some polishing) such a frame will be perfect for depositing eggs. So the technique rests on being able to quickly assess which frame has the most sealed brood, shaking off the nurse bees, and then transferring it bee-free into the weak colony. I usually insert a frame of fresh foundation as this readily slides into a gap between frames.

Not only does balancing reduce on the pressure on a hot colony, but it keeps wasps away from the weaker ones (a problem of late Summer) because the weak colonies grow at an accelerated rate in June and July before the onslaught of the wasps actually begins.

Balancing is also a very satisfying manipulation: it is a bit like tidying up a garage when things are put in the right place and order is restored. Think of it of bring harmony and balance to the colonies in your apiary.

Although somewhat unconventional, I would encourage you to give it a go before high summer it itself gone.

Andy King

Information from our branch secretary - Jan Soetaert

Kent Show - Kent Bees and Honey show

The Kent Bee and Honey show is at the Detling showground from the 8th to 10 July 2022. Come and see how you can enter your prized honey and honey products. Support your Kent Beekeepers and visit their stand at the show. Show rules & regulations can be found on the following links:

Schedule:

<https://canterburybeekeepers.org.uk/2022/06/kent-show-schedule/>

Entry form:

<https://canterburybeekeepers.org.uk/2022/06/entry-form-for-detling-show-22/>

The World Bee Day Lecture series and Quiz

David Cockburn attended The World Bee Day Lecture Series and Quiz and received the following email from Jo Carver, for your interest.

Thank you so much for attending our lecture series/quiz in celebration of World Bee Day 2022. We hope that you enjoyed them as much as we did!

We're delighted that our appeal has raised over £25,000. This will help us to support more beekeepers to build sustainable and thriving beekeeping businesses. There's still a chance to donate if you would like to.

Here is a round-up of our World Bee Day activities for you to enjoy: <https://beesabroad.org.uk/world-bee-day-thanks/>

To get regular updates on our work, please sign-up for our newsletter and/or follow us on social media @Beesabroad.

Thank you!



And finally...

Asian Hornet: Be on the lookout, they may be about!

It's been noticed that the wasps are out an about early this year. With a warmer start to the year it can be assumed that we will have a higher incidence of Asian Hornets than last year.

Here's a few facts from the NBU as a reminder to stay vigilant.

Summer

During the summer, a single colony, on average, produces 6000 individuals in one season. From July onwards, Asian hornet

predation on honeybee colonies will begin and increase until the end of November and hornets can be seen hovering outside a hive entrance, waiting for returning foragers. This is the characteristic "hawking" behaviour. When they catch a returning bee, they will take it away and feed off of the protein rich thorax; the brood requires animal proteins which are transformed into flesh pellets and then offered to the larvae.

Autumn

During autumn, the nest's priorities shift from foraging and nest expansion to producing on average 350 potential gynes (queens) and male hornets for mating, however, of these potential queens, only a small amount will successfully mate and make it through winter. After the mating period, the newly fertilised queens will leave the nest and find somewhere suitable to over-winter, while the old queen will die, leaving the nest to dwindle and die off. The following spring, the founding queen will begin building her new colony and the process begins again.

It is imperative that you make sure you know how to recognise and can distinguish them from our native hornet, *Vespa crabro*. Ensure you have the Asian Hornet App loaded on your phone to help with identification and notification.

A useful video can also be found on the BBKA site.

<https://www.bbka.org.uk/FAQs/identifying-asian-hornet>

