



Forest Beekeeper

The monthly newsletter of the Epping Forest Beekeepers
December 2013

www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk

The Divisional Honey Show

Cast your mind back to September – it was time for the Divisional Honey Show. Space has prevented this being reported until now. The following item was written by Richard Smith, and his partner Ellie.

I arrived at Chingford Horticultural Hall on the 7th September for what was to be my first experience of a Honey Show. Upon entering the room I was confronted by someone delicately polishing a bottle in front of a backdrop of glinting honeys of all colours. It was at this point I realised the level of effort and pride that people put into their products, and perhaps myself became rather self-conscious about my own entry. Both my girlfriend and I greatly enjoyed the judging, particularly the way we as an audience were involved in smelling, tasting and checking water content. It was also a joy to see the other products people had made including cakes, scones, cosmetics and photographs. I very much enjoyed my morning and learnt a great deal about the judging process. I now feel confident in what judges look for and subsequently will benefit from this next year, so if you've not been to a honey show before I thoroughly recommend it. ☺



Above: some pictures from the Honey Show in September

Right: President Ken Barker teaches candle making to a local cub scout group.

Exam Passes

Congratulations to those Division Members who passed the BBKA Basic Beekeeping Exam this summer. The exam is for anyone who has kept bees for two years or more. It's a practical test of your beekeeping skills, and it also opens the door for you to take any of the BBKA Exam Modules if you wish to, although many people decide that the Basic is enough for them. Congratulations to Don McHale, Arlene Dunkley-Wood, Norma and Michael Stevenson, Robin Harman, Mark Chambers, David Mallindine, Sheila Morrissey and Paul Langley. If you are interested in taking the Basic Exam next year then speak to Ken Barker or Roy Cropley. ☺



Chair's Corner

I hope to see a lot of our members at the Christmas Social, our last meeting of this year. If you can't be there, then I wish you a very happy Christmas, and look forward to seeing you at one of the Division meetings next year. This has been a busy year for the Division, and I'd like to thank all those who have worked so hard to run events, provide refreshments and organise meetings. ☺

Ted Gradosielski

Christmas Social – Thursday 19th December

This year's Christmas Social is free to members and one guest per member, £5 for any additional guests.

This year we are having hot jacket potatoes with a choice of meat or vegetarian filling – in order for us to plan this, please email Robin: theonlyrobin@hotmail.co.uk to let him know if you will be attending and whether you require the vegetarian option. Free tea and coffee will be provided, but please bring your own festive spirit(s) if you'd like something stronger. ☺

Annual General Meeting

A diary date – the AGM will be held on Thursday 17 January. Please come along and vote for next year's Committee, and find out about the opportunities for you to contribute to the Division. ☺

Joy Hooper

We are sad to report the recent death of Joy Hooper, widow of the late Ted Hooper. Older members may remember her accompanying Ted when he lectured. ☺

Membership Reminder

Don't forget to renew your membership if this is still outstanding - you can download the form from the EFBKA website if you haven't received a copy or been sent an email. ☺

Beginners Classes

These will be starting in February next year, if you know anyone who would like to learn about beekeeping or if you have never done a course and would like to fill in some gaps in your knowledge. ☺

Tips from the Bee Man

At this time of year, your bees are best left to their own devices. Now's the time to drop a few hints to your nearest and dearest about appropriate Christmas gifts – the BBKA Website has a number of bee-related gifts, or why not highlight a few items in the Thornes catalogue? ☺

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