

MARCH 2012

# Surrey Beekeepers Association

## CROYDON DIVISION

Chairman Mark Stott 0208 684 1098  
Treasurer Tamar Cavett 0208 406 9258  
Secretary Joyce Atkinson 0208 657 2817

[www.croydonbeekeepers.co.uk](http://www.croydonbeekeepers.co.uk)

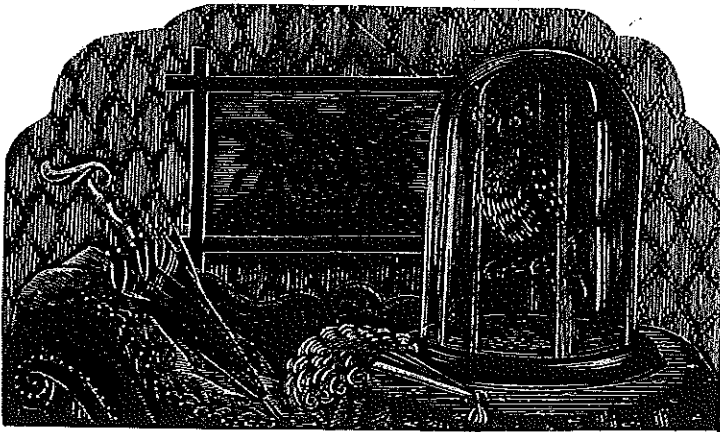


## LARK RISE TO CANDLEFORD

*With Wood Engravings by  
JULIE NEILD*

*A Trilogy by  
FLORA THOMPSON*

*With an Introduction by  
H. J. MASSINGHAM*



### COMING EVENTS

SATURDAY 3 rd. MARCH  
SURREY TRAINING DAY

Full details were in last month's newsletter - if you might come contact Mark Stott beforehand - 07921 234916 in case it is fully booked.

SUNDAY 18 th. MARCH  
MEET THE BAREFOOT BEEKEEPER

An afternoon talk about Top Bar Hives and Natural Beekeeping  
At the Crown and Greyhound, Dulwich Village, SE21 7BJ - 4-00 p.m.  
details - [cpbka@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cpbka@yahoo.co.uk) - no need to book - just go!

FRIDAY 23 rd. MARCH  
HONEY SHOWING - A TALK ON PREPARATION OF ENTRIES  
7-30 p.m. at Warlingham Methodist Church Hall - CR6 9HA

SUNDAY 25 th. MARCH  
HARTLEY DOWN APIARY SITE TIDY UP DAY  
Please come and help - morning 10-00 a.m. or afternoon 2-00 p.m.

SATURDAY 31 st. MARCH  
AUCTION OF BEES AND EQUIPMENT  
At Mickleham, Surrey from 11-00a.m.  
Details at - [auction@reigatebeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:auction@reigatebeekeepers.org.uk)

BASIC ASSESSMENT STUDY GROUP  
A series of Monday evenings to prepare for the test starting 2 nd. April.  
Contact Mark Stott for details 0208 684 1098 or 07921 234916

### OUR HARTLEY DOWN APIARY MEETINGS

The first is on the 15 th. April - Sunday afternoons at 2-00p.m.

Second meeting - 29 th. April

### SPRING CONVENTION OF THE BBKA

April 20 th. 21 st. and 22 nd. at Newport, Shropshire.

Complete programme and details are in BeeCraft, a whole page!

### ARE YOU READY FOR THE SEASON?

Richard Palmer is our local agent for E.H.Thorne Ltd. so let him know what you need for the coming season in good time - 0208 679 0401

#### Identification of Asian Hornet

The Asian hornet is slightly smaller than the native European hornet (*Vespa crabro*) and is almost entirely black with only the 4<sup>th</sup> abdominal segment being yellow. The head is black with an orange face and the lower ends of the legs are yellow. If you see Asian hornets try to take a photo or catch a specimen, for identification purposes, but avoid being stung. Beekeepers and the public should report any suspect sightings via the Alert System: [alert\\_nonnative@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:alert_nonnative@ceh.ac.uk)



#### VACANCY - SURREY BKA TREASURER /

After 10 years service our county treasurer David Humphreys is retiring and a replacement is needed by the next county AGM so if you can help please contact Sandra Rickwood - [rickwoodsba@gmail.com](mailto:rickwoodsba@gmail.com)

