



Forest Beekeeper

The monthly newsletter of the Epping Forest Beekeepers
August 2013

www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk

July Meeting and Social Event

A great time was had by all at the summer BBQ in the Wanstead apiary on 20th July. Many thanks to FERA regional bee inspector Keith Morgan and his assistant Gabriel, who led inspections of a large number of members' hives focusing on identifying disease and abnormality in brood, which proved extremely useful for beginners and experienced members alike. Everyone enjoyed the

delicious BBQ. Beginners luck must have played a part in seeing two of our new members Anna and Michael win the raffle for a national hive, which will be going to set up a new apiary at Hillyfield Primary Academy in Walthamstow for the next season. 🐝 Thanks to Michael Jewitt and Ted Grad for words and photos



Show us what you've got!

It's nearly time for the Divisional Honey Show. This is open to all members of the Division, and it is definitely not just for experienced beekeepers! There are classes which are specifically for 'novice' beekeepers, and it isn't just about honey either – why not try presenting a frame of honey, some beeswax, a candle, a photograph related to bees, or baking a cake to the recipe provided. We have so many members in the Division now, it would be really exciting to see a high number of entries this year – and fond as we are of our Chair Ted Grad, there are a few members who would like to see someone else winning a prize or two!

All the entries are judged impartially by an external adjudicator, and if you come along you'll hear the judge's comments on what makes a winning exhibit which can help you prepare for next year. It's all good fun though – we are a friendly Division, not an ultra-competitive one.

If you want any advice or help on how to present your entry then our Show Secretary Eric Beaumont will be happy to talk it through with you, or to explain the details of how to submit your entry. Last year one entrant actually didn't bring her exhibit because she thought it wasn't good enough – she was sent home to fetch it, and won Second Prize! So please don't be nervous about entering, the show is for everyone in the Division, and the more entrants we get, the better.

The Show will take place on **Saturday 7th September**, at the Chingford Agricultural Hall on Larksfield Road. The entry form is available from the Division website at www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk/honeyshow/. If you attend the extraction meeting on 10th August (see details above) you'll have an even better chance of being able to enter some honey or honey products. 🐝



Chair's Corner

It was great to see around 50 members and their guests at the summer social at Wanstead Apiary. A great time was had by all and our thanks go to the organising committee and their workers for making it all run so smoothly. Please do enter the Divisional Honey Show this year – even if you don't have any honey, you could enter a cake or a photograph, and it's a great opportunity to learn more about honey and wax. I hope I'll see some of you there. 🐝

Ted Gradosielski

Next meeting – Saturday 10th August – Extraction

Ted Grad is kindly hosting the honey extraction workshop for the Division at his home in Nazeing. The workshop will start at 2.30 pm. **important: please email Ted if you are planning to attend**, on Chairman@eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk – he will also be able to give you directions.

Saturday 24th August – winter preparation and varroa treatment, Wanstead Apiary
This will look at what to do in preparation for winter, including feeding the bees and treating for varroa 🐝

Varroa

At the meeting on 20th July, Keith Morgan mentioned that varroa build-up is around four weeks later than usual, and reminded beekeepers to be vigilant about using all the weapons in our arsenal, including the new MAQS product. 🐝

Essex Conference

If you watched the recent 'Horizon' programme on bees, you'll have seen Prof. Dave Goulson discussing the effect of pesticides on bees. He is just one of the eminent speakers at this year's conference on 21 September, hosted by this Division. Tickets still available but places limited, go to <http://eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk/conference/> for details.

There's also the **Essex Show** on 14/15 September, held at Barleylands near Billericay. 🐝

Tips from the Bee Man

In many areas the nectar flow is very strong, so make sure your bees have enough space by adding supers where needed. If you find that bees are reluctant to draw comb on new foundation, try removing the queen excluder for a few days to encourage bees up into the super. By the time any honey is ready for extraction, brood laid in the supers will have hatched. Do make sure you find the queen and put her in the brood body before you replace the QX, however! 🐝

Contacts

Chairman – Ted Gradosielski
Tel: 01992 890 986
chairman@eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk
Secretary – Robin Harman
secretary@eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk
Treasurer – Mark Chambers
treasurer@eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk
Newsletter – Olivia Burren
editor@eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk
Tel: 020 8504 0664
Website – Kevin Cook
Tel: 0208 532 1584
webmaster@eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk