

NOVEMBER 2011

Surrey Beekeepers Association

CROYDON DIVISION

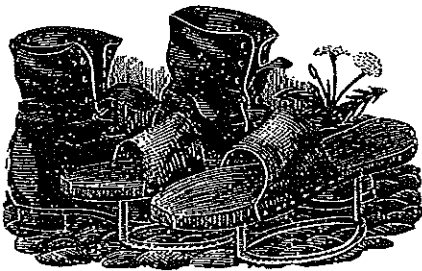
Chairman Mark Stott 0208 684 1098
Treasurer Tamar Cavett 0208 406 9258
Secretary Joyce Atkinson 0208 657 2817

www.croydonbeekeepers.co.uk

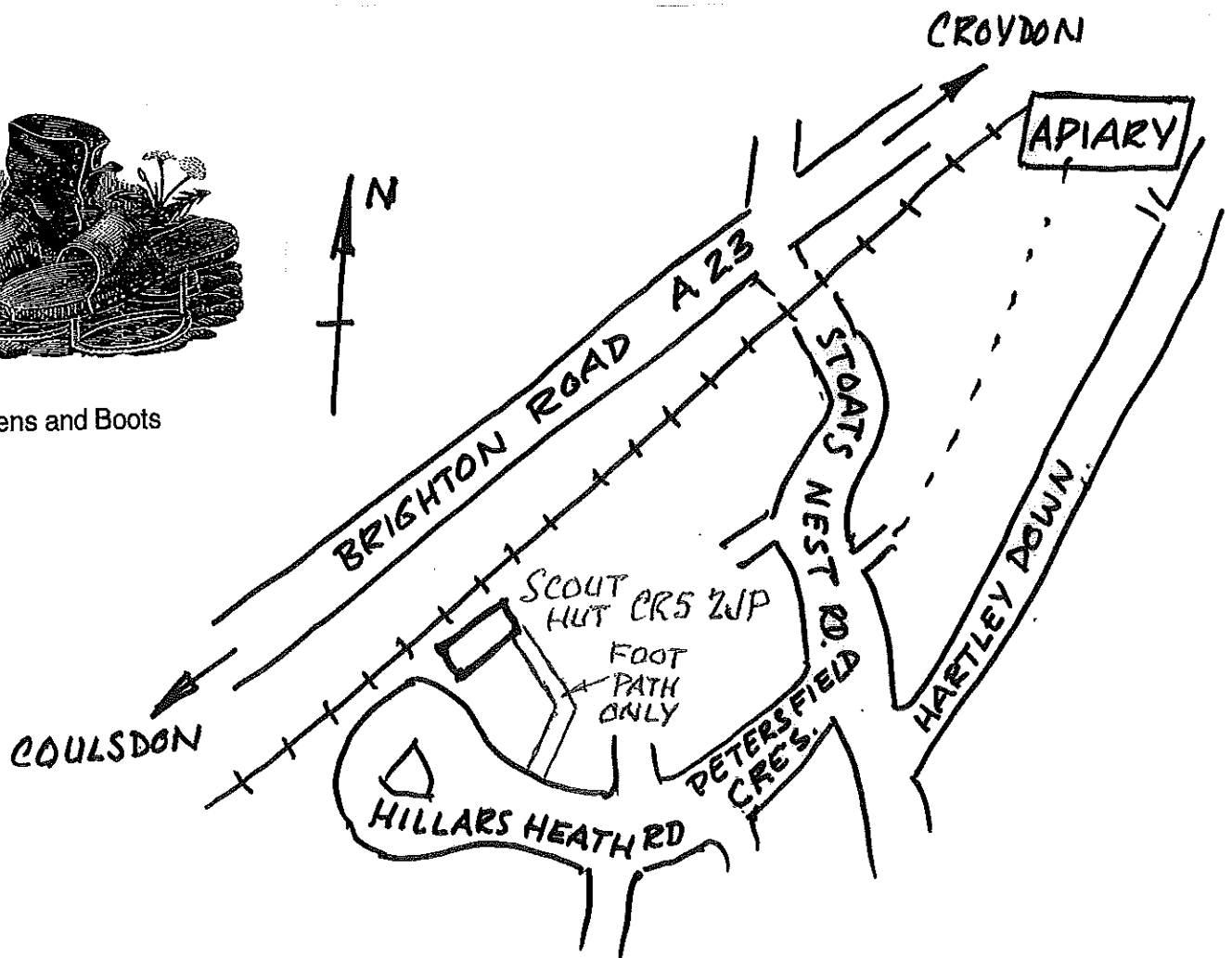


Remember - Remember
The fifth of November
To your AGM - please come
To see your committee - and some
Then hear the year's news
Give them your views
After this - tea and cake
Then a talk - so please stay awake

CROYDON DIVISION - SURREY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SATURDAY 5th. NOVEMBER 2011 - 2-30 p.m.
At: The Scout Hut, Hillar's Heath Road, Coulsdon, CR5 2JP



Pattens and Boots



Your committee would like to see all members at this! - optimists!
If you cannot make the day please give your apologies - to our secretary
Joyce Atkinson 0208 657 2817 - AND let her know if you can help with refreshments
after the meeting - THEN there will be a talk by Pam Hunter:
'Are our Problems Really New'
If you do not come you may never know!

