

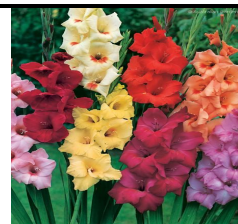
MID-KENT BRANCH
KENT BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

August 2011



August is the month for the Perseid meteor shower. It has been observed for about 2000 years, with the first known record coming from the Far East. In early medieval Europe, they were known as the "tears of St. Lawrence." The greatest activity is between August 8 and 14, peaking about August 12. During the peak, the rate of meteors reaches 60 or more per hour. They are primarily visible in the northern hemisphere.



The July meeting at Peter Allen's was an insight into his queen-rearing set-up. Our thanks go to both Linda and Peter for refreshments and for hosting about 40 members, old, new and prospective, of Branch on a very hot and sunny afternoon: the gazebo was a life saver. Our thanks also go to Rooney, Peter's part time assistant and work partner. Those wishing to join as friends should contact Roger Hart (01892 730646 rog_hart@yahoo.co.uk) for further information. Although it is getting late in the season, some members without bees may wish to obtain a small colony. Peter Allen is able to help in providing five frame nucleus colonies. Any small colony at this time will require continual feeding from now until the temperature slows the evaporation of water (end of September probably) so that it builds up to sufficient size and accumulate enough stored food to ensure its survival through winter. There are now probably only two large brood cycles until the queen decreases egg laying dramatically

Deal of the month

If you are registered with Bookers, the Cash and Carry firm, the cheapest sugar is 59p for 1kg bags
Sugar: from Asda: 5kg bags are available at £4.10 i.e. £0.82 per kilo, which is cheaper than Sainsbury's. **EVEN BETTER is the price of 2kg bags from Tesco certainly in Faversham at £1.20, that is (higher mathematics here) £0.60 per kilo. I bought mine today, and if you buy one of the very special offers of a jar of coffee, 280 tea bags or a box of Persil washing capsules you get 5p per litre off fuel: buy all three and you can get 15p off!**

Notes from the Chair

The Kent County Show is over for another year and thank you to all who helped as stewards and to those who entered into the spirit of the show and exhibited. Sadly it was not the best of weather but this did not deter the large number of adults and children that visited the bee tent and enjoyed the many displays.

At the recent committee meeting it was decided that as a Branch we would like to hold our own local honey show in early 2012. In preparation for this and whilst planning our winter talks programme one of the topics will be a talk by Mary Hill about how to get the best from your honey to show. Dates are to be confirmed so if you have been fortunate to harvest some honey keep a jar or two back for the Branch Show.

East Malling Research Centre September Events

As mentioned in July's newsletter I indicated that the branch are going to take part in two events at East Malling Research Centre. The first is the Beer Festival on Saturday 3rd September.

The second event is the Bradbourne House Open day on Sunday 18th September. We will be holding a photographic competition for our members at this event. **The subject will of course be on bees and beekeeping.** The photograph with a title, should be no smaller than 8ins x 6ins, mounted on a sheet of A4 card or paper. The name and age of the photographer should be written on the back of the sheet. This competition is open to current full members,

partner members and junior members only from the Mid Kent Branch of Beekeepers. So take your cameras with you when you are likely to encounter bees.

If you would like to be involved including selling branch honey and speaking to the public at either event please forward your name to Barbara Harris barbara.harris9@btinternet.com or me cullen5316@btinternet.com or 01622 725111.

Next Apiary Meeting

I hope you have had a good summer and see you at the **last Apiary meeting for 2011 on Sunday 11th September** when we will be showing how to prepare to over winter the bees.

Dick Cullen

National Honey Show – Weybridge, Surrey 27th to 29th October 2011

This is a great opportunity for you to enter the Kent classes, and make the show a real success. The NHS have printed A5 'fliers' promoting the show: leaflets and posters will be available to download from the NHS website - www.honeyshow.co.uk Bob Maurer 07740 707500

Jars for honey

These can be obtained from Freeman and Harding. Please look on the website at <http://www.freemanharding.co.uk>. There is a special section for honey jars. They are located in Erith, very near the Dartford bridge crossing. You can collect from the warehouse instead of them being delivered. The contact address and phone number is Freeman & Harding Ltd, Unit 18, Bilton Road Erith, Kent, DA8 2AN. 01322 351315. Office hours are Monday to Thursday: 9.30am to 4.30pm Friday: 9.30am to Midday.

BEEBASE – www.secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/beebase

BeeBase is the National Bee Unit website. It is designed for beekeepers and supports Defra, WAG and Scotland's Bee Health Programmes and the Governments Healthy Bee Plan which set out to protect and sustain our valuable national bee stocks. I understand that there is still some reluctance for people to join in fear of the government knowing about stocks and honey. This is not what the database is about. Please join up and get some of the very useful information that is available to you a member.

For Your Diaries

London Honey festival. 21st August 2011.

Royal festival Hall, South Bank, London

This free public event will be held in the Clore ballroom at the Royal festival Hall, 1pm to 5pm as part of the 60th anniversary celebrations for the Festival of Britain. This is a free event for both beekeepers and the public. There will be a stalls so that the public can meet their local beekeeper and buy a jar or two of honey. The public will also be invited to taste a wide selection of the capital's honey and vote for your favourite local honey, with prizes for the winning beekeeper.

The event is open to all beekeepers and associations within the greater London area. Stalls are available, free of charge, with a suggested donation for those that are selling honey. You can enter the honey tasting event on its own by emailing, mikey@sustainweb.org.

The four-hour festival will also feature children's activities, film shows and bee themed music. There will be demonstrations of honey extractions, beekeeping equipment, educational stalls, honey massages, and an

observation hive.

- Honey tasting
- Bee mask making
- Bumble bee making
- Observation hive
- Honey extractor
- Honey massages
- Find a local bee training course
- General information stalls

The event is organised by Capital Bee, the campaign for community beekeeping in London, and part of Capital Growth, the campaign to support 2012 food-growing spaces in London by 2012.

<http://www.capitalgrowth.org/bees/>

Mikey Tomkins

Capital Bee campaign

Sustain: The alliance for better food and farming

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