



Gravesend Branch Newsletter

September 2025



Summer & some

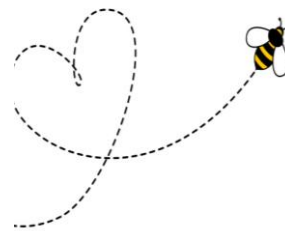
We seem to have had a busy summer what with heatwaves, drought orders, good honey flows and lively bees!

A good response from Gravesend members stewarding at the County Show educating the public about the wondrous honey bee and the pesky Asian Hornet.

We also were in for a treat with a great BBQ at Paula and Roy's with good weather company, food and venue. Thanks to Paula and Roy for being superb hosts!

Branch extraction went well and produced lots of honey for sale to support the Branch's activities.

Autumn musing...



Everything has been early this year, blackberries was a big indicator of that for me. It seems that nature decided for everything to be about three weeks early and along with the hot dry summer, it was lovely to see butterflies in abundance. Hopefully with this in mind, we are in for a glorious autumn!

Drone Honey Bee Fun Facts

Drones are the only males in the colony but do not have a father!

They are dependent on their sisters for food & care!

They have very distinctive large eyes – for spotting a queen and do not possess a stinger.

Drones sole purpose in life is to mate with a virgin queen & if successful will die soon after the act!

But, 'unlucky' drones (depending on how you view this!) spend their time in the hive literally doing nothing much and then, at the start of autumn, they are expelled from the colony... and die.



Asian Hornet Update!

As at 4th September, there have been several more sightings! Kent locations include Deal, Broadstairs, Folkestone, Blean, Capel le Ferne, Church Hougham (x2) Higham.

They have even reached as far as Bromley and in East Sussex, Brighton & Chelwood Gate! 96 nest have been confirmed for this year as at 4th September.

Many of the nest have been destroyed and the specimens sent off to Fera Science.

Please ensure that you continue to bait & monitor your traps, thank you.

Dates for your diaries...

Next Meeting Saturday 13th September, when Michelle and Tony will recap on the progress of the Asian Hornet to date, and discuss what actions we can take going forward to protect our bee colonies and be vigilant to keep the YLH at bay for as long as possible. Time allowing we will look at what preparations we should be making for overwintering particularly useful for newer beekeepers.

Meeting starts at 2.30pm at the National Trust Visitor's Centre, Lodge Lane Cobham, DA12 3BS. Please park in the farmyard opposite making sure not to block access to barns.

Date for your diary - Branch AGM and mini Honey Show Sunday 23rd November. Please let any committee member know prior to meeting anything you wish to raise.

October is of course the National Honey Show at Sandown Park - see full details in Beecraft or BBKA news.

