



# **CBKA - June 2014**



June 2014 Newsletter – Colin Marshall - Ed

**Chairman – Mark Stott**  
**Secretary – Joyce Atkinson**  
**Treasurer - Tamar Devane**

**Extended Newsletter available on line**

## **Events**

**5-7<sup>th</sup> June: South of England Show : Ardingly**

**20<sup>th</sup> July 2014 Honey Bee Festival – Painshill Park**

**20<sup>th</sup> September : Croydon Honey Show**

**6<sup>th</sup> Oct London Honey Show, London Lancaster(hotel) Bayswater**

**30<sup>th</sup> Oct - 1 November: National Honey Show**

## **Things to do in June**

By now I'm sure that you have raised some beautiful princesses with a view to re-queening some of your old grouchy past their sell by date queens, If not then go back to last months newsletter and take a look at my missive on queen rearing. What to do with the old queens you ask? Pop then into a small vial filled with alcohol, makes great swarm lure and lasts for ages. Varroa, again it's that time of year when a check on varroa levels is really needed. Honey flow may be just around the corner? Make sure you have those supers ready. Last but not least I am stepping down as editor due to other commitments and will be handing the roll over to Tracey Carter. I'm sure that we all wish her the very best of luck.

## **Honey Bee Festival – 20<sup>th</sup> July 2014**

Surrey Beekeepers Association have been invited to join Painshill Park in a Honey Bee Festival. This is an opportunity for all divisions to showcase their activities, sell their produce and talk 'bees' all day. The event will take place on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2014 from 11am to 4pm. (Set up from 9am)

Do come along and meet up with beekeepers and the public – you may even have time to enjoy a walk around the splendid gardens created by the Hon. Charles Hamilton in the 18th century. (£7.70 Entry, under 5s free) See their website for more details <http://www.painshill.co.uk/honey-bee-festival>.

We hope to see you there. There is no entry fee to the Festival.

Sandra Rickwood

Working party 21st June 10am till 4pm

## **Shed roof**

The roof on the main shed is leaking and needs replacing. We would welcome any volunteers able to come along and help replacing this roof. Removing the old corrugated sheeting and replacing with plywood/felt.

## **Equipment Maintenance**

We have received a donation of second hand equipment. This needs sorting, cleaning, and in some cases, repairing and painting.

If you are not able to do a full day, a half day would still be appreciated. Please email me if are able to lend a hand with either task - [buzzibeez@gmail.com](mailto:buzzibeez@gmail.com)

Many thanks. Mark Stott (Chairman)

News from the Apiary

This spring has been a complete antithesis of those of the last two years: we have been deluged with calls from the public reporting swarms of bees which folk would 'like collected' – so many in fact that some of us began to dread the next telephone call. Quite a few were genuine swarms of *Apis mellifera* but the majority of cases turned out to

be that recent migrant *Bombus hypnorum*\* – the tree bumblebee nesting in bird boxes, and house eaves - in two cases two storeys up. A typical comment was: “the workmen are refusing to go anywhere near them and if possible we don’t want to kill them, please can you come and collect them?”

We are now back to full strength in the apiary including two new ‘Buckfast’ colonies and another which made its home in a stack of old brood boxes (now housed on new foundation and with a feeder).

Your apiary team has been hard at work cleaning, sterilising and making up new frames. We desperately need more frames to be made up, so if you are able to help in any way please do contact David Shepherd (07791477431) – all help will be most gratefully received.

Best wishes ‘The Happy Drone’

### Candle Making

Tamar & Martyn Cavett hosted an excellent evening in early May, on beeswax candle making and some lovely looking examples were produced – attendance was a little sparse but thoroughly enjoyed by those present. Remember beeswax candles produce very little smoke and no soot: this is why they always have been the first choice as church candles. Tamar is happy to organise another session later in the year if there is enough interest.

