



Forest Beekeeper

The monthly newsletter of the Epping Forest Beekeepers

August 2010

www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk

The end of the July heatwave saw more than sixty people gather at Peter Dalby's apiary near Potters Bar for an interesting meeting. Four different demonstrations took place, including one for beginners started by Peter, and concluded by former divisional chair Paul Harper. The other 'beginners and

improvers' demonstration was run by Chi Chan who has just completed his first year of beekeeping, with help from Ted Grad. Ken Barker's group were looking at different types of hives, including a skep and hives with plastic frames and foundation, while Helen and Joe Chadwick got the hive pictured in last month's newsletter.

That hive was badly damaged by woodpeckers, and Peter had been intending to burn it until he discovered it had been occupied by a swarm! As well as the damaged super and brood body, there were missing frames, brace comb, brood in the supers – not what most of us would want to discover in our apiary, but a good example of what can go wrong, and how things can be resolved.

This was a fascinating meeting, with something for everyone whatever their level of experience, and an opportunity for newer members to see a large-scale apiary for the first time. Many thanks are due to Barbara for yet again providing a wonderful tea – no mean feat to produce this in a field, and it's no surprise that this is such a popular meeting. ✂



Thanks to Richard Egan for photos

The Forest Festival is on Sunday 5th September on Chingford Plains, and the Division will have a stand there with an observation hive, honey for sale and information about bee keeping. Helpers are needed throughout the day from 9.00-5.00 – if you could help, please contact Helen Chadwick with details of the hours when you could be available. Please wear a clean bee suit on the day. If you have any honey to sell at the show (Division funds will receive a percentage of sales) then please bring this along. ✂

Divisional Honey Show

The Divisional Honey Show takes place on 11th September at Chingford Horticultural Hall. All full members should have received an entry form and a copy of the rules, and if you have any questions then please ring the Show Secretary Eric Beaumont on 020 7249 4753. ✂

Lost and found: Ken Barker has **lost** a jacket and veil, with his Basic Bee Keeping badge on the right-hand sleeve. Also, two of the Division's half-suits are missing since the last apiary meeting – did you absent-mindedly put one in your car? Please call Ken, or return them at the next meeting, as they will be needed for next year's beginners' class. A pair of glasses, and a jacket and veil were also **found** at the Dalby's apiary - if you have lost these, please contact Barbara Dalby. ✂

Bee Base – this is the website of the National Bee Unit and can be opened using Google. On your first visit you will be asked to register, but on subsequent visits you can go straight in. It is a secure site. Much help can be gained from this site, and once you are registered they will be able to warn you if any diseases are found in your area. It is hoped that all bee keepers will eventually be registered on this site. ✂



August meetings We have two meetings planned for August

Saturday 14 August, 2.30 pm

Honey extraction

Ted and Jackie have kindly invited us to their home so that we can see Ted extract honey from supers, filter it and put it into jars. Most of us have to do this in our kitchens, but Ted has a special honey room which will be interesting to see. He will be able to give us many useful tips to cope with this rather sticky process! Ted lives at Chapel Barn, Waltham Road, Nazeing EN9 2EB. Chapel Barn is virtually opposite the Coach & Horses pub where the road turns left towards Broxbourne. Please contact Ted or Jackie either by email or by phone on 01992 890986 if you plan to come.

Saturday 28th August, 2.30 pm

Preparation for Winter

This meeting will be held at the Wanstead apiary behind 24 Langley Drive, Wanstead. The winter is a crucial time for bees and they will need treatment for Varroa and to be fed, especially if you have removed the honey that they have stored. These topics will be covered by members of the Division and it is recommended that you attend, especially if this is your first season keeping bees. Only light refreshments will be served, please bring your bee suits as we will be opening up some hives. We have some spares if necessary. ✂

Have you got bees for the first time this year? Don't forget that Associate Membership does not give you any insurance and does not entitle you to enter the Honey Show, nor to receive all the information that full members get. If you have bees but are still an Associate Member then you should speak to Ted Grad about upgrading your membership to ensure that you have Bee Disease Insurance cover. ✂

Topical tips: Our two meetings cover the topical tips for this month. Extract any honey and then prepare the bees for winter by treating them for Varroa, then feed them so that they build up good stores for the winter months. To be effective treatment with Apiguard needs to be done while the temperature is still warm. Feeding should follow and will probably continue into September. It is also advisable to reduce the entrance to your hives now to around 25mm, to avoid robber bees and wasps. ✂

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Chair's Corner

If you've had a crop of honey this year, then why not enter the Divisional Honey Show? The event is for all members, not just those with experience, and there is even a class especially for those who have been keeping bees for three years or less. The more people who enter, the better the competition and having your honey judged professionally is a good learning experience! I hope to see some of you at the Show,

Helen Chadwick ✂

