

# Forest Beekeeper

The monthly newsletter of the Epping Forest Beekeepers

June 2013

[www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk](http://www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk)

## Centenary Celebrations

Congratulations to Division member Harold Moss, who celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in April this year.

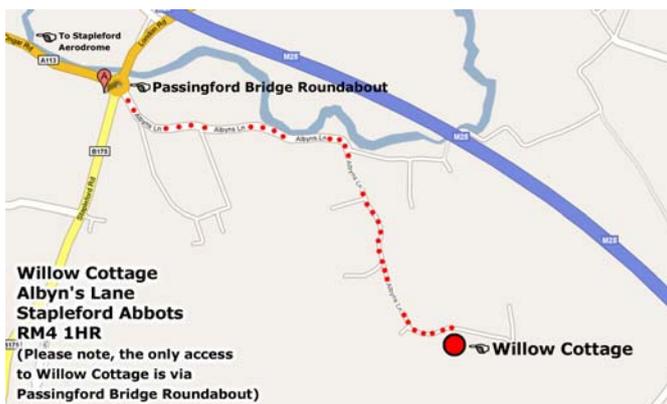
Chairman Ted Grad and Robin Harman went to visit Harold and hand-delivered a signed card from the Division, and a framed picture of this beautiful WBC hive which was originally built by Harold's father and has recently been refurbished by Ted.

We don't know the year when Harold started keeping bees, but his name appears on trophies as far back as 1952, and he and his wife Margaret were involved with the Division for many years in various roles. A retired precision engineer with an eye for detail, in 1967 he drew up plans for the Division to rebuild some bee boles at Tilty Hill Farm in Dunmow. As well as our card, Harold received ones from the Queen and from Ian Duncan Smith. ✂



## Essex Conference

Booking has now opened for this year's Conference on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September, hosted by the Epping Forest Division at the Green Burial Park in North Weald. You can download a booking form at <http://eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk/conference/> - cost is £25 for the day, and speakers include Clive de Bruyn, Professor Nigel Dunnett, Professor Dave Goulson, and Dr Alison Haughton of Rothamstead. This will be a stimulating and informative day and spaces are limited so book your ticket as soon as possible by sending the form and fee to Treasurer Mark Chambers. ✂



## Willow Cottage meeting

Please note that access to Willow Cottage can only be obtained from Passingford Bridge roundabout as shown left. If you could help with providing some cakes for the refreshments, please contact Sheila Morrissey on [sheilamorrissey@hotmail.com](mailto:sheilamorrissey@hotmail.com) - all contributions will be very gratefully received. ✂

## Next meeting – Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June – Willow Cottage

A chance to visit the beautiful gardens of Willow Cottage to hear a talk on Beekeeping in Tropical Africa by Richard Ridler. The talk will start at 2.30 pm, please allow time to park. See the map below for directions. ✂

## Herts meeting

Peter Dalby is holding a meeting for Herts beekeepers on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July at his apiary near Potters Bar – all are welcome, but please phone Barbara on 01992 622645 for directions and so that they know how many to expect. Peter has a top bar hive in use as well as traditional ones, and will be demonstrating various aspects of beekeeping. ✂

## Hive Stand Workshop

Ted's workshop on how to build a hive stand is being repeated by popular demand, and the proposed date is Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June. The cost of materials is £30, and by the end of the day you should have a stand with folding legs, which will take two hives. You can then take this away and paint or stain it as you require. This workshop always fills up fast so if you would like to take part, please email Ted at the address shown below to book a space. If you can't attend, but would like a stand, then it may be possible to have one made for the cost of the materials plus a £20 donation to the Division – again, please contact Ted about this. ✂

## Tips from the Bee Man

Swarms have been later this year, but this is the peak time, especially if there are a few rainy days followed by sunshine. Check your hives regularly for queen cells, and be ready to perform an artificial swarm. Even if there is no sign of this, make sure your bees have enough space and add supers as the nectar flow increases. If your bees are on oil seed rape you may be planning to remove any honey very promptly – in this case you may need to feed them, as their main forage will have ended and they can starve very quickly in poor weather. ✂



## Chair's Corner

I may have spoken too soon last month about better weather – it seems as unpredictable as ever, and as beekeepers all we can do is go along with the changes and do our best to protect our bees. You really should be checking hives every ten days at least, to avoid swarms – even if they don't upset your neighbours you will lose a lot of bees! I hope to see you at the Willow Cottage meeting where we'll hear about beekeeping in a very different climate. ✂

Ted Gradosielski

## Contacts

**Chairman – Ted Gradosielski**  
Tel: 01992 890 986  
[chairman@eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:chairman@eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk)  
**Secretary – Robin Harman**  
[secretary@eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:secretary@eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk)  
**Treasurer – Mark Chambers**  
[treasurer@eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk)  
**Newsletter – Olivia Burren**  
[editor@eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:editor@eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk)  
Tel: 020 8504 0664  
**Website - Kevin Cook**  
Tel: 0208 532 1584  
[webmaster@eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:webmaster@eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk)