

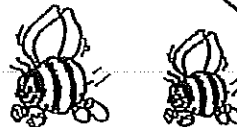
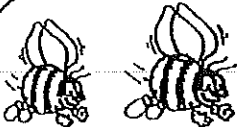
JANUARY 2013

# 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)



Ralph Holder

Some of our older members will remember Ralph and Diana, they kept in touch with Ann and Dennis Scott and they told me that Ralph had died suddenly last month whilst playing bowls. He and Diana joined Croydon Beekeepers around 1982 and served on the committee for some years before Ralph retired and they moved to Devon in about 1990 where they continued keeping bees until quite recently; some members visited them in Devon and were always made welcome.

FRIDAY 25<sup>th</sup>, JANUARY 7-30 p.m. **AN EVENING TALK**  
Waringham Methodist Church Hall, CR6 9HA  
'Fun With Pollen Traps' by Bob Smith  
There will be tea and cake afterwards; a small charge to cover costs.

FRIDAY 22<sup>nd</sup>. FEBRUARY 7-30 p.m. **AN EVENING TALK**  
Waringham Methodist Church Hall, CR6 9HA  
'Planting for Pollination' by Caron Alton.  
Followed by tea and cake; a small charge to cover our costs.

SATURDAY 23<sup>rd</sup>. FEBRUARY **SURREY BEE DAY**  
An all day event at Ewell Castle School, Ewell  
Cost £20-00 per person, lunch included.  
Details of lectures are not yet finalised, details in next months newsletter but Sandra Rickwood is now taking bookings - tele: 01932 244326  
or - rickwoodsaka@googlemail.com  
or - 19, Kenwood Drive, Walton on Thames, KT12 5AU

DATES to be FIXED

**MICROSCOPY DAYS**  
No details of venue or program as yet, if you wish to find out more contact Mark Stott  
tele: 0208 684 1098

...and a

*Happy New Year*

Not far into the New Year yet and some months before the active season but keep an eye on your colonies, their stores and protect hives in case woodpeckers get hungry.

Time too to overhaul your equipment - Richard Palmer can supply anything you are short of as he will continue as our local agent for Thornes - 0208 679 0401

So far we had not had any offers to take over editing the newsletter - let me know if you are willing.

This article is from Weybridge Division's newsletter last year - does one of our members have a steam wall paper stripper? this is a job for the winter and I expect both the apiary and some members would find this useful to deal with old comb.

### The Age of Steam

Last month's editorial, and the report of the solar wax extractor meeting, proved particularly serendipitous. You see I had a problem; buckets of old malodorous mouldy comb. Normally I would chuck it in the solar extractor and let the Sun do its thing. But the Sun hasn't done its thing for a long time now.

The story of the home made steam wax extractor got me thinking. Thorne's offerings starting at £263 were clearly out of the question so it was going to be a bespoke solution. Last week on a cool wet afternoon I assembled the contraption, threw in the comb, turned on the switch and within minutes a steady stream of clean molten wax issued forth. Nobody could have been more surprised than me! And it had cost me about 30p.

If you thinking about building your own, it is simplicity itself and uses equipment you probably already have available. You will need a hive floor, tin foil, two brood boxes, a framed wire queen excluder, some fine plastic mesh, something to use as a lid, a steam wallpaper stripper and a ratchet strap to hold it together. The details of my version are as follows. On a table or hive stand, place a hive floor and use the entrance block to create a narrow entrance (I used an old Snelgrove board). Prop up the back of the floor, so the floor is on an incline and any molten wax can flow out of the floor entrance. Cover the floor with some tin foil, to keep the floor clean. Use the tin foil to fashion a spout through which the wax will flow. On top of the floor place an empty brood box. On top of this place a framed wire queen excluder. On top of this place another empty brood box. Then place some fine plastic mesh, which cost me 30p, on top of the queen excluder, to filter the molten wax. The old comb is placed on top of the mesh. For the lid I used a piece of insulation board, in the centre of which I made a small hole about 1" diameter. The tube from a steam wallpaper stripper was inserted into the hole and held in place with duct tape and the whole thing was held together with a couple of ratchet straps. Switch the steam generator on and don't forget to put something under the floor entrance to catch the molten wax as it flows out.

I was really impressed how effective it was - so much so that I've now given away my old solar wax extractor.

Martin Major

*The second session on wax extractors on July 21st was attended by 16 members. Andy Sturt kindly demonstrated again the equipment he described in last month's newsletter, and Martin set up his - described above. It has been gratifying to hear already from 4 or 5 people who have since constructed their own extractors, either steam or solar variety. I was very impressed with both steam extractors, and intend to make one of my own, but would like to make the point that solar versions have their place too - they are always there, to receive old wax immediately it becomes available; I melted 9 lb 6 oz in a single day this week (between 8.00 am and 4.00 pm), using only natural (solar) power - a feature that particularly appealed to one of our visitors. I did a further measurement on the temperature achieved in my solar extractor and obtained a reading of 117°C with the extractor empty. -Ed.*



## The Central Association of Bee-Keepers

*Bringing Science to the Beekeeper*

Early notice for 2013...

*Spring Meeting & AGM*

Saturday 6th April

10.30am - 4.30pm

Venue: Roots and Shoots, Walnut Tree Walk, Lambeth, SE11 6DN

Three lectures and CABK Annual General Meeting.

*A delicious vegetarian lunch can be pre-booked at a modest cost.*

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