



Forest Beekeeper

The monthly newsletter of the Epping Forest Beekeepers
December 2012

www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk

Bonfire Night

Division members celebrated Bonfire Night with a social meeting at the Wanstead Apiary. Hot dogs, glow sticks and sparklers were in evidence, and the event was well attended. It was also an opportunity to burn some of the tree cuttings from the work done on the apiary this year in a controlled manner. Thanks to Don McHale again for refreshments, and Andy White for cakes. ✂



Photos by Andy White



November Meeting

The last regular meeting of the year was again well attended, to hear Dr Tony Madgwick talk about his work as an entomologist and his view on the threats to bees and their health. Space doesn't permit us to write a full review of this, but it was a fascinating evening and much appreciated by Division members. ✂



The Essex Conference Several Epping Forest Division members attended the Essex Beekeeping Conference in Harlow on 10th November. As well as an interesting day of talks, it was an opportunity for us to see what we will have to do next year, when it is the Division's turn to host this event. The first speaker was John Hendrie who gave an interesting talk on 'Senses of the Honey Bee'. After a short break, events resumed with a talk from Terry Clare on swarm control – this was both entertaining and informative, and Terry was firmly of the view that most swarms can – and should – be avoided by good husbandry. Finally, the day concluded after lunch with Mike Brown of the National Bee Unit, explaining the work done by this organisation. Awards and certificates were given out, and the Division was well represented with six members receiving the Basic Beekeeping qualification, and Olivia Burren and Chris Branch achieving exam passes, Chris Branch having received a Distinction in one exam. Chris was there to collect his award, having sat yet another exam before attending the conference! There was an opportunity to browse some trade stands during the break, and it was a very interesting day. Next year this event will take place on 21st September at the Woodland Burial Park in North Weald. ✂

Chair's Corner

It's been a difficult year for beekeeping, but for this Division it's been a productive year with several social events as well as meetings, and significant work done to improve the Wanstead Apiary. Many thanks to all those who have contributed their time and help to these events – it reminds me of days when unselfish support was more commonplace, and it promises well for next year when the Division will be hosting the Essex Conference. A very happy Christmas to all of you, and I hope to see you at the AGM in the New Year. ✂
Ted Gradosielski



Next meeting – Thursday 20th December

The final meeting of 2012 will be the Christmas Social, at the Chingford Horticultural Hall Chingford E4 6NH on Thursday 20th December. Entry is free to Epping Forest members and their partners, with a nominal charge for any non-members attending, and food and entertainment including a raffle will be provided – Don McHale will be manning the teapot as usual, but if you want anything stronger to drink, bring it with you. **Prebooking is essential** - Please book directly with Peter and Jackie Clarke on peejayclarke@hotmail.co.uk as soon as possible if you would like to attend. You may like to put the date of 17th January in your diary as well, which will be the first meeting of 2013 and will be the AGM. ✂

Membership

Renewal forms will be sent out at around the same time as this newsletter – don't delay if you want to continue to enjoy the benefits of Division membership, Bee Disease Insurance and affiliation to the BBKA. ✂

Theft of Equipment

Several items of beekeeping equipment and supplies were stolen from the Peace Garden in Ilford on 20 November. If you are offered any equipment from an unknown source please bear in mind that it could have been stolen, and make appropriate enquiries. If you have an out apiary, then you may want to take extra steps to ensure the security of equipment and hives as sadly this theft is not unusual. ✂

Tips from the Bee Man

There is little to be done in the apiary at this time of year, other than keeping an eye out for woodpecker damage. Instead, why not take the opportunity to read up on swarm control, varroa management and feeding so that you're prepared for next spring. You might also look at the BBKA website and suggest some items for Santa to pop in your stocking, items available from their shop include jewellery, mugs, candles and clothing. ✂

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