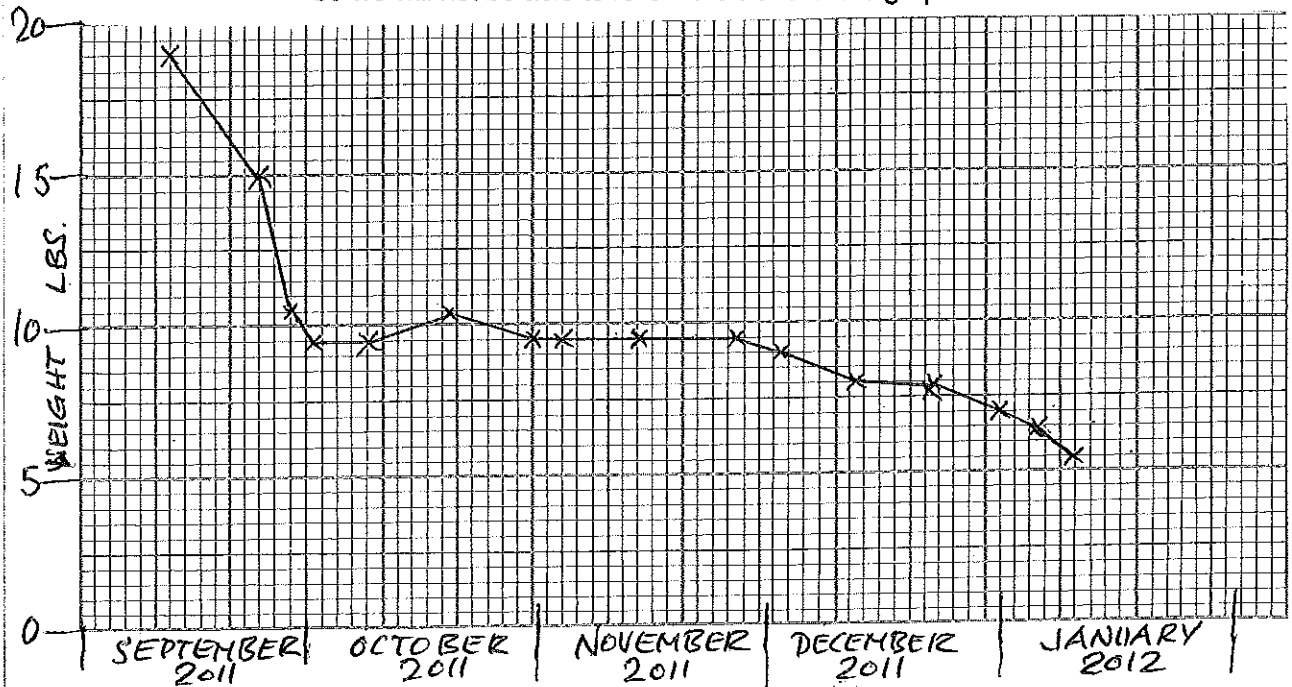
#### VESPA VELUTINA NIGRITHORAX THE ASIAN HORNET

This is an aggressive predator of honey bees and has been reported in Europe as near as Belgium where it has been seen, so keep a look out for news about this. I have a note on the problem and a trap to catch them from the National Bee Unit - let me know if you would like a copy or try [www.nationalbeeunit.com](http://www.nationalbeeunit.com)

#### SURVIVAL

Colonies will now or very soon start rearing brood so their stores will be used quite fast now so check your hives by 'hefting' and be prepared to feed, candy or syrup.

The graph below is from Dennis Scott and shows this loss starting, unfortunately he has recently told me that this colony has died out so we will not be able to follow the trend of the graph.



# People feel lonely after just one day without internet

By Emma Barnett, Digital Media Editor

THE majority of people feel upset and deprived when the internet is denied to them, even for a short period of time, according to a new study.

The poll found that 53 per cent felt upset when denied access and 40 per cent experienced loneliness when not able to go online.

The study, conducted by Intersperience, a consumer research company, questioned more than 1,000 people about their attitudes to and use of the internet, smart phones and other devices, and participants were asked to go a day without using any technology.

Giving up all technology use was described by some as being as difficult as stopping smoking or drinking. One participant described it like "having my hand chopped off".

Paul Hudson, the chief executive of Intersperience, said: "Online and digital technology is increasingly pervasive, influencing our friendships, the way we communicate, the fabric of our family life, our work lives, our buying habits and our dealings with organisations."

