



Forest Beekeeper

The monthly newsletter of the Epping Forest Beekeepers
January 2011

www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk

The Christmas Social

This year's Christmas social was well attended despite the icy weather – little did we know that two days later we'd be facing heavy snow! Many thanks are due to Helen Chadwick for all the work undertaken in organising such a successful event.

Some stories were shared about this year's honey crop ...



Avril reads a poem specially written for the occasion. ☘



... I tell you, the honeycomb was this big!

A brief review of 2010

Last year saw yet another increase in the membership of the Epping Forest Beekeepers Association, with the meeting room at Chingford Agricultural Hall packed to overflowing at times. Here are a few reminders of some of last year's talks, events and meetings – and here's to many more in 2011.

January saw the AGM, and in **February** Ted Grad gave a practical demonstration (without bees!) of the Artificial Swarm – an academic exercise for some of us at that point, but within a few months we'd be trying this out for ourselves. During February and March, Ken Barker was running the Beginners course and more than 20 new members were introduced to the basics of beekeeping. The **March** meeting was a talk by Orlando Clarke on Urban Beekeeping – a fascinating insight into the trials and joys of keeping bees in central London, including neighbour problems, hive thefts and the reaction of the police to a swarm of bees. By **April** the first swarms were reported – member Chi Chan had more than one swarm from his hive. **May** saw our first apiary meeting at the Division Apiary in Wanstead, where apiary hygiene was discussed. More outdoor meetings followed, in particular the long-awaited and very popular trip in **June** to Willow Cottage. Members enjoyed the beautiful gardens, and heard a talk on pesticides and beekeeping, with a wonderful tea provided by Division members. By **July**, weather was good and some members had already extracted good volumes of honey. An annual visit to the Dalby's apiary was extremely well-attended. In **August** we were invited to Ted Grad's home for a demonstration of different methods of honey extraction – sadly by this time the nectar flow had dried up, due to excessively hot weather, and some members were wondering if they would see any honey that year. In **September** the stall at the Forest Festival attracted a lot of interest in the stand and many jars of honey were sold. In **October** a film evening was well attended, as we borrowed some documentaries from the BBKA's library. **November's** meeting was a session on candle-making, very timely for those seeking individual Christmas presents, and in **December** the year finished as usual with the Christmas social. ☘



Chair's Corner

Happy Beekeeping New Year to all our members!
Please do try to come to the AGM on the 20th. This is your chance to have your say about how the Division is run and also to come up with some new exciting ideas for meetings. Thanks to everyone who helped in the Division during 2010.

Regards,
Helen Chadwick ☘



Our next meeting is the AGM. This will be held on Thursday 21st January 2011 at Chingford Horticultural Society Hall, Larkshall Road, Chingford, E4 6NH commencing at 8.00pm.

Please make an attempt to come to this evening. It will give you an opportunity to have a say in the running of the division and to vote for the officers for 2011. The minutes of the 2010 AGM will be available to download from an e-mail that has been sent out by Ted. Printed copies will be sent out to those members who do not have an e-mail address. ☘

Topical Tips

It is still necessary to heft the hives to estimate the amount of stores present. If they appear to be getting lighter candy can be fed to the bees on a warmish day. Since when it is cold the bees will not come up out of the hive above the cover board the candy has to be put below it. This can be done by rolling the candy into a thin sheet using a rolling pin. This can then be placed directly onto the top bars over the cluster and covered with a layer of cling film. Quickly replace the cover board to conserve the heat in the hive.

If you wish to use the oxalic acid now is a good time to do so. Ken Barker has a supply of oxalic acid and is willing to help out with this if necessary. This can be done at the same time as the candy is added and so reduces the number of times that the hive has to be opened. ☘

Membership Renewal

Membership runs from 1st January to 31st December each year and it has come to that time for renewal. If you have three or fewer bee hives then don't worry about step 3. If you hope to have more than three colonies next season then please indicate the number of hives and include the additional premium in your payment. It is also important for you to tick the 'yes' gift aid box, if you are a tax payer, and to sign and date the form. Copies of the membership form are available on our website and payment options are listed at Step 7. ☘

Contacts

Chairman - Helen Chadwick
Tel: 0208 523 5770
chairman@eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk

Secretary - Jenny Johns
Tel: 020 8529 2844
secretary@eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk

Treasurer - Ted Gradosielski
Tel: 01992 890 986
treasurer@eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk

Newsletter - Olivia Burren
Tel: 020 8504 0664
editor@eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk

Website - Kevin Cook
Tel: 0208 532 1584
webmaster@eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk