

Forest Beekeeper

The monthly newsletter of the Epping Forest Beekeepers

June 2012

www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk

Hive Stand Building Workshop

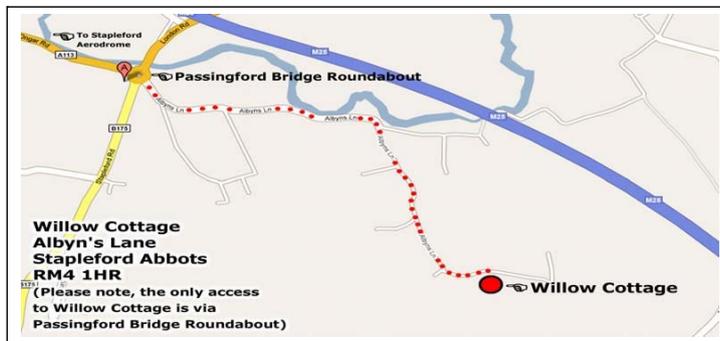
Ted Grad kindly organised another hive stand building session after the success of last year's event, and a number of members attended to learn how to build these sturdy and practical stands. This workshop was so popular that two days



were organised. Even those who were a little nervous of their woodworking skills had the satisfaction of producing a finished hive stand by the end of the day. Here are some of the participants proudly displaying their work. ♪

Willow Cottage

Directions on the right – if you like gardens, this is a meeting that you shouldn't miss! Tea will be provided, but we would be very grateful if any members can offer to contribute cakes or other food. If you can help, please contact Mary West on 01992 579408 before the meeting. ♪



The Summer BeeBQ

This summer, we will be holding a BeeBQ (that's a barbecue with a bit of a buzz!) at the Wanstead Apiary at 12 noon on Saturday 14th July. Tickets are £5 each, (children eat free) and can be bought from Helen Chadwick either by phoning her on 020 8523 5770 or in person at the Willow Cottage meeting on 9th June. This is a great opportunity to socialise with others in the Division, so don't be shy – we are a friendly group! Tickets are limited in number so get your order in soon. The BeeBQ will be followed by the July monthly meeting, which will include a talk by Regional Bee Inspector Alan Byham on bee diseases amongst other things. Future diary dates: 28th July – Honey Extraction, 18th August – a talk on winter feeding, and 1st September – the Divisional Honey Show. More details on these meetings will follow. ♪

Problem solving

It's all very well making a hive stand, but then you have to get it home ... but intrepid member Christine goes everywhere on her bike, and is not daunted by a little problem like this! ♪



Chair's Corner

Congratulations to all those who completed the Beginners Beekeeping Course, you should by now have enough knowledge to be able to buy equipment and start keeping bees this season. However long you have been keeping bees there is always something new to learn, and the best way to find out what's happening and get your questions answered is to come to the monthly meetings. The meeting at Willow Cottage is a little different – no bees, but the gardens are not to be missed and there will be tea and cake as well as a great talk from Tricia Moxey.

Ted Gradosielski ♪

Next meeting – Willow Cottage

Our next meeting will be at 2.30 pm on Saturday 9th June. This meeting will be held at Willow Cottage, and the speaker is local author and environmentalist Dr Tricia Moxey. See below left for a map. ♪

Divisional Extractor

While some of us have had to feed our bees, others have been lucky enough to get some honey, and if your bees have been on oil seed rape you will probably want to extract it soon. Salma Attan has moved (best wishes in your new home, Salma and Khalil) and the new contact number for borrowing the Divisional extractor is 07814 700 974. If you borrow the extractor, please return it promptly so that it can be used another Division member. ♪

Exam success

Congratulations to Divisional Members Chris Branch and Olivia Burren, who have both passed Module 1 of the BBKA Exams with a Merit. Chris also took Module 5 and gained a Credit with a mark of 80%. The closing date for the next exams (to be taken in November) is 30th September, and if you would like to find out more then please speak to Ken Barker. If you've been keeping bees for at least two years, have you thought about doing the BBKA Basic Beekeeping Assessment? This is a simple practical exam, with no written answers required, and it's a good benchmark of your beekeeping skills. ♪

Tips from the Bee Man

At last the weather has improved and bees all over the Division have been making up for lost time by swarming! Keep up regular inspections and be prepared for action. The oil seed rape crop is almost over – if your bees have been on this, and you've removed honey, then you will probably need to feed them for a few weeks until other crops become available. The hive will be full of bees and short of forage. ♪

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