



Gravesend Branch Newsletter

July 2026



Whitstable Branch Invitation

Reminder of the invitation by Whitstable Branch on the NBU disease day previously circulated.

Please find forwarded this invitation from Whitstable Branch that looks to be a very useful day for beginners, improvers and old hands alike. Disease recognition is of the utmost importance for one's own bees as well as preventing infection of others' colonies in the vicinity, so if you are free on the 3rd of August you may like to take up the opportunity.

Asian Hornet update

The AH sighting this year have been spread more widely across the country but several have been sighted nearby. DEFRA are not acting on these sightings but requesting local Asian Hornet Action teams to monitor.

Can all members, their family and friends monitor from the last week of July until the end of August. This shorter period of monitoring has been devised to maximise the chances of capturing worker hornets and allowing for nest destruction before new queens are issued. Also it is before the ivy flowers as Asian hornets will ignore a bait trap once ivy is open due to the insect activity on it presenting a greater food source. This revised monitoring period should also avoid volunteer fatigue.

Monitoring will only be extended, if a nest is found in our area later in September due to the issue of gynes.

Branch BBQ

The Branch BBQ on Saturday the 25th of July by kind invitation of Charlotte and Phil Niranjana, 2pm start at 13, Warren View, Shorne, DA12 3EJ. The BBQ items will be provided but we would ask for donations of a salad, pudding or raffle prize.

Please let Charlotte know if you are able to come, we would welcome as many of our members as possible, and let her know if you are able to donate an item. Email charlotte_niranjana@yahoo.com or mobile 07939 577764

Kent County Show thanks.

Thank you (so very much) to everyone who helped out and supported the honey bee stand at the Kent County Show this year. The weather was definitely on our side and the foot fall was great with lots of interest from the County Show visitors!

In July...

Honey bees are spending this month foraging for nectar and pollen, converting their nectar into honey to build up their stores, and raising new generations of bees.

Some bee keepers may extract some honey in the latter part of the month as it does give the bees an extended period of time to replenish their stores.

Dandelion flat bread with honey

200 g self-raising flour plus extra for dusting
1/2 teaspoon baking powder
200 g natural yogurt
A Big handful of dandelion petals

1. Simply mix up all your ingredients and knead for a minute to bring them together. Divide your dough into 6 pieces and roll them out until they're a few mm thick. Score your breads down the center around 6 times (this helps them not puff too much).
2. Then, pop them onto a hot skillet for a few minutes on each side until browned and slightly puffed!
3. I also drizzle honey with melted some butter to spread over the flatbreads for extra shine and flavour! Enjoy!