

Forest Beekeeper

The monthly newsletter of the Epping Forest Beekeepers

June 2011

www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk

Wanstead Apiary Meeting

This meeting was aimed at the new beekeepers in the group, and was designed to show them what to expect on opening a hive for the first time after the winter, and how to inspect a colony. As you can see from the photographs, it was well attended by members of all ages. There was also an opportunity

to see how to safely capture the queen in a queen cage, and how to clip her wings – not an easy job for the beginner, so remember to practice on some drones before you try doing it for real! ♂



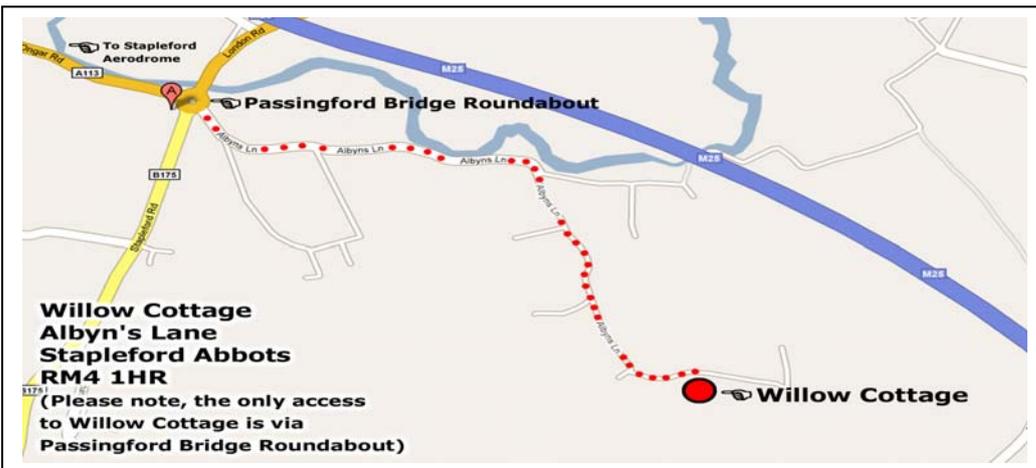
Photos by Ted 6radosielski

First catch your queen ...



Photos by
Hendrik
Strauss

... then clip her!



Chair's Corner

I would like to say a very big thank you to Avril & George who have served the teas at our meetings for the past 18 months. They are unable to continue and I am desperately looking for someone to replace them. Any offers please? The role of Librarian has been taken over by Pete Andrews, he is putting a list of all the books onto a computer programme and the list will be sent out to all members. Thanks for taking over Pete. Everyone's voluntary help is really appreciated, as without it the Division would not run so smoothly.

Helen Chadwick ♂

Next meeting – Saturday 11th June – Willow Cottage

Don't miss this month's meeting – we are once again kindly invited to the beautiful gardens of Willow Cottage, where we will hear Clive Cohen, a beekeeper from North London, talk about bumblebees and swarm collection. Clive was involved in the establishment of the North London Wildlife Trust, and is an experienced speaker. The talk will start at 2.30, and will be followed by refreshments. For directions, see the map below. ♂

The Wanstead Apiary

Please be aware that the adjacent property is now occupied by tenants. They have asked us to minimise the disturbance to them, and so we have agreed that we will not visit between 2-5 pm, Monday to Friday unless it's an emergency (e.g. a swarm). Please take care also not to park on the drive, nor to block the entrance. ♂

Cakes and ale

Could you make a cake for the tea at Willow Cottage, or can you offer to help with preparing the refreshments? If so, please contact Helen Chadwick on 0208 523 5770. ♂

Tips from the Bee Man

Queenless colonies can be a problem especially in the most active part of the season. Don't try and introduce a Queen in a colony that has laying workers, and don't put a Queen cell in a Queenless colony because these ploys rarely work. Try putting a frame of very young larvae in the middle of the Queenless colony. If the opportunity arises you can let a virgin queen emerge from her cell and walk in the front door. There is a difference between queens leaving a hive in a swarm and a queen being accidentally killed or taken out by the beekeeper. If a queen is forcibly removed the bees will immediately start to build emergency queen cells. They do not build emergency cells if a queen leaves in a swarm of her own accord. Bees will not always accept a queen introduced by the beekeeper but a virgin queen returning from a mating flight is always allowed in the front door. ♂

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