

# Surrey Beekeepers Association

## CROYDON DIVISION

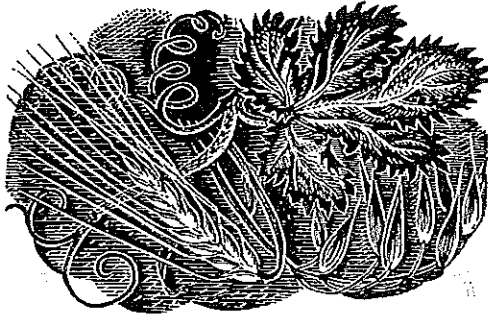
Chairman Mark Stott 0208 684 1098  
Treasurer Tamar Cavett 0208 406 9258  
Secretary Joyce Atkinson 0208 657 2817

[www.croydonbeekeepers.co.uk](http://www.croydonbeekeepers.co.uk)



AUGUST 2011

You may have noticed that our grass cutter, David Shepherd has left parts of the apiary unmown so that the wild plants can flower, we may see him too with a scythe.



### DATES TO REMEMBER

#### APIARY MEETINGS

SUNDAYS 14 th. and 28 th. August

As usual at 2-30 p.m. but from 2-00 p.m. David Shepherd will continue his introductory instruction course for newcomers with slides on his laptop. Tea and refreshments follow and thanks to those who provide cakes for this.

#### EXTRACTING MEETING

SATURDAY 20 th. AUGUST at 2-00 p.m.  
AT

The Pastures, Brays Farm,  
Bowerhill Lane, South Nutfield,  
Surrey, RH1 4EH  
Phone : 01737 822394

#### BARBECUE

SUNDAY 4 th. September at 3-00 p.m.  
This will be a Hartley Down Apiary

David Shepherd has agreed to organise one again this season since it proved very popular last year. In order to cover the costs there will be a charge of £7-00 for the food but please bring your own drinks AND let David know at least a week in advance if you decide to come so he may ensure there is enough food for every one, Telephone: 0208 668 4538 or 07791 477431

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 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](mailto: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/>

#### SHEILA WIDRA 1934 - 2011

Some of you may remember Sheila who was the long time partner of 'Steve' Stephens (obituary last October) and who, although she never handled bees became quite involved in our divisions activities for some years assisting with honey shows and distributing our newsletter. Until she retired she worked for the Commonwealth Fund, a philanthropic foundation founded by the Harkness family to grant fellowships for graduate studies in the United States. Stephen V. Harkness was an Ohio businessman who invested early in the Standard Oil Company started by John D. Rockefeller which resulted in a fortune for his family. Sheila travelled extensively with 'Steve' world wide and was a keen photographer.

#### **Sheila Widra, Retired Assistant Director of Harkness Fellowships-London**

Sheila Widra, who retired as The Commonwealth Fund's Assistant Director of Harkness Fellowships-London in September 1991, passed away in mid-July 2011 following a long illness. Ms. Widra ran the Fund's London office from 1979 to 1991, and in that capacity staffed the U.K. Harkness Fellows Selection Committee, represented the Fund in the U.K., advised fellowship candidates, and played a significant role in vetting applications for fellowships. She was a Fund employee for 34 years, and was an important link between Harkness Fellows of the 1925-97 period and those of the current Harkness Fellows in Health Policy and Practice program. She exercised great judgment and total loyalty in running an overseas office for the Fund, promoted ongoing communication among Harkness Fellows and alumni, and was a trusted colleague among Fund staff, both during her many years of employment and in retirement. She helped establish the tradition of close monitoring of, and guidance to, Harkness Fellows that has helped make this enduring program of international exchange one of the best of its kind. The Fund's Board and staff pay tribute to her worthy life and achievements.

## HONEY SHOWS

SATURDAY 1 st. OCTOBER

Croydon division's Honey Show schedule, rules and entry form are enclosed with this if you get it by post and available for those who have it electronically . Joyce Atkinson, our show secretary can send you a printed copy if you prefer AND hopes for plenty of entries, over 100 so a blue ribbon may be awarded, entries in good time before the day please.

### MORE ABOUT CROYDON SHOW AWARDS

The Ellen Coates silver plate is for the best Honey Cake and as the picture shows has been awarded since 1984, often to members of our beekeeper's family . Ellen joined Croydon beekeepers in the early 1970's, was active in the running of our division and provided the tea and cakes after apiary and other meetings. Paul Vereycken provided the picture and as you see his son won it last year, so have a go at cake making, practice some first and see if you can get your name on it.



OCTOBER 27 th. to 29 th.

The National Honey Show, not far away at Weybridge so another chance to see how your honey and other efforts compare, there are lots of classes both national and Surrey where you can help to win the Hosegood Memorial Trophy for Croydon, one of members won it 9 years running, there are no names on it for 8 years since none of our members entered the show. There is also a cup for which of Croydon or Wimbledon members gains most points. Show schedule and entry form from: Sandra Rickwood phone 02033 558716

## QUALIFICATIONS

There is a wide range of beekeeping exams you can take from the Basic which covers the essentials that all should know up to ones for lectures and honey show judges, John Pearce, our most successful showman of recent times became a show judge.

The Honey Bee Management exam has been passed by our members: Marion Dunn, Colin Marshall and Mark Stott, our chairman who has also passed Honey Bee Biology so he now has the Intermediate Theory Certificate.

Our congratulations to all of these and we now know who to ask for up to date advice even though some of best bee handlers have not taken any exams.

Congratulations also to Bob Maurer (Reigate Chairman and trustee) who has passed exams to become a 'Master Beekeeper'.

If you wish to know more about the range of beekeeping exams the Surrey County Examinations Secretary is:

Mrs. A.Gill.  
143, Smallfield Road,  
Horley,  
Surrey, RH6 9LR  
Tel: 01293 784161



CHINA DAILY/REUTERS

### For the buzz Insect appeal

Wearing just a pair of shorts, Lv Kongliang, 20, stands with bees partly covering his body on a weighing scale during a "bee-attracting" competition in Hunan province, China. By holding a

homebred queen bee, he managed to attract 50lb (22.9kg) of bees in 60 minutes. But it was not enough to beat fellow beekeeper Wang Dalin Wang, who attracted 57lb (26kg).