



# Forest Beekeeper

The monthly newsletter of the Epping Forest Beekeepers  
February 2016  
[www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk](http://www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk)

## BIFA Day

Tickets are selling well for the **BIFA Day** at **Copped Hall** on **13 March** and Members are advised to book soon as the invitation has now been extended to other local beekeeping associations.

**Booking** and **payment** details are in the box on the right.

The event will be held in the upstairs Saloon, which is able to accommodate 100 bodies. Refreshments will be available downstairs in the South Room, and a roaring log fire will be lit in the adjoining Pantry. Those wishing to stroll during lunch will find the Walled Garden nearby and in the Hall, the underground Kitchen a source of wonder. More background information is at [coppedhalltrust.org.uk](http://coppedhalltrust.org.uk). and [bibba.com/bee-improvement-courses](http://bibba.com/bee-improvement-courses). ☘



Left: A view of the rear of Copped Hall, photograph by Eric Beaumont



Right: The Poly nuc box, thanks to Khalil Attan for photograph

## Poly Nuc Boxes – Special Offer

A poly nucbox is an invaluable tool which no beekeeper ought to be without: constructed of 100g/litre industrial-grade polystyrene, the **Park Beekeeping** National poly nucbox is thermally efficient, lightweight and robust and will last many years. The box arrives ready painted and has a Miller top feeder which enables feeding without exposing the bees; it has an open mesh floor with a closing insert. Please note that the Park website illustrates the 3-in-1 box, which includes an eke for 14x12 frames. **This offer is for the 2-in-1 which fits standard National or Langstroth brood frames**; a 14x12 eke is available separately from Park.

The thermal advantage of poly over wood is well known and even the smallest colony will overwinter with ease. This lightweight box is invaluable for collecting swarms and can be pushed into a hedge or hoisted by rope up to a swarm, and out-performs a cardboard or wooden box in every respect. The splitting of colonies, swarm control and queen rearing will put this box to good use, and it will serve to park the queen during an inspection.

**Park Beekeeping** have reduced the price to EFBKA from **£36 to £28** each. Members may order by email to [chairman@eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:chairman@eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk). **Please pay by cash or cheque payable to EBKA** on collection from EFBKA meetings. Delivery information will be notified in due course. Please visit [parkbeekeeping.com](http://parkbeekeeping.com) for further information. ☘

## News from the AGM

The AGM was held in January and officers were re-elected, and provisional accounts presented. President Ken Barker is to stand down as Disease Officer although he will remain on the Division's 'Disease Panel' to give advice, and Chris Branch has retired as Training Officer although he will remain involved with this year's course. The Beginners Course, which has been modified to provide a more practical approach, will begin in April this year and already has 13 confirmed bookings.

Some awards were given out at our AGM on 25<sup>th</sup> February including the award of the Junior Beekeeping Certificate to Ben Qureshi. Ben was one of only three people in the UK to achieve this Certificate this year (one of the other three was the granddaughter of Epping Forest member Barbara Dalby) so this is a great achievement – well done, Ben. ☘

Thanks to Epping Forest Gazette for the photo



## Chair's Corner

The film 'More Than Honey' showing at the 18 February meeting is a big-budget blockbuster of ideas and an opportunity to see both sides in action: the hard-nosed American bee farmer who hears not buzzing, but the sound of money, and the bearded Swiss traditionalist who smokes a cigar to calm his bees. Whichever side of the argument you support, this film will engage, inform and entertain. Try and arrive early because ice creams will be available before the metaphorical curtain goes up.

Have you sent off a 2016 Membership form? If not, please take pity on our Treasurer and complete one today.

**Eric Beaumont** ☘

## Monthly Meeting – Film Night Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February

This month we will be holding a film night, as usual at the Chingford Horticultural Hall, Larkshall Road E4 6NH. The film is **More Than Honey**, directed by Oscar-nominated Markus Imhoof. The film will start **promptly at 8 pm**. Ice creams will be on sale before the performance, we can't promise an usherette with a torch though so please arrive from 7.30 onwards to ensure you can find your seat. ☘

## Booking details for the Bee Improvement For All Day

**Book a ticket** for £10/adult and £5/child (accompanied by an adult) from [secretary@eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:secretary@eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk) **Payment to HSBC Account name EBKA, Sort code 40-20-37, account number 21116681**. Please include payment reference 'BIFA' followed by your surname, e.g. 'BIFA HARMAN'.

Alternatively, send a cheque payable to 'EBKA' to Robin Harman, 108, Palmerston Road, Buckhurst Hill, Essex, IG9 5LG.

The event date is **13 March 2016, 9.30 am-4.30 pm at Copped Hall, Crown Hill, Upshire, Epping, CM16 5HS**.

See [coppedhalltrust.org.uk](http://coppedhalltrust.org.uk) for map and travel directions. Refreshments will be provided, but **please bring your own lunch**. Parking is plentiful and free. ☘

## Membership Renewal

Don't forget that this is due **now!** Please download a form from the website or come to the February meeting with your form and chequebook ready to pay, in order to continue as a member. ☘

## Tips from the Bee Man

The exceptionally mild winter has provided ideal conditions for varroa to thrive, and it's likely that overwintering colonies will have a heavy varroa load. If you use a mesh floor this would be a good time to check the varroa drop. However remember that many forms of varroa treatment are temperature-sensitive, and should not be used if there is brood in the hive. ☘

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