

Croydon Beekeepers Assoc. Newsletter

A division of Surrey
Beekeepers Association

Founded 1879

Dec – Jan 2014-2015

Merry  
Christmas

Season's Greetings!

This month is a combined newsletter for December and January so may I take the opportunity to wish you a very happy Christmas and New Year. Let's hope 2015 has more good weather in store for us and another successful honey crop!

I am going home to Australia for Christmas and hope to catch up with some Aussie beekeepers to see how they manage small hive beetle – that is, if Christmas beach barbeques, cold beer and surfing don't get in the way of

beekeeping at that time of year (yes, the stereotypes about Xmas in Australia are true!).

There are a number of fantastic events coming up to keep us going through winter including the Mead evening this Friday so do make a note. Reminder emails will be sent about all events closer to the time.

Once again, Season's Greetings to you all and your bees and here's to a wonderfully healthy and productive 2015 for all of us!

- Tracey

Chairman: Mark Stott
Secretary: Joyce Atkinson
Treasurer: Tamar Devane
Editor: Tracey Carter



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Dates for your diary

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12 December 7.30 p.m.: Mead talk

17 January 2015: General
Husbandry Exam course

20 December: Xmas Fair, East
Croydon – volunteers needed

20 January to 10 March:
'Beekeeping for Beginners' course

31 January: Bee Improvement for
All, Cobham

20 February: Winter Talk,
"Communication in Bees"

21 February: first aid for bee stings
(Surrey division event)

14 March: Surrey Bee Day

17 March: Microscopy Training

Volunteers needed to help at Xmas Fair at East Croydon, 20 December

Croydon Beekeepers will be participating in a Xmas Fair at East Croydon on 20th

December and we need volunteers to help on the day. If you can help provide some

practical assistance and festive spirit please contact Joyce Atkinson on 020 8657 2817.

Apiary meeting at Hartley Down, Sunday 14 December, 2.00 for 2.30 p.m. prompt start

We are treating the colonies at the apiary for varroa. If you are interested in how to use oxalic acid (syrup or vapour) please do come down – the

ettle will be on but do wrap up well! It will of course be dependent on weather and temperature (above two degrees celcius) so please do

check your emails on the day. No cars, far too muddy. David Shepherd

Dates for your diary

Friday 12 December 2014 – Mead talk, 7.30 p.m., Spa Hill Allotments

Tim Burke and Meriel Spalding will give a talk about how to make Mead from your honey at Spa Hill Allotments,

Northwood Road (off Green Lane), SE19 3TU. Parking is on the street only and you may have to use one of the

side roads so car sharing would be a good idea.

17 January 2015 - General Husbandry Exam Training

This is a preparatory day run by Surrey Division for those who are considering taking the BBKA's General

Husbandry Exam in 2015. Email rickwoodsaka@gmail.com to reserve a place. Further

information about the General Husbandry Exam can be obtained from the BBKA via phone or website.

*20 January to 10 March 2015 - **Beekeeping for Beginners:** a new course run by Croydon Division - Mark Stott*

Our purpose as an Association is 'to promote the craft of beekeeping in Croydon and the surrounding areas' therefore we are taking the exciting step of running a new course aimed at anyone with an interest in beekeeping. Based at Spa Hill Allotments, the 10 week

course will run from 20 January to 10 March 2015 and will comprise eight evening sessions followed by two practical sessions in the apiary in April. The course fee is good value at £75 and includes a copy of A Guide to

Bees and Honey by Ted Hooper. A flyer is attached at the end of this newsletter; please do support this initiative by recommending the course to your own friends, family and colleagues. Thanks, Mark

31 January 2015 – Bee Improvement for All with Roger Patterson, Cobham

This is an all-day event run by Roger Patterson aimed at encouraging all beekeepers to improve their bees through selecting and raising queens. Further details about the

content of the day can be found on www.dave-cushman.net/bee/beeimprovementforallday.html. The course costs £18 per head including lunch. For details

of how to book please see the Surrey BKA website: www.surreybeekeepers.org.uk - details of events are at the bottom of the home page.

20 February 2015 - Croydon Association Winter Talk: "Communication in Bees"

This talk will take place at 7.30 p.m. on Friday 20 February at Warlingham

Methodist Church. John Hendrie is well known as a Master Beekeeper and his talk

on bee behavior at the recent National Honey Show was excellent.

Hold the date:

21 February 2015 – first aid for bee stings: this is a Surrey training event. There will also be another date for this course earlier in February. Further details to be announced soon.

14 March – Surrey Bee Day: these are always popular – details will be announced closer to the time.

17 March – Microscopy Training: we already have a few members in Croydon who have done this course and it is highly recommended – absolutely fascinating and also vital to good bee husbandry. We have a good microscope and it would be good to have a group of people trained to use it to detect nosema and acarine. Further details will follow closer to the time.

Our local agent for E H Thorne Beehives Ltd is:

Richard Palmer tel 020 8679 0401 or email palmersbees@hotmail.co.uk

“Beekeeping for Beginners”

10 week course

Comprising eight evening sessions at Spa Hill Allotments, 20th January to 10th March 2015, 7.30 - 9.00 p.m.

Followed by two practical sessions at Hartley Down apiary on Sunday afternoons on the 12th and 26th April 2015, 2.00 - 4.30 p.m.

This course is aimed at anyone with an interest in beekeeping

We will cover the following topics:

- Introduction - Honey bees and other pollinators
- The life of the honeybee
- How to set up an apiary and the beekeeper's garden
- The beekeeping year
- Equipment you will need
- Working with the bees
- Keeping bees healthy
- Products of the hive
- Practical work in the our Teaching Apiary

Course Fee £75

Included in the course fee is the book “A Guide to bees and honey” by Ted Hooper.

The course is being run by the Croydon Division of Surrey Beekeepers Association.

In addition to this course we run twice monthly practical beekeeping meetings throughout the summer where you can gain further practical experience handling bees.

To reserve a place please email: Croydonbeekeepers@gmail.com