Like buses AGMs come in twos after a long wait

SURREY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
133 rd. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SATURDAY 3 rd. DECEMBER 2011 - 2 p.m.
At: The Tilford Institute, Tilford, Farnham, GU10 2BU

This is an opportunity to find out about the other divisions in Surrey and how the county's organisation works.

After the meeting there are refreshments AND a talk about mead by Beulah Cullen and John Gamble - my informant has not mentioned if there will be a tasting afterwards - go and find out.

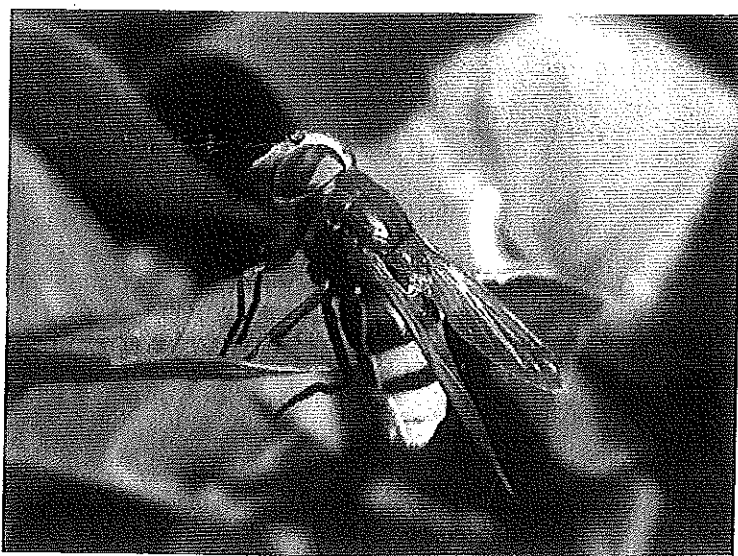
News from the Apiary

Apiary Working Party

By David Shepherd

Many thanks to everyone who helped on the Sunday - three members turned up in the morning and five in the afternoon. Our Chairman stayed for both sessions so should be particularly congratulated. It does help a lot when there is a team working; we were blessed with a lovely sunny day and the 'Apis girls' were working contentedly and still bringing in pollen. There are tasks that remain so if you are able to lend a hand your help will be gratefully accepted.

Volucella zonaria



The first time I saw *V. zonaria*, the 'banded hover fly' sometimes called 'hornet mimic hoverfly', was when I still kept my own hives outside the kitchen window – it's amazing how much you can learn about your bees when you are watching them regularly. Anyway back to our hoverfly: I noticed what I originally thought was a large wasp hovering around the hives – it was to my mind trying to find a way in, but was obviously NOT behaving like our common wasp and was larger. It was not quite a hornet and my immediate thought was, was that it one of our native cuckoo bees; my research excluded all

the cuckoo bees and none connected with our honey bee (*A. Mellifera*). During our extraction meeting this year I spotted another individual which landed on the garden bench; Martyn Cavett (& Tamar) also spotted another adjacent to their hives and sharp eyed observers would have seen Martyn's photo of it alongside a worker bee at our Divisional Honey Show a week or so ago.

We know hoverflies, like bees, play an important role in pollination but they are not so well researched. The banded hover fly is a very striking and brightly coloured insect which has an interesting lifecycle: the adults feed on pollen and nectar, the female adult lays her eggs in wasp nests. The larvae and the wasps live as 'commensals' – two species that live together to the advantage of only one although harmless to the other. As they hatch they fall to the bottom of the nest where they scavenge on the debris and possibly dead wasps when the nest is vacated. We assume that when the adults are seen in the vicinity of bees, that they are attracted by the smell of honey!

V. zonaria was considered a rarity until the 1940's since when it has steadily established itself in the South East of England.

Hartley Down Apiary

The honey extracted last August has now all been bottled thanks to Derek Read and the harvest total for this year is 159 lbs.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR NOVEMBER 2011 to SEPTEMBER 2012

Members who receive this edition by post will find a form with it, those 'connected' - can print out a copy - if you come to our AGM please bring your completed form so you can pay Tamar there - otherwise post it to her without delay - this will ease her job and ensure you do not miss any newsletters or Beecraft editions and copies of BBKA news

NOTE: only Registered Members receive Beecraft and BBKA News

NATIONAL HONEY SHOW

Adam Dorman, Richard Snelling and I made entries and all were rewarded for their effort with prizes. Again we came away with the Douglas Cup and I with the Hosegood Cup. There are some 14 classes for Surrey members in the show and nine cups to be won for these alone.

