

Gravesend Beeline

Hi everyone

Hopefully many of us will have extracted the Spring honey by now, although talking to other beekeepers in the area it sounds as if honey yields have varied widely. We are now at the peak time for swarming, so weekly inspections are the name of the game. So far we have not had as many swarm calls from the public as last year. Our Chair, Nigel, has apparently been busy building queen cells this Spring and looks like he may swarm soon. He has found a new hive in Norfolk and is just waiting for the right weather. So we will be looking for a new Chair and for someone to take over the production and distribution of this monthly newsletter. If you want to unleash the writer within, then get in touch with Nigel, who will be happy to explain what is involved. But bee quick, he has already started slimming down, ready to fly – if only we had had him clipped! 01474 834533 (nlincoln@btinternet.com).

Meeting change

Unfortunately the visit to John Kidd's bee house that we planned for this month's meeting had to be cancelled. Instead, we are planning to hold an informal workshop afternoon at the Cobham Hall on Sunday week (1st July). This is a change from the original day (this Sunday) which clashes with the next England World Cup game. The idea is for some of the more experienced members to demonstrate how they make and clean different bits of equipment. Key skills on show will include frame and brood box assembly, re-cycling old frames, recovering and purifying wax, and making some simple wax-based products.



These may sound like mundane jobs but they are central to successful beekeeping and it is well worth knowing the best tools and most efficient ways to do them.

Best frame competition

Don't forget to enter our club 'best frame' challenge to see who can produce the best looking frame of sealed honey this year. All you have to do is get the frame signed by club Chair Nigel, and then pop it into your super. There have not been many entrants so far, so you have a good chance of winning if you do take part.



Bug hotel

We are going to add a bug hotel to the grounds of the Cobham apiary and are looking for suitable materials to make it with. So if you have any old logs, pipes, bamboo, pallets, etc, that might be suitable – and can get them to the apiary – then please let Michelle know. This is one of the projects that we aim to start at the Sunday workshop session.



Kent County Show

KBKA is still looking for volunteers to help at the Association stand at the Kent Show (6-8 July). If you do volunteer, please remember to fill out the form and email it back to Bob Smith, as he needs your address to send out the tickets. Volunteers get free entry and parking. Contact Chief Steward Bob Smith on 0208 300 1807 or (preferably) by email: bsmith12@ntlworld.com.

Lesley

The newsletter
of the
Gravesend Branch
of KBKA

June
2018

