



Gravesend Branch Newsletter

June 2025



June Gap

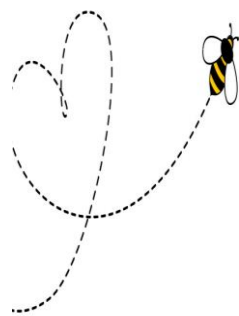
The lovely weather we have been having has resulted in a good crop of honey for some, the June gap seems to have been very short this year. The bees have started foraging again so make sure you have plenty of supers on, as you will recall that nectar takes up twice as much space as the honey that results when the excess moisture has been evaporated.

June is considered a critical month for bees and is referred to as the 'June Gap' because it is a period of time where the abundance of spring flowers diminishes before the summer blooms fully develop. This can lead to a shortage of nectar and pollen for bees that can potentially impact on their ability to thrive and produce honey.

It's at precisely the time of the June gap that honey bee colonies are approaching their peak population. Queen bees are laying eggs and colonies have many larvae to feed. A reduction in available nectar and pollen for the worker bees to forage can leave large colonies struggling to feed themselves.

Thankfully, this year, the gap was short lived and the weather is improving (hurrah). Such plants as Ornamental onion (*Allium*), field poppy (*Papaver rhoeas*), Columbine (*Aquilegia vulgaris*), Cranesbill (*Geranium*), Bellflower (*Campanula*), Thyme (*Thymus*), Sage (*Salvia officinalis*) to name but a few are great for bridging the gap for future June Gap episodes!

Basic course



If any member is intending to do the basic this year they must have their application in by the end of June, and if they would like any coaching please contact Lesley Fancote - 01474702666 or Sue Payne - 01474358442.

Worker Honey Bee Fun Facts

She flaps her wings 230 times per second!

Visits 50-100 flowers in a single collection trip.

Has a sense of smell as much as 100 times more powerful than a human.



Asian Hornet Update!

As at 13th June, there have been several June sightings! Locations include Wye, Ewell Minis, New Romney, Ashford and Snowdown.

Many of the nest have been destroyed and the specimens sent off to Fera Science.

Please ensure that your traps are baited and monitored, thank you.

Dates for your diaries...

The May meeting at Medway was a pleasant and sunny afternoon but the attendance was disappointing - just four of us. Hopefully our next event the Branch BBQ on Saturday 19th July by kind invitation of Roy Taylor our Vicechair and his wife Paula will be a better attraction, always a good afternoon. Please let Paula know if you are attending on - 07887 998084 - BBQ items will be provided but donations of either a salad or dessert would be welcome and of course drink.

Finally, members will have had a request for volunteers to steward for the County Show, half a day stewarding and half a day to wander round the show. A good opportunity to meet other Beekeepers from around the County and promote the craft of Beekeeping. If anyone is thinking of entering the show Lesley is happy to take the entries down on Thursday if you get them to her.