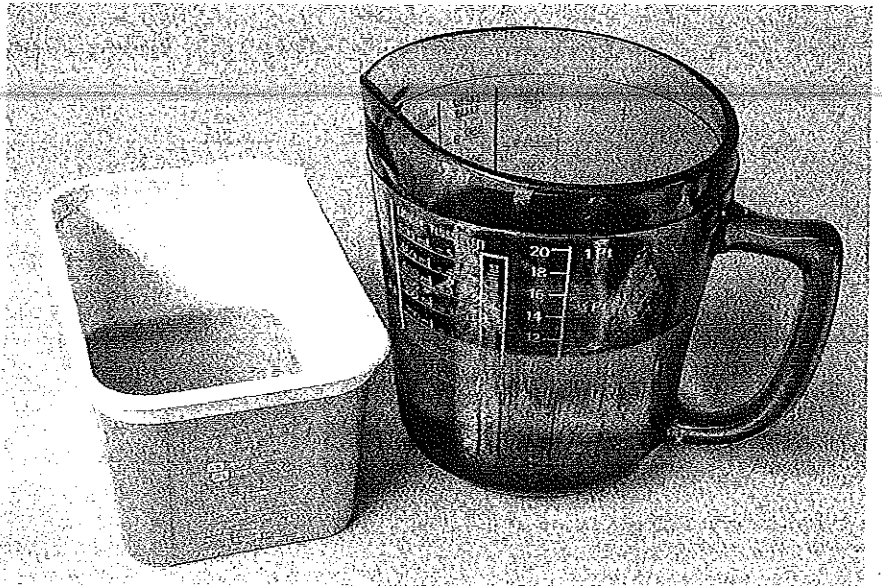
## WAX BLOCKS

You can collect your clean wax in a variety of containers. Clean, plastic, soft-butter or margarine containers give you manageable blocks to deal with later. However, make sure they won't be melted by the hot wax. You can line any container with foil and use that. Your collecting container does, however, need to have sloping sides, so that the wax block will fall out when it has set. Alternatively, you can destroy the container to remove the block. Wax shrinks as it solidifies and will come away easily from the container walls. Rubbing a very thin layer of a release agent, such as a silicone release spray or washing-up liquid, around the container will help to release the wax.

If you are going to make candles or polish straightaway, you can use your wax while it is still liquid. Otherwise, let the blocks solidify and remove them from the containers. Wrap them in plastic and store them somewhere cool. The freezer is a good place, if there is room and you can get permission.

## CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

You are probably already starting to think about Christmas presents, and



what better than some polish or candles made from your own beeswax? Done up in a gift basket with some of your honey, I can't think of anything nicer.

## USING YOUR WAX

One of the traditional uses for beeswax is polish, and this still gives the best shine on real wood furniture as well as an evocative aroma. There are two styles of polish, hard and creamed, but they both work on the same principle. Beeswax is dissolved in a solvent, which acts as a carrier. As the polish is spread over the surface, the solvent evaporates, leaving a thin beeswax layer behind, and this is what shines when it is rubbed with a cloth. The main difference between the two types is that the cream does not need as much elbow-grease!

## Beeswax Polish

This is probably the easiest to make, as the only ingredients are beeswax and pure turpentine. If you can't get hold of pure turpentine, or you want

to reduce the cost of your product, you can use turpentine substitute. This works almost as well as a solvent, but the smell of your polish will not be as nice. Pure turpentine will also dissolve beeswax when it is cold, but turpentine substitute requires heat. When people talk about the smell of beeswax polish, they are actually, mainly, experiencing the smell of the turpentine (but don't tell anyone!).

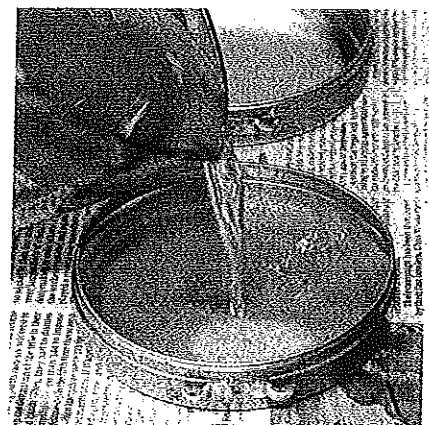
## INGREDIENTS

280g (10oz) clean beeswax  
570cc (1 pint) pure turpentine

The amounts are not that critical. With a higher proportion of beeswax, you will get a harder polish, and, conversely, with a higher proportion of turpentine, you will get a softer one. One furniture restorer that I knew made a liquid polish simply by increasing the amount of turpentine in his mixture. If you want a harder polish, an alternative is to substitute 50g (2oz) of the beeswax with 50g (2oz) of stearine, or 25g (1oz) of carnauba wax.



Ensure that the molten beeswax and the turpentine are approximately the same temperature before mixing.

