

Croydon Beekeepers Assoc. Newsletter

A division of Surrey
Beekeepers Association

Founded 1879

July 2015

CBKA wins £1,000 donation from Aviva Community Fund – thank you for voting

I am delighted to be able to report that Croydon Beekeepers was successful in our application to the Aviva Community Fund and will receive a donation of £1,000 in July.

We received over 1,300 votes so a huge thank you for everyone who voted for us and encouraged others to do the same.

However it wasn't just the votes that won it for us: Aviva were impressed by the way that Croydon Beekeepers work in our local community, to educate a range of



audiences about bees and the environment.

The donation will buy a new honey extraction kit including an electric extractor.

Thank you also to CBKA Treasurer Tamar Devane for helping to source the financial documents needed to secure this donation.

Happy summer
beekeeping,

- Tracey

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



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Dates for your diary



11 July Croydon Beekeepers Stand at
Knights Garden Centre, Warlingham

19 July – Garden meeting at John
Collett's, South Nutfield

16 August – Garden meeting at John
Lunn's, Sevenoaks

23 August – Honey extraction at John
Collett's, South Nutfield

6 September – Honey bottling at John
Collett's, South Nutfield

26th September – Croydon Honey
Show, Selsdon

11 October – London Honey Show

*Apiary meetings on 2nd and 4th Sundays
of the month*

News from the apiary



At the time of writing the blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*) is in full bloom. There are many areas of it around us and the bees are making full use of them. This is probably the second major crop for bees at this time of the year, in our area if not nationally, especially if you consider adjacent railway embankments, allotments, gardens, the downs, commons and other open spaces - there is plenty of it about. It is a shame that some folk (though not all) think of it as a nuisance and set about demolishing it in their gardens rather than keeping controlled areas to enjoy.

However it does have a very useful habit of being difficult to get rid of – quite pleasing really . . . ?

The apiary is looking good and the Division hives are now building well. We did a shook swarm in April / May (varroa control) with a small nucleus which had overwintered in a polynuc and last week we did a ‘swarm control’ on it – just shows how colonies can build very quickly in just a few weeks if conditions are ideal. The varroa boards went in towards the end of June for the seasonal check -hopefully numbers will not be too high. Deformed wing virus has been evident only in one hive this year and that of course has now been dealt with (shook swarm), We did not seem to have any problems with the June gap; frames of crystalised ivy honey from last autumn proved useful as a failsafe against possible starvation.

The apiary team has been busy tidying, mowing, cleaning and checking, all together proving quite a mammoth job and we are well behind with weeding of the beds some overwhelmed with growth. There are still large numbers of frames that need cleaning and sterilising ready for making up with foundation . . . volunteers please . . . you will always be made welcome.

The new system of placing record cards in plastic envelopes under the hive roofs seems to be working reasonably well and we would like to encourage members to be actively considering qualities of queens and breeding lines – the most recent warm weather has certainly helped.

Best wishes from AWD

(Apiary Worker & Drones)

Association news and notices

Forthcoming Garden and extraction meetings

A series of July and August garden meetings will be held at John Collett's (South Nutfield) and John Lunn's (Sevenoaks), culminating in extraction and bottling meetings at John Collett's in

early September. Dates are as follows:

19 July - garden meeting at John Collett's

16 August - garden meeting at John Lunn's

23 August – honey extraction meeting at John Collett's

6 September – honey bottling at John Collett's

News and forthcoming events

Worshipful Company of Wax Chandlers to open its doors to public during London Open House Day, Saturday 19 September

The Worshipful Company of Wax Chandlers are opening up their Hall to visitors

during Open House Weekend on Saturday 19th September. Well worth having a peep!

Thanks to Meriel Spalding for this item.

London Honey Show 2015: Sunday 11 October 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m., Lancaster London, W2

This year's show is being held on a Sunday to give people more time to visit and enjoy

the many exhibits and activities including honey tastings and other treats, talks, the honey competition and

children's area. Entry is just £1 per person. For further information visit www.londonbees.com.

Revised Honey Regulations 2015

Some changes have been made to the Honey

Regulations and the updated pdf version is attached to this

newsletter – vital reading for anyone who sells honey.

And finally . . .

Sandra Rickwood shared the following video with amazing film photography showing the development of bees in their first 21 days.

The original talk is available here:

https://www.ted.com/talks/anand_varma_a_thrilling_look_at_the_first_21_days_of_a_bee_s_life?language=en or you can view a short version at: <https://youtu.be/f6mJ7e5YmnE> . Well worth viewing.

Our local agent for E H Thorne Beehives Ltd is:

Richard Palmer tel 020 8679 0401 or email palmersbees@hotmail.co.uk