



Forest Beekeeper

The monthly newsletter of the Epping Forest Beekeepers

March 2012

www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk

Film Night

The film night on 16th February was well attended, and the audience saw several clips from different films about bees and beekeeping, including some film of the inimitable Brother Adam. Thanks as ever to Don McHale for supplying refreshments – please make sure that you don't forget to pay

the very modest sum of 50p for your tea or coffee and biscuit. Meetings would be very dull if we couldn't have a chat afterwards over a warm drink, but we do rely on members to put money in the 'honesty' box. ☘

Dates for 2012

The Olympic Games are not the only events happening around this area in 2012! Our last indoor meeting will be next month, on 19th April. Over the summer we will hold outdoor meetings and apiary visits on Saturdays. The first of these will be Queen Rearing with Roger Patterson, on Saturday 5th May. The next meeting on Saturday 9th June will be our annual visit to the lovely Willow Cottage with a talk by local wildlife expert Dr Tricia Moxey. On Saturday 14th July there will be a barbecue, incorporating a Junior Beekeeping Day, at Wanstead Apiary. Further details will be in future newsletters and on the website, but make sure you have put these dates in your diary. ☘

Some useful contact numbers

Don't forget that we have a Division library – useful for those wanting to study more of the theory of beekeeping. The librarian is Pete Andrews, and you can contact him on 01992 572905.

A number to store away for later in the year is Salma Attan, as she organises the loan of the Division's honey extractors. You can contact Salma on 020 8514 4877 if you need to arrange to borrow one. ☘

Hive Stand Workshop

Would you like a magnificent hive stand for your apiary, like the one shown on the right? Ted Grad is again running a workshop day when you can make one of these yourself.

For the very reasonable cost of £30 materials will be purchased in advance, Ted will show you how to construct one of these stands. Not handy with a hammer, or too busy to make your own? For £50, you can have one made for you – this will cover the cost of the timber, and a donation to the Division's funds.

If you are interested in either of these options, please email Ted Grad and he will then arrange a date and time to suit those who want to attend. Please note that no timber treatment or painting is carried out, but you can decorate your hive stand in a manner of your choice when you take it home. The legs fold so you'll be able to fit it into a car although there is also an option of a fixed-leg stand which is slightly higher. ☘



BBKA Spring Convention

This year's Spring Convention takes place on 20-22 April, at Harper Adams College in Newport, Shropshire. More details including the programme and booking forms can be found on the BBKA Website. ☘

Next meeting – Swarms and Swarm Control

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 15th March and will be at the Chingford Horticultural Hall, Larkshall Road, Chingford E4 6NH. Please arrive promptly from 7.30 so that the meeting can begin at 8.00 pm. Useful both for beginner beekeepers and as a refresher for those with more experience, Ted Grad will explain the basis of swarming, and then demonstrate (with everything except bees) how to carry out an artificial swarm. ☘

Retirement

Some of our longstanding members will be sorry to hear that Mrs Jenny Barling has decided to retire after 33 years as a member of the Division. Jenny has won prizes for her honey, and has been a regular attendee at meetings, but she's now decided it's time to hang up her beesuit and lay down her hive tool. We hope Jenny enjoys having more time for other interests. ☘

Qualifications

Have you got any qualifications in beekeeping? Ken Barker would like to compile a register of Division members – please can you email Ken with your name, the type of qualification and the date obtained. If you're interested in taking the BBKA Basic Assessment, speak to Ken – this is a good basic indicator of your beekeeping skills. You must have been keeping bees for at least two seasons. ☘

Tips from the Bee Man

Your bees will have been flying on some of the very mild days we've had recently, but it's still too cold to inspect them without the risk of chilling them. This is the time to assess your equipment. Do you have enough frames made up, and should you be exchanging any this year? Do you have enough spare equipment to perform an artificial swarm – this could happen as early as the end of April, and the bees won't wait while you order hive parts! This is also a good time to tidy up your apiary, if you need to do any pruning, fence mending or other jobs – pick a cold day when the bees are staying inside. ☘

Chair's Corner

Welcome to the 23 new members who joined our Beginners Beekeeping class at the end of February, and we hope that you will all be coming to monthly meetings as well as attending the six course sessions. We are planning to offer something for beginners, improvers and experienced beekeepers this year.

While it's good to see new members getting started on their beekeeping journey, we are also doing our best to provide for those who were beginners themselves just a few years ago, and who would now like to improve their skills.

Ted Gradosielski ☘



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