



Forest Beekeeper

The monthly newsletter of the Epping Forest Beekeepers

January 2015

www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk

Christmas Social

Our last meeting in December was the Christmas Social, many thanks to all those who provided food, drink and entertainment as well as donating prizes (and a fabulous Christmas cake made by Francis O'Brien). Particular thanks to Robin Harman for organising the food, and Don for the drinks. More than 35 people attended and enjoyed a chance to chat with fellow beekeepers. 🐝



Ted Gradosielski – EFBKA Chair 2011-14

Ted, known to us affectionately as 'Ted Grad' due to a difficult-to-pronounce surname, has been involved with Epping Forest Beekeepers for years. Chair for the last three years, his term has now come to an end and this is a brief reflection on his time in post. Ted is an inspiration - he has 'put his hand up' on countless occasions, to volunteer, to get involved, to help, share, promote and teach. Ted has been Secretary, Treasurer, demonstrator, maker and educator. He has given vast amounts of his time, knowledge and skill to all of us, but especially to those who are new to beekeeping.

Ted grew up with Honey Bees and was taught by his mother, a beekeeper with great understanding and knowledge. He had his first hives at 17. Ken Barker remembers a honey show at St John's with Harold Moss and Ted's mother; Ted was by then a young beekeeper already winning prizes (so nothing new there!) The extractor you see today in Ted's impressive 'Honey Shed' was purchased by his mother in the 1970s. A few valves and motors later it has the same tenacity and resilience as Ted in his voluntary work for beekeepers and the Division.

Ted hasn't always been 'The Nazeing Beeman' from Bumble's Green. In the early days, his family lived in South Woodford, with a few hives in the garden which he opened up for meetings. He has seen the habitat change and so too the flavours of honey. He has seen large numbers of young and enthused beekeepers starting out in beekeeping - our numbers have almost tripled in the last 10 years. He has seen varroa, oilseed rape and new diseases. This year he said the honey harvest was about how it was before varroa. Imagine that! We will miss his direct leadership as chair but we will continue to learn from Ted's time and knowledge freely given, in teaching and on all things 'Bee'. We must thank Ted and most of all Jackie for allowing swarms of beekeepers into her home, for wonderful extraction days and not forgetting the marvellous Officers' Meetings (I must not say parties).

To sum it up, we as beekeepers are part of an Association which relies entirely on volunteering to make things happen. Volunteering helps make a better beekeeper, make new friends and make a difference. So like Ted, get involved. It is fun and some might say, probably the most relaxed part of beekeeping. Thank you, Ted Gradosielski. You are a great example to us all.

Copy contributed by Ian Nichol



Chair's Corner

Please come to the AGM if you can - the Division needs volunteers in all areas even if you don't want to take on a role on the Committee and this is your chance to meet Committee members and give your vote on issues. A big thank you to all who have supported me during my three years as Chair of the Epping Forest Division, and I am sure they will give the same support to my successor. I will continue to be at meetings and events, and look forward to a good year's beekeeping in 2015. 🐝

Ted Gradosielski

Annual General Meeting – Thursday 15th January

The first meeting of 2015 will be the Divisional AGM. This will take place at Chingford Horticultural Hall on Larkshall Road E4 6NH, please arrive at 7.30 for the meeting to begin promptly at 8.00 pm. If you haven't renewed your membership for 2015 this is your last opportunity, remember you have to be a member to cast your vote! 🐝

BBKA Module Study Group – a message from Jane Ridler Module 3 'Honey bee Pests, Diseases and Poisoning'

After such a good response to the November Module 2 Theory classes, we'll be tackling Module 3 in February/March. This syllabus, which concentrates on health and diseases of bees, is theory which every beekeeper should know. The short course of 4 evening sessions will be run on Tuesday evenings in Great Dunmow on 24th February and 3rd, 10th and 17th March (leading up to the Module exam on 21st March for those who wish to take it). Please contact me jane.ridler@uwclub.net if you would like to join us. If you wish to take this or any other BBKA Module, the fee is now £25 and the closing date is 10th February, so forms should be with me at least a week beforehand. The cost of the Study Group will depend on numbers, but is very reasonable indeed! 🐝

Membership renewal

Last call – you can download the form from the website or fill one out at the AGM. Don't delay – this entitles you to Bee Disease Insurance, BBKA membership and the BBKA magazine and future copies of this newsletter, as well as a vote in the AGM. 🐝

Tips from the Bee Man

If you have an out-apiary, check for woodpecker damage after cold spells – when the ground is frozen, they can't access the ants that are their usual diet and will look for other food. If you haven't checked for stores recently then make sure your colonies have enough food for winter. Otherwise your bees are best left undisturbed at this time of year. 🐝

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