



# Forest Beekeeper

The monthly newsletter of the Epping Forest Beekeepers

August 2011

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

## July's meeting

Last month members met at Ted Grad's marvellous Honey Room, to learn about extraction techniques. This event was as ever very popular, and was held in two sessions this year to make it easier for everyone to see. Members looked at different methods of removing cappings, and saw comb being extracted. This was a very useful session for new members who may not have had to deal with any honey yet, and a helpful refresher for more experienced division members. Many thanks once again to Ted and Jackie for welcoming the group to their home. ☘

## Cleaning up the apiary

Did you miss a queen cell, and those pesky bees have swarmed again?

This is one way to collect them and put them back in the hive, however we do recommend the use of protective clothing. ☘

Photo by Peter Dalby



## Bees for Development

This organisation was set up in 1993 to promote sustainable apiculture in developing countries. The organisation has held debates in the UK about the balance between harvesting wax and honey and the health of the bees, and it actively promotes training and education about beekeeping in countries where there is little government support or funding, but where beekeeping can provide a family income. They also run training events, and even beekeeping safari holidays! Their website at [www.beesfordevelopment.org](http://www.beesfordevelopment.org) has more information, and you can support the work of Bees for Development by buying honey jar labels and other items. ☘

## Division Honey Show – 17<sup>th</sup> September

Don't forget that the Division's own Honey Show will take place on 17<sup>th</sup> September at Chingford Horticultural Hall, so start preparing now! There are classes for beginner bee keepers, as well as for more experienced ones, so if this is your first ever honey harvest, why not try entering a jar or two? There are also classes for mead, cakes and scones, wax and wax products and even photographs, so there's something for everyone. Honey Show entry forms are being posted out to members with this newsletter. For more information, speak to the Show Secretary Eric Beaumont on 020 7249 4753. ☘

## The National Honey Show – Weybridge, Surrey 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> Oct

It may seem a long way off, but the National Honey Show is fast approaching, and will be held at St George's College, Weybridge over three days. As well as honey, wax, candles and other products there will be trade stalls and lectures and workshops. To buy tickets in advance, contact Sandra Rickwood on 020 33 55 8716 or go to [www.honeyshow.co.uk](http://www.honeyshow.co.uk) for information about the various categories of classes and to download a schedule of events. The official closing date for entries is 1 October, but entries can be accepted later on payment of a late entry fee of £5. It would be lovely to see a Division member entering some honey and possibly winning a prize, so don't be bashful – polish up your best jars and have a go! ☘

## Chair's Corner

### My Dirty Story

Joe and I opened one of our hives at Walthamstow and they were very touchy. We went to Wanstead and as requested looked at the divisional hive for Ted, and they followed us round the garden. Back at Walthamstow, we were attacked again. We thought everyone was getting very vicious until we spoke to Peter Clarke who asked me if I had washed our half-suits this year. 'No' was the answer. I duly did a hot wash and the bees are back to their best behaviour. I learnt my lesson - don't always blame the bees! Hope to see you at Wanstead on 13th August.

Helen Chadwick ☘



## Next meeting – Saturday 13 August, at Wanstead Apiary

This month's meeting will be at the divisional apiary at 24 Langley Drive, Wanstead, for a talk about varroa count and control, and winter preparation and feeding. Please arrive by 2.30 so that the meeting can start promptly at 3.00 pm, and remember that the adjoining house is now tenanted so please consider this, both when parking and when making your way to the apiary. Bring your bee suit if you can, although some will be available on loan, and don't forget there are no toilet facilities at the apiary. ☘

## BBC Wildlife Fund

It is understood that the BBC is intending to close the BBC Wildlife Fund. The BBKA is supporting a campaign to reverse this decision. Sign the petition at [www.savebbcwildlifefund.net](http://www.savebbcwildlifefund.net) ☘

## NDB Short Courses

Run by the National Diploma in Beekeeping, these courses, run over two days, provide an opportunity to look in detail at certain aspects of beekeeping. Titles include 'Adult Bee Disease', 'Microscopy for Beekeepers' and 'Anatomy and Dissection'. Fees are £140 which includes lunches and a detailed handout. For more information and for the dates of forthcoming courses, please go to [www.national-diploma-bees.org.uk](http://www.national-diploma-bees.org.uk) where you can also download an application form. ☘

## Tips from the Bee Man

Mid August is the time to think about Varroa Destructor. Lay one Apistan strip across the top bars of the Brood nest. These can be used when the supers are still on. Every mite destroyed now is the equivalent to 30-40 in October. When supers are removed put Apiguard in; this should remove most of the mite on the bees but will not affect those in sealed Brood cells.

The use of Oxalic Acid used in December/January should remove most of the rest; this exercise will result in your biggest problem being solved. ☘

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