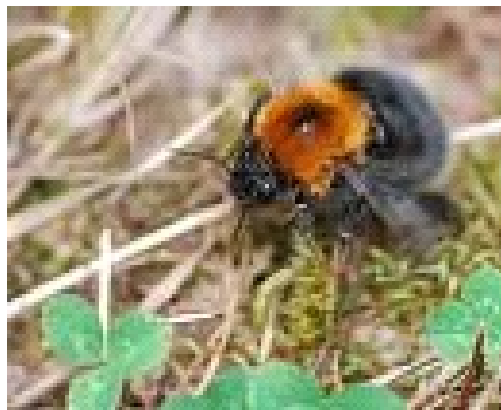
### Queen Rearing

Thank you to Colin, our Newsletter Editor, for giving us such an excellent talk and demonstration on Queen Rearing at our last Sunday’s meeting. He outlined some of the methods that he personally has used successfully and encourages everyone to have a go: it is not as difficult as commonly supposed. Having said that I am still a little nervous about spitting on a newly mated queen before introducing her to a new colony – but apparently it works!

### \* *Bombus hypnorum* – Tree Bumblebee

The tree bumble bee is a native of Europe and parts of Asia; it arrived as a recent migrant in the South of England in 2001 and is spreading rapidly throughout the South and Midlands. They are quite pretty little bees (ginger thorax, black hairy abdomen with a white tip) and smaller than our large native common Bumbles. They, as their name suggests, nest above ground, commonly in bird nest boxes and house eaves: our native bumble varieties nest underground or nearer to the ground. The queens emerge in mid March and their lifecycles are completed from mid-May to early July depending on the season; although a second cycle may commence in a particularly favourable season. They are a little more protective of their nests (personal experience) than our docile native bumbles, although their sting still does not ‘pack the punch’ of a mature honeybee worker! The drones have a habit of dancing outside the nest to attract newly hatched females, which gives the appearance of ‘swarming’ behaviour – of course they do not swarm. The colony of 150 or more bees disappears in the winter and it is worth pointing out that drones do not sting. If you check ‘youtube’ for the ‘Tree Bumblebee’ you may see a fascinating video of the drones dancing outside a nest box. If nest boxes are accessible they may be moved: good advice is given on the Bumblebee Conservation website – Habitat section. It goes without saying they are good pollinators and if at all possible, worth putting up with!

David Shepherd



Martyn and I had the pleasure of representing Croydon at the show this year. It promised to be an interesting and fun event, what with the King's Troup Royal Horse Artillery among other events.

We set our alarm clocks for 6:00 am, in order to make an early start. We arrived around 7:30 and the Bee Tent was already humming with activity. Mags and David had given us armloads of entries for the honey show, so our first job was to distribute these into their rightful homes. The show bench was heavily laden with entries; but Croydon still took home 2 prizes, with Mags winning a 2ed for her photo and a 3ed for her bee related necklace. Well done Mags.

While Martyn tended the information bench, I pulled in the punters for the straw draw. All the Surrey divisions had donated lots of prizes and therefore almost everybody was a luck winner. Winnings included 1 oz pots of honey (Tim and Muriel had potted up our donation of 100 pots), cookies, candles and fudge; to name a few. The Bee Tent was very busy, partly due (I'm sure) to the pouring rain outside.

At 12:00, we were treated to a buffet lunch, in our own lunch tent. Very civilized, healthy and delicious; they even had a large selection of gluten free items for Martyn to choose from.

After lunch, we decided to brave the rain and visit the rest of the show. In spite of the rain, we enjoyed ourselves, especially watching the King's Troups and visiting the various animals in their stalls. All in all, a fun day out; I would urge everybody to take a turn at volunteering at these events.



*Module Study group for those interested in learning about the products of the Hive. First Wednesday of the month 7.30pm in the •Foxley Hatch Russell Hill Purley.*

**Local Agent for E.H. THORNE (Beehives) Limited**

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