

# Croydon Beekeepers Assoc. Newsletter

A division of Surrey  
Beekeepers Association

Founded 1879

February 2015

**Winter continues . . .but  
beekeeping events and  
shopping make it more  
bearable ☺**



Welcome to 2015! This month's newsletter brings news of further events to enhance learning for beekeepers of all levels of experience. Please book early to avoid disappointment.

There are also promotions on beekeeping equipment for Surrey members – very useful when planning ahead for the coming season.

When I checked my colonies last weekend most of them were active and bringing in scraps of pollen, indicating brood rearing. It reminded me to check that entrances are free of debris and, most

importantly, that the bees have sufficient stores. This can be done by hefting the hives; on fine still days I sometimes open one side of the crown board for a few seconds to check all is well. If it's too cold to take a peek, varroa trays can be inserted as debris such as uncappings indicate the activity and position of the cluster.

As brood-rearing increases, the bees can easily run short of stores so do check they are well provided for and feed with fondant if necessary.

*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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20 February: Winter Talk,  
"Communication in Bees",  
Warlingham

13 March: Different Ways of  
Presenting Honey - talk and  
tasting, Warlingham

7 March: Bee Trade Exhibition,  
Stoneleigh, Warwickshire

14 March: Surrey Bee Day,  
Cobham

17-19 April: BBKA Spring  
Convention, Newport, Shropshire

## Dates for your diary

**'Communication in Bees'** - Friday 20 February at 7.30 p.m., Warlingham Methodist Church Hall, Limpsfield Road, Warlingham CR6 9LE

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| <b>John Hendrie, Master Beekeeper</b> will give a talk on this fascinating subject which can greatly help in understanding more about the way our bees behave. John has been a beekeeper for most of his life and continues to | hold many offices in beekeeping including the role of a branch secretary, the treasurer of Kent BKA and also the Central Association of Beekeepers; he is on the exam boards of the British Beekeeping Association and | the National Diploma in Beekeeping. He is a vice-chairman of the National Honey Show and a director of BeeCraft magazine. |
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**'Different Ways of Presenting honey – A Talk and Sampling Evening'** – Friday 13 March at 7.30 p.m., Warlingham Methodist Church Hall, Limpsfield Road, Warlingham CR6 9LE

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| <b>Margaret Ginman, General Secretary of the Bee Farmers' Association</b> will speak on the | subject of presenting honey – one that is no doubt of great interest to all beekeepers, | regardless of whether or not we enter the honey shows. |
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**Bee Trade Exhibition** – Saturday 7 March, 9.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m., Hall H1, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire CV8 2LG

For more information about this event visit the website: [www.beetradex.co.uk](http://www.beetradex.co.uk)

**Surrey Bee Day - Saturday 14th March 2015** - Cobham Village Hall, Lushington Drive, Cobham KT11 2LU. 9.30 a.m. Registration, 10.00 am Start, 5.00 p.m. Close

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| A stimulating day is promised at the 10th Surrey Bee Day when speakers from the first | Bee Day in 2006 have been invited to 'continue' their presentations 10 years on and | reflect on developments since the first Bee Day. |
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### Programme and speakers

- *The Honeybee Mating Process – Evolution and Consequences*: the mating system is remarkable and in the present diseased environment, delicate. Glynn Davies MB – BBKA Past President

- *Bees – their life in your hands*: bees face great perils; the weather cannot be influenced but the beekeeper may be an even greater risk factor. Ivor Davis NDB – BBKA Past President
- *Pollen in Forensic Science 10 years on*: more insights into this fascinating discipline. Dr Michael Keith-Lucas
- *The CB Dennis Trust*: a short presentation on the work of this charitable trust and the work it supports. Brenda Ball
- *Honey Bee Research Ten Years On*: an update of research outcomes and discoveries in the last decade and a view on where research should be heading. Norman Carreck - LASI - University of Sussex

Tickets £22 including lunch  
from: Sandra Rickwood, 19  
Kenwood Drive Walton on

Thames KT12 5AU.  
Telephone 01932 244326,  
rickwoodsaka@gmail.com.

Please make cheques payable  
to 'Surrey Beekeepers  
Association'.

## **BBKA Spring Convention – Friday 17 April to Sunday 19 April, Harper Adams University, Newport, Shropshire TF10 8NB**

See the BBKA's website for further information about this major annual event:

[http://www.bbka.org.uk/news\\_and\\_events/spring\\_convention.php](http://www.bbka.org.uk/news_and_events/spring_convention.php)

## **Promotions on beekeeping equipment – get in quickly!:**

**Epsom Beekeepers 'One Day Spectacular' – Saturday 28 March, 11.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m., Upper Mill, Kingston Road, Ewell, Surrey KT17 2AF**

*Get your beekeeping year off to a flying start!*

**For ONE DAY only we are extending our Epsom Members discount to all Surrey Beekeepers.**

If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity please email your order by Friday 27th February to [sales@epsombeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:sales@epsombeekeepers.co.uk)

Items will be available for collection on Saturday 28th March 2015 between 11am – 3pm. Cheque or cash payments only.

Offer includes hive parts (national and commercial), frames, wax foundation.

Treat yourself to a whole hive – the Epsom Second at £170!

For more information and a complete price list email: [sales@epsombeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:sales@epsombeekeepers.co.uk) or see separate flyer emailed with this newsletter.

*Bee Togs* are generously offering 10% of any sale as a donation to the division of any Surrey Beekeepers Association Member who makes a purchase. Speak to Martin Major or visit [www.beetogs.co.uk](http://www.beetogs.co.uk) for further details.

*BB Wear* are offering a similar deal on clothing, leather gloves and spats. This does not apply to online orders so you will need to phone or email to take advantage of this offer. Also you will need to ask your Chairman to email them confirming that you are a member: tel 01872 562 731, email [mike.bb1@btinternet.com](mailto:mike.bb1@btinternet.com).

*Finally* – a note from the BBKA for all beekeepers re contamination of honey:

Contamination of honey with sugar and other residues

At the 2015 BBKA AGM the Executive agreed to determine the regulatory agency responsible for the prevention of the contamination of honey with sugar and other residues and to seek ways in which such contamination could be stopped.

Initial contacts made with the Environment Agency resulted in a request from them for more information and examples of such contamination.

Please could you inform me about any such occurrences which have happened and respond using [david.aston@bbka.org.uk](mailto:david.aston@bbka.org.uk) I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards

Dr David Aston Chair BBKA Technical and Environmental Committee

*Our local agent for E H Thorne Beehives Ltd is:*

*Richard Palmer tel 020 8679 0401 or email [palmersbees@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:palmersbees@hotmail.co.uk)*