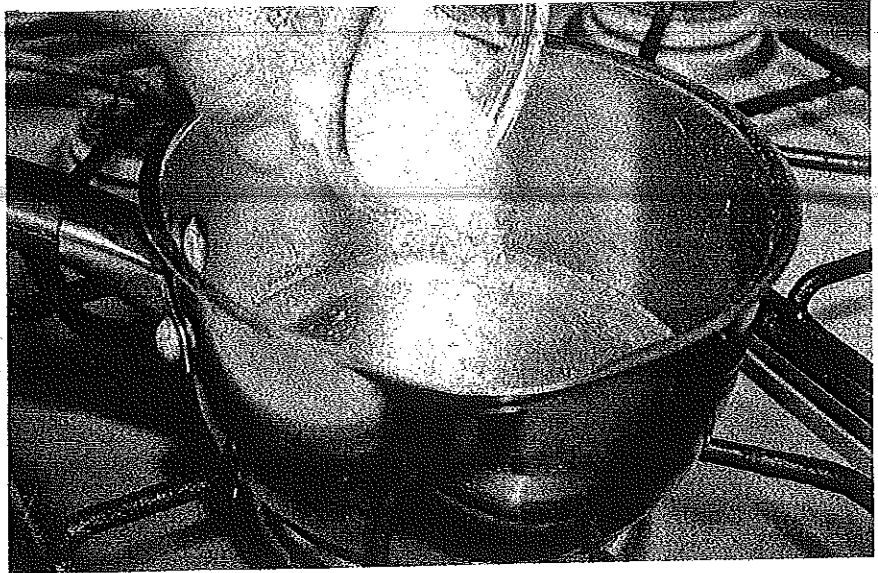


When the beeswax and turpentine are thoroughly mixed, pour the polish into containers.

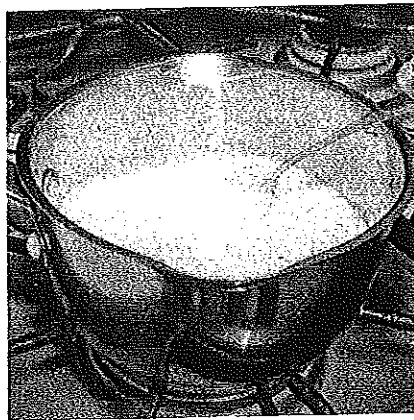
Carnauba wax comes from the leaves of the palm, *Copernicia prunifera*, found only in north-eastern Brazil. It is usually supplied in the form of hard, yellow-brown flakes. It can produce a glossy finish and is used in a range of polishes. It is also used to coat certain sweets and, together with coconut oil, is the major ingredient for surfboard wax.

#### METHOD

- 1 Melt your beeswax in a double saucepan (bain-marie style) over water. If you shred it or break it into bits, it will melt more quickly. If you have a wax block, you can break it with a hammer. First, wrap it in a strong plastic bag and then a towel before breaking it, so that you keep all the fragments together.
- 2 Warm the turpentine to around the same temperature as the molten wax, but do this carefully because it is very flammable. Stand the container with the turpentine in a container of hot water to raise its temperature.
- 3 Mix the warmed turpentine into the liquid wax, and stir. When it is fully mixed, transfer the polish to your containers and leave it to set. This hard polish can be stored in metal tins, which are available from bee equipment suppliers.



Soap and borax are dissolved in the hot, filtered rainwater.



After adding the turpentine, stir the mixture as it cools and thickens.



When the cream polish begins to thicken, pour it into containers to set.

## Beeswax Furniture Cream

Borax, soap and soft water are used to make a cream rather than a hard polish. These form an emulsion with the wax and turpentine, which makes it easier to apply.

#### INGREDIENTS

- 170g (6oz) clean, shredded beeswax
- 285cc (1/2 pint) clean rainwater or distilled water
- 570cc (1 pint) pure turpentine or turpentine substitute
- 7g (1/4oz) borax (1 tsp)
- 14g (1/2oz) soap flakes or grated soap

#### METHOD

- 1 Heat the rainwater and dissolve the borax and the soap flakes in it.
- 2 Add the shredded beeswax and warm it until it forms a fairly liquid mass, but remains fluffy.
- 3 Warm the turpentine, as for Beeswax Polish, and stir into the beeswax mixture.
- 4 Remove from the heat and mix thoroughly. As it begins to thicken, pour it into containers and leave it to set.

Cream polish is best stored in glass or plastic containers, as the water content can make metal tins rust.

There is useful information on beeswax processing in *Recycling Beeswax* by June Hughes, available from [www.bee-craft.com/shop](http://www.bee-craft.com/shop) or by ringing 01733 771221. \*

