



Essex Beekeepers' Association

Forest Beekeeper

The monthly newsletter of the Epping Forest Beekeepers

July 2010

www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk

Meeting at Willow Cottage

A record number of guests attended Willow Cottage for the meeting in June, and were able to enjoy the beautiful gardens before settling down for the talk. First Christine Williams welcomed us to the cottage, and explained how it was bought by Dick in 1959 for £500, and how it developed into the delightful place it is today. We then heard Breda Reynolds from Friends of the Earth talk about organic gardening. She began by describing the development of insecticides over the last 65 years, and the various problems that have ensued from their use, and she explained that many are now banned, not because they are dangerous but because there is insufficient funding to carry out the tests necessary to meet current EU regulations. Breda also considered CCD and whether insecticides may contribute to this. She had some practical suggestions for gardeners to avoid the use of too many chemicals – don't make the garden too tidy, leave dead weeds for slugs to eat as they will prefer them to your tender plants, and encourage a wide range of habitats so that natural predators such as frogs, ladybirds and wasps will help you with the garden.

Particular thanks are due to Helen Chadwick and the volunteers who worked hard to provide a wonderful tea for all the visitors – well done to all involved in this. ☘

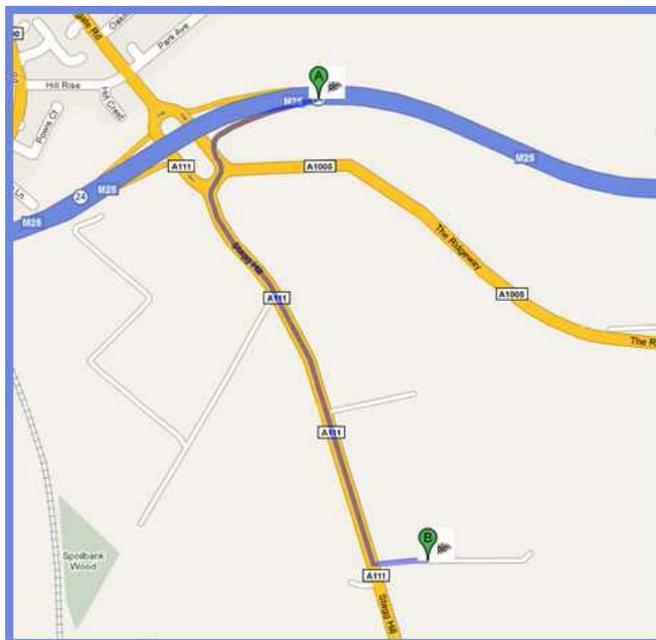
July Meeting

The theme of the afternoon will be "Reading The Hive" and we will be divided up so that it will be suitable for beginners and more advanced beekeepers. Since we will be opening up hives, please bring your bee suits with you. There will be some spare protective clothing available if you need it. Peter says that if the weather is wet we can still go ahead as he has a large gazebo set up at the apiary. Please note that there are no toilet facilities there.

Some chairs will be provided, but if you have a folding chair then it would be helpful if you could bring this with you.

Those of you who have been before will remember Barbara gave us a sumptuous tea and it would help her if you could contact Barbara direct on 01992 622 645 a few days before to let her know you are coming. Just leave a message on the answer phone if she is not in.

As you know Peter is an agent for Thornes and if you need any items of equipment from him please contact him a few days before so that he can arrange to bring it to the apiary. ☘



Our next meeting will be held on **Saturday 10th July 2010** at 2.30 for a 3.00pm start. Following the success of our visit last year, Barbara and Peter Dalby have kindly asked us back to their apiary. The address is Plumridge Farm, Stag Hill, near Cockfosters. Although this is a little further to travel it is easy to find. Leave the M25 at junction 24. At the roundabout take the second exit onto the A111 (Stagg Hill) which is signposted to Cockfosters. 0.9 miles down this road, turn left and follow the signs to the apiary. Please be careful parking as there is a ditch at the side of the road. ☘

The Beginners Beekeeping Course

All those who took the course in February and March this year were awarded their certificates at Willow Cottage. There were so many entrants that we can't name them all here, but well done to all those who completed the course. ☘



What's happened to this hive, and what can be done about it? Find out at this month's apiary meeting on 10th July. ☘

Topical Tips

Keep adding supers if your bees are still collecting nectar. Try and keep ahead of them so they don't get overcrowded. Last year the weather was poor in July and, with little forage, the bees started to eat up the honey they had stored. If you have taken off supers of honey keep a check on the stores as they can easily starve at this time of the year. Don't forget to carry out periodic Varroa counts. ☘

Chair's Corner

Thanks again to everyone who helped to make our meeting at Willow Cottage such a delightful afternoon.

We now have 10 hives at Wanstead. John Cowling is going to introduce a log book which we would ask everyone to fill in when visiting/inspecting their bees. It helps with managing the apiary and hopefully we will be able to foresee any problems such as swarming. Hope all your supers are filling up and good luck to all the beginners who have just got their bees.

Helen Chadwick ☘



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