

Gravesend Beeline

The newsletter
of the
Gravesend Branch
of KBKA
June
2015



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gravesend](http://www.kentbee.com/kbka/branches/gravesend)

Hi everyone,

Our colonies should be building up rapidly now ready for the nectar flow during the summer. Swarming is still a possibility, so regular inspections should continue to check the queen has enough space to lay in and that the hive is not getting too crowded.



A recent swarm photographed by one of our new members, Harry

Outreach activities

Members of the branch have been busy recently with activities aimed at members of the wider community, both young and old, who would like to know more about beekeeping. We have hosted two visits from Shorne primary school pupils, members of the "eco club", who got their first taste of beekeeping with a variety of activities and the opportunity to look at the bee colonies - the weather being good on both occasions. The head teacher has also requested a visit by the Branch to talk to the whole school on our favourite subject - bees!

Meanwhile, Peter and Michelle gave a talk to 120 members of the U3A group at Chalk Village Hall. Their presentation was very well received and generated a lot of questions about bees and beekeeping. They also managed to generate a substantial addition to the club funds. We thank them for the hard work they put in, and if anyone else has been asked to give a talk to a local club, then I am sure they can give you some advice.

Apiary update

A number of the branches' colonies did not survive the winter which has meant that no Spring honey has been produced. However, we have been fortunate to have a number of colonies donated by members to make up the losses and are now back to eight, and so anticipate having a Summer crop. The provisional date for the club extraction day is 16 August - but the newsletter will have an update nearer the time. The Branch has a few Correx Boxes left for sale. These are lightweight but strong and so useful for moving bees around, as a swarm box or a temporary nucleus. If you are interested, please contact Michelle (07734 467410 or email mellidrang@blueyonder.co.uk).

Next meeting

The apiary desperately needs some maintenance. The ground staff at Cobham have carried out some tree surgery and trimmed some of the nettles, but there are still plenty of jobs that need doing: the round picnic tables need staining and a picnic bench making up, there is equipment to clean, and on the gardening front weeds to clear and plants to put in and, of course, the workers will need to be kept going with refreshments. Therefore, we have designated next Sunday's apiary meeting as a working party day, and would like as many members as possible to turn up and lend a hand. The apiary shed will be open from 1pm and please bring along your own seats and gardening tools. It might be worth bringing your suit or veil along as well. We would like to create a regular team of members who would look after the apiary on a regular basis - please let me know if you would be willing to join.

Dates for your diary

Forthcoming events include the Kent Show from 10 to 12 July, and a visit/inspection by Peter Allen, who is a commercial beekeeper from Sutton Valence, on 26 July.

Lesley