

# Croydon Beekeepers Assoc. Newsletter

A division of Surrey  
Beekeepers Association

Founded 1879

June 2015

## Summer is here at last – fingers crossed

As I write this we've just had yet more wet and windy weather but at last the sun is shining. I sincerely hope this good weather continues so our bees can 'settle down'.

I saw a strange thing this week that I've never observed before: a 'chosen' queen cell hadn't hatched on time and when I investigated, I discovered four dead workers like peas in a pod, sealed inside a perfect-looking queen cell – but no queen. I have read of this happening – has anyone else experienced this?

I know that some beekeepers advise choosing an open queen cell rather than a sealed one, because then you know when it is sealed and can also



**CROYDON  
BEEKEEPERS**

be sure that a larva is inside. I'm now inclined to share this view, having destroyed other queen cells while I waited for a lovely new queen to emerge from the 'chosen' (but doomed) cell!

Finally, a huge thanks to all who voted for us in the Aviva Community Fund.

**Thanks to your support we made it through to the final round!** and will find out if we have been successful at the end of June. Watch this space . . .

- Tracey

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



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## Dates for your diary



20 June Croydon Heritage  
Festival – Croydon  
Beekeepers Stand at North  
End, Croydon

27 June Sanderstead  
Horticultural Society, 1-4  
p.m., Wettern Tree Garden

11 July Croydon Beekeepers  
Stand at Knights Garden  
Centre, Warlingham

Save the date: Croydon  
Beekeepers Honey show – 26  
September, Selsdon

Apiary meetings on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>  
Sundays of the month

## Association news and notices

### Forthcoming Garden Meetings

August garden meetings are being planned at John Collett's and John Lunn's,

culminating in extraction and bottling meetings at John Collett's in early September.

Dates to be confirmed in next month's newsletter.

### Results of 2015 Surrey County Show

The 2015 Surrey County Show took place on 25 May and the results are attached. Congratulations to Croydon

members Margaret Scott (who received first place for honey biscuits and also placed in the general interest category), and

David Malarkey who placed in the photo category. Well done and thank you for representing Croydon.



### Croydon Beekeepers Stand at Summer Events

Our stand (with colourful new banner) has been getting good use lately at events at Platform (a market space next to East Croydon Station)

where we have been selling association honey and talking to many people interested in bees and beekeeping. The stand will continue on a

'summer tour' of events including the Croydon Heritage Festival (20 June), Sanderstead Horticultural Society (27 June) and Knights



Garden Centre (11 July). If you would like to volunteer to help in any way please contact Joyce Atkinson on 020 8657 2817.

### *Croydon Beekeepers participation in Bees in the City study*

Croydon Beekeepers were delighted to be selected to provide samples from a couple of local hives to help with a research project being run by Elizabeth Samuelson at the Royal Holloway University of London.

Having collected samples of bees and pollen from hives in both urban and rural apiaries Liz will spend the next few months testing all the samples and analysing the data to learn more about the health of City bees.

We are hoping to persuade Liz to return in 2016 to give us a talk explaining about this important research project and maybe give us a sneak preview of the results.

### *Bees for sale*

CBKA member Colin Marshall is downsizing his beekeeping and has bees for

sale. If you are interested please get in touch with Colin directly via email at

[cm003g3932@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:cm003g3932@blueyonder.co.uk)

### *Site available for members' beehives in Caterham*

An easily accessible, three acre site in Caterham has been offered as a potential site for beehives by owners who are

keen to support bees but don't want to become beekeepers themselves. If you are interested please contact Mark

Stott for further details: [buzzibeez@gmail.com](mailto:buzzibeez@gmail.com) or 07921 234 916.

## Forthcoming events

### *Heathfield world bees volunteer day 7 June, 10.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. – Friends of the Earth*

Come and join Friends of the Earth for a volunteer day at Heathfield to create a 'Bee World' that will delight visitors and raise awareness on the decline of bees and what we can do to save them.

We've planted wildflower seeds around the grounds and have plenty of bee friendly bedding plants in pots ready to plant. We will be on the grounds at Heathfield from 10.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. and are

looking for volunteers to help us all for some or the day. If you wish to join, please let Rebecca Parnell know in advance at @magicbrew.co.uk. Be sure to bring comfy clothes and gardening gloves!

### *Weekend course at University of Cambridge - "Bees, flies and flowers: the ecology of pollination and why it matters." 26-28 June 2015*

Are you worried about the plight of wild bees and other pollinators? These insects provide a crucial service pollinating crops and wildflowers. Yet there is widespread concern about their decline. This course will teach you how to identify and monitor common pollinators such as bumblebees and hoverflies, how to measure their importance to flowers, and how you can contribute to pollinator conservation.

You will learn to assess your own garden for its value to pollinators. You will try out

practical techniques used in pollination ecology, including preparing a pollen sample for microscopic examination and measuring insect behaviour. Expect to go home with an entirely different view of flowerbeds and road verges. The course is taught by Dr Lynn Dicks, Research Fellow at the University of Cambridge Department of Zoology. Lynn has a PhD in the ecology of pollinating insects, awarded from Cambridge in 2002 and has continued to work as a science writer and broadcaster for 10 years. She is keen that as many people as possible

notice and enjoy the diversity of wild pollinators that busy themselves around us every summer.

This weekend course takes place at the Cambridge University Institute of Continuing Education's home, Madingley Hall, over the weekend of the 26 – 28 June. The course costs £250 which includes lunch & dinner over the weekend, refreshments, and tuition. It is also possible to stay at Madingley Hall's B&B over the weekend at an additional cost starting from £50 per night, subject to availability. If you would like

to sign up or would like more information about the course, please visit

[www.ice.cam.ac.uk/bees](http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/bees)

Feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

Kind regards

**Joshua Hatley**

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*Our local agent for E H Thorne Beehives Ltd is:*

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