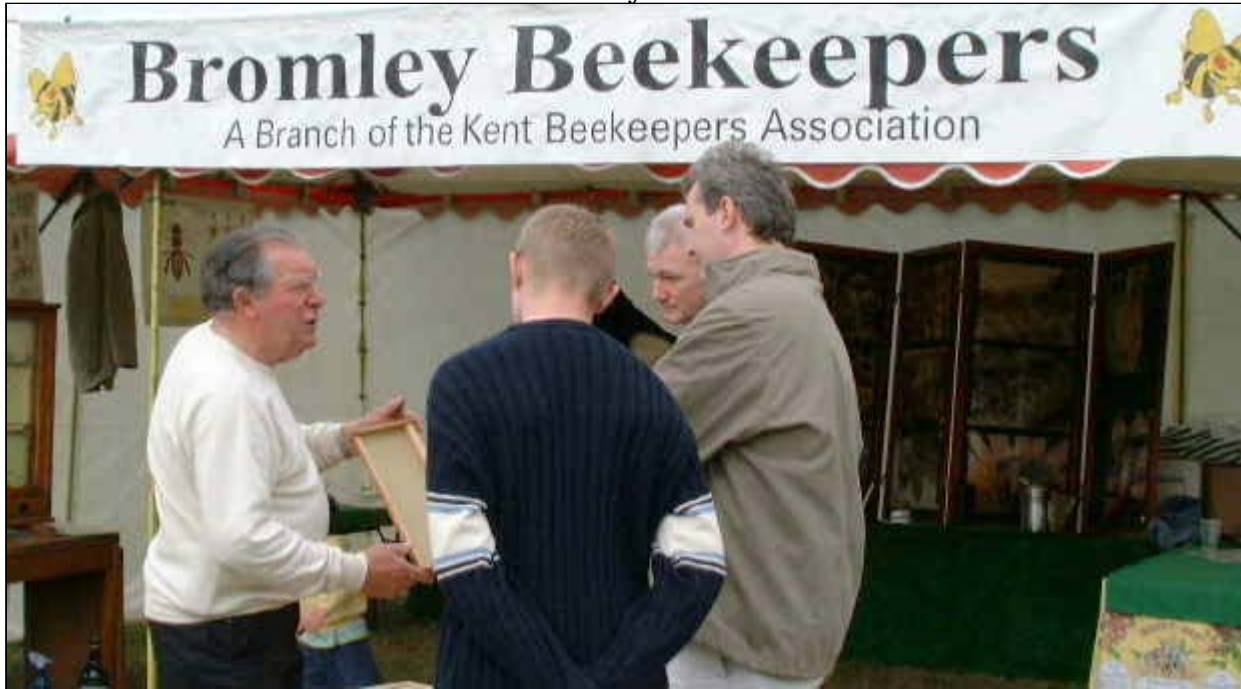


# Bromley Bee News Monthly Update

## Published by the Bromley Beekeepers

Welcome to the **June 2001** issue of Bromley News.



Hive inspections are needed every 7 days if you are practicing swarm control. If you find sealed queen cells it is usually too late to stop the swarming event. I normally shake off all the bees and locate and destroy all but one queen cell. This helps to reduce the number of casts.

This month's tips are:-

1. If you are hiving swarms always give them fresh foundation and don't feed them.
2. Remove your wristwatch when working the bees in hot weather, sweat seems to attract the bee stings.
3. Buy a self-igniting gas blowlamp for easy starting of the smoker.

### Internet

[www.beeman.dircon.co.uk/junbbk01.htm](http://www.beeman.dircon.co.uk/junbbk01.htm) web version of this newsletter with pictures. New members of our branch may not be aware of the Bromley Beekeepers Internet mailing list, it is worth subscribing to for the latest news etc. Send an email to [mailserver@zbee.com](mailto:mailserver@zbee.com) and in the message body write this command: SUBSCRIBE BBK then send it in the normal way. You will receive further instructions, total membership now at 29. Visit the BBKA members area at [www.bbka.org.uk](http://www.bbka.org.uk) plenty of interesting beekeeping files to read. Access is password protected see May BBKA News (No.129) for logon details.

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### Apiary News

Those of you who managed to get to the meeting on the first Sunday of May will recall that our hopes of introducing a swarm into the African long hive were thwarted by the untimely occupation of the hive by a Blue Tit's nest. The bird continued to come and go until we had our open day 14 days later. Then nothing since. Did the crowds prove too much? After 10 days of inactivity and the urgent need to find a home for a swarm I took a peep into the hive, nothing, just a few balls of fluff. What happened to the eggs? Did the bird carry them away or perhaps they hatched out which would account for the balls of fluff. Visit [Kentbee.com](http://www.kentbee.com) and download some interesting photographs of the meeting URL <http://www.kentbee.com/kbbka.htm>

I carefully eased out all the evidence onto a sheet of glass and it is all there for you to see, so come along you budding ornithologists and let us know what you think happened.

The 'Open Day' at the Leisure Gardens went better than ever with nearly 400 people offering their 50 pence pieces to partake in the BBQ, plant sales, refreshments, bric-a-brac, vineyard walks and the bee demonstration at 1:30pm which was watched by over 60 members of the public and proved to be a sensation. Word got around that the beekeepers would be at it again at 3:00pm and many of the visitors stayed on to watch two swarms being run into their new homes. It was really something to see people mingling with all the bees flying around with no signs of the fear usually displayed by the uninitiated. The good news is that the profit for the day was over £900, which will be used to improve the facilities on the site.



Do please keep an eye on your calendar. Some of you will have missed out on what is probably our main event, the Blackheath Village Fayre on the first Saturday of June.



The next event is at the school at Shortlands on Saturday 16th June. Then Saturday 23rd June a display at Green St Green. Saturday 30th June at Mayow Park Sydenham and the following day the event at Hayes Common Keston which to my mind is a really rural day and number one in my estimation. Your company is most helpful at all of these events, and don't forget you will get a good price for your surplus honey and other bee products. There is probably no better way of getting to know our hobby than talking to the public and answering

their damn fool questions.

Please contact Tom Winks on 8777 3144 if you are of a mind to join in, I can assure you that it is most enjoyable, and time well spent.

Pile those supers on and stand back for a record harvest.

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**Members' Diary Dates for outside events**

Saturday 2nd June Blackheath Fayre  
Saturday 16th June School Shortlands  
Saturday 23rd June Green St Green  
Saturday 30th June Mayow Park  
Sunday 1st July Hayes Common Keston

Photographs by S. Turner.  
Bromley beekeepers Sydenham Wells Park May 2001 (copyright free).

[Back](#)