Rosemary attended the workshop 'Make your own Toiletries' on the Friday and whilst at the show met up with Ann and Dennis Scott. On the last day we attended a lecture by Professor Tom Seeley, 'Getting Something for Free The Design and Use of Bait Hives' which we found full of detail and given quite amusingly, I hope to get a summary of this and put it in the notes next spring when the useful information given will be fresh and remembered for the active season.



More woodcuts from Lark Rise to Candleford



Cobblers at work



The Knife Grinder



A SOFT ANSWER: "Susan, just look here! I can write my name in the dust on the top of this table!"
"Lor, Mum, so you can! Now I never had no edgercation myself!" - from Punch, 1895

A Bee Company in the Deep South East

No, I don't refer to Margate, but to Savannah, Georgia in the US of A

While wandering around Savannah recently, as you do, awaiting 2pm to attend a walking tour of historical areas, my wife, Pauline, noticed something interesting on the map. The Savannah Bee House.

This took a little finding, which should have been easy, as the town is built in blocks, the snag being you need to know north from south and right from left. The former was difficult as we were in the midst of a thunderstorm. Eventually it appeared, quite a large shop, with a lot of people inside. There was honey for sale, in wine bottles, the half bottle size and it looked splendid. I enquired how you got it out after crystallisation and was told it does not crystallise.

They were particularly referring to Tupelo honey, of which they had a lot. Now Tupelo is in Mississippi just west of Birmingham, (Elvis had a bit to do with Tupelo) but how they sell it in Georgia which is 529 miles away I am unsure. Enquiries determined that it comes from the Tupelo Tree! (the black gum tree)

Sadly time was pressing and fine details such as this could not be explored. Their season lasts 10 months and my informant had bees in the town of Savannah. They carried out some training in the shop and there was a skep the size of a room, it was a room, a play skep for the kids.

They were, naturally enough, very keen to talk to me.

We were very short of time and had to rush out. After our tour, we were still hard pressed but returned to buy honey and gaze in amazement. How they could afford to open such a place in the middle of Savannah I'm unsure. Could Croydon open a shop in London?

I think the answer is on a pamphlet I took, entitled Savannah Bee Company which I took to mean it was a well run commercial enterprise. Established 2002 selling Worlds Natural & Finest Specialist Honey, Luxurious Natural & Organic Body Care, Daily Honey Tastings, Honeycomb Platters and Honey Bee Education.

Over there, the pond so often referred to, they have specialist honeys from all manner of flowers and crops including:- Cheese, Grill and Wildflower Honey. So unlike our Spring, Summer, Heather and Ivy!

I hope that the photos I took do them justice but any one of you going to the deep south should pay them a visit. I suspect the parking may be difficult!

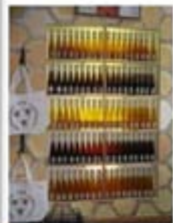
I see they also have two other outlets in Savannah and one in Charleston SC.

There is a Starbucks coffee shop nearby with free internet access, in fact more people on the internet than drinking coffee.

Whilst in South Carolina, my wife, a keen horticulturist, saw The South Carolina Botanical Gardens on a map, so we had to go. This covers about 295 acres and we walked over ever one. Unfortunately at this time of the year the colour was mainly green, even a pond. However at the visitor centre, Pauline, again, found a pottery display, while I was resting in the 85F sun, and this had a Honey Bee Theme. One exhibit was of small cups little bigger than egg cups, each decorated with bee related pictures such as skeps, bees, hexagons etc.

These were displayed in such a way as to appear like a pile had fallen over. It was entitled, wait for it:-

"Colony Collapse Disorder"



HONEY STATISTICS & AVERAGE PRICES.

South Eastern Region

Honey Information – England and Wales 2011

Beekeeper Name

Address

AVERAGE PRICES Price (£) lb

	<u>notes</u>
Flower Direct Sales	..... (honey sold direct to the consumer)
Flower Wholesale	..... (honey bottled and sold at wholesale price to a retailer)
Bulk Flower Honey	..... (honey sold in bulk containers, 30lb tubs etc.)
Heather Honey Direct Sales	..... (honey sold direct to the consumer)
Heather Wholesale	..... (honey bottled and sold at wholesale price to a retailer)
Bulk Heather Honey	..... (honey sold in bulk containers, 30lb tubs etc.)
Cut Comb	..... (sold direct to the consumer)
<u>Total Honey crop</u> , in lbs	..... (total honey crop for year)
Weight of 'run honey'	..... (in bottles or bulk containers, not heather honey.)
Weight of heather honey	..... (total weight of heather crop)
Weight of Cut comb	.....
Number of Colonies	..... (total number of colonies owned on 31/08/11)

NOTES

Return, preferably by email to:

alan.byham@fera.gsi.gov.uk

Or by post to:

Alan Byham, SE Regional Bee Inspector
National Bee Unit
Room 02F10
Sand Hutton
York
YO41 1LZ