

# Croydon Beekeepers Assoc. Newsletter

A division of Surrey  
Beekeepers Association

Founded 1879

May 2015

## Help Croydon Beekeepers receive a donation from Aviva

May can be one of the busiest times of year for beekeepers. Even with this rainy and windy weather there have still been calls about swarms. So this will be a 'compact' newsletter!

The main thing to tell you about is that Croydon Beekeepers has been nominated for a donation from the Aviva Community Fund and we need you to go online and vote for us. If we get enough votes we will be in the running for £1,000!



**CROYDON  
BEEKEEPERS**

Voting is easy, just click on the following link, register your details (also quick and easy) and you will be given the chance to vote up to 10 times for Croydon Beekeepers. Voting closes on 30 May so get in early!

- Tracey

**To vote for Croydon Beekeepers to receive a donation of £1,000 click on the link below:**

<https://community-fund.aviva.co.uk/voting/Project/View/2359>

*Thank you!*

Chairman: Mark Stott  
Secretary: Joyce Atkinson  
Treasurer: Tamar Devane  
Editor: Tracey Carter



[www.public-domain-image.com](http://www.public-domain-image.com)

## Dates for your diary



19<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> May: courses at  
East Surrey Bees

25 May: Surrey County  
Agricultural Show, Guildford

3 June – General Husbandry  
Training Day

Apiary meetings on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>  
Sundays of the month, next  
meeting on 11 May

For further information visit  
[www.croydonbeekeepers.org.uk](http://www.croydonbeekeepers.org.uk)

## News from the apiary . . .

David Shepherd, Apiary Manager



Spring is well and truly here and thanks to our hard working Apiary Team the 'Teaching Hut' is looking resplendent in its new 'livery'. Since last summer the leaking roof has been boarded and replaced with corrugated steel sheets; the outside cement panels have been sealed and painted and the woodwork has been re-proofed. Ongoing work will include maintenance and cleaning of the windows and grills and eventually some internal work on the walls. We also need to provide shelving in one of the store huts to make the items stored there more accessible. Any who care help, particularly if you are able to join us on Thursdays will be made very welcome

Our immediate priority is making up new brood frames to replace much old comb that should have been replaced long ago: a big thank you to all those members

who are helping, particularly Joyce Atkinson, Harry Parker, Derek Read, Penny Chew and Mags Scott. We also have a huge number of old frames that need rendering and cleaning and hope to be able to organise some work sessions in the near future – if you are able to help please do let us know.



The first major crop of the season is upon us: no not the oil seed rape so often enthused about (although it is in full bloom, but not in our immediate area) but the common *Taraxacum officinale* which seems to be everywhere at the moment.

The first major crop of the

Yes . . . the grass verges, the uncut parks and lawns, the railway banking, the unweeded gardens – don't decry them, dandelions are an important crop and have been for many millions of years! At the apiary we will leave them as long as we can without offending other plot holders although judging by the number of many unattended plots at Hartley Down Allotment (see photo) showing wonderful swathes of yellow, we are not alone!



Our first swarm of the season was in the warm weather at the end of March. All of our hives bar one, have low Varroa counts (after their December treatments): the only one with a high count was a late swarm picked up at the end of last season and not treated as it was a small colony. The latter we will use

as an example of how to shook swarm for varroa control, in the next few weeks.

We must also thank John Collett, our former Chairman, for doing such a fantastic job

servicing the mover for the new season ahead. Thanks John, it's running superbly and the apiary is looking splendid.

Good beekeeping to you all,  
The Apiary Drones and Worker (with **Spring** in their steps!)

## **Forthcoming events**

### **Courses at East Surrey Bees**

David and Celia Rudland at East Surrey Bees will be running the following courses in May. For booking forms and further details please contact them at [enquire@east Surrey bees.co.uk](mailto:enquire@east Surrey bees.co.uk).

*Further Bee-keeping Experience/Basic Exam:* starting Tuesday 19th May and running for ten weeks 6.30 -8.30pm

*Queen Rearing Day:* Sunday 24th May. A practical day on a variety of methods of small scale queen rearing. Lunch provided. More details on our website.

### **Surrey Honey Show – Bank Holiday Monday 25 May, Stoke Park, Guildford**

Attached to this newsletter is the Schedule for the Surrey Honey Show (which is part of the 2015 Surrey County

Show). If you would like to enter Margaret Scott is willing to deliver entries provided they are with her by Sunday

24 May. Please contact her at [magsscott@lineone.net](mailto:magsscott@lineone.net).

### **A reminder: General Husbandry Practical Assessment Training Day, Wednesday 3 June, Kingston Apiary, KT8 0BW, from 10.00 a.m. onwards**

Master Beekeepers Alastair Welch and Bob Maurer will be leading this training day for

those interested in doing the BBKA General Husbandry assessment. For further

information please see the flyer attached with this newsletter.

**And finally . . .**

**A couple of news stories that caught our attention this month:**

*500 beehives break open after a truck crashes on Interstate 5 highway near Seattle, USA:*



*The full story is available here:*

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/world/honeybees-scattered-across-u-s-highway-after-truck-tips-1.3038165>



*The Duchess of Cornwall has launched her own honey, made by bees from her own garden and selling at £20 per jar, with all proceeds going to charity. It will of course be sold through Fortnum & Masons:*

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/food/article-3036307/Is-Camilla-s-homemade-honey-worth-sting-20-price-tag.html>

*Thanks to Bob Holah at Epsom BKA for highlighting these interesting stories!*

*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)*