



# Forest Beekeeper

The monthly newsletter of the Epping Forest Beekeepers  
March 2013  
[www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk](http://www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk)

## Film Night

There was a good turnout of members for the Film Night in February, for a viewing of 'The Honey Bee', a short film by Gill Sentinella. This film showed a year of life inside a hive from young bees emerging from cells through to foraging, swarming and how bees react in winter – a fascinating look at the insects we think we know so well. ☘

## Beginners Course

The Beginners Course has got off to a good start with two sessions in February, and there are twenty people enrolled on this including one or two who have already kept bees, but who want to expand their knowledge. The first session covered equipment, and Session 2 was an introduction to the biology of the bee followed by a rather noisy half hour of frame building. Ted Grad now has enough frames to see him through the summer, and our beginners have at least some idea of what they will need to do when they get their first hive! There are two more teaching sessions, and then an apiary visit so that every beginner will have had a chance to handle bees, and the March meeting on swarm control will also form part of the course. ☘



Will our keen beginners still be smiling when they've had to make a dozen frames? The final results of Session 2 of the Beginners Course and some good results. Thanks to Peter and Jackie Clarke, and Don Hale for extra help. ☘



## Next meeting – Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March – Swarm Control

We will meet at the Chingford Horticultural Hall Chingford E4 6NH on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March for a talk about swarm control and artificial swarms. This is a useful refresher for all beekeepers and an absolute must for anyone on the Beginners Course or who has just started keeping bees. Please be there at 7.30 for the meeting to start promptly at 8.00 pm. ☘

## BBKA Exams – a message

Have you considered taking any of the BBKA modular exams? They can be taken in any order. I am hoping to take module 2 in November, though the final decision doesn't need to be taken until the end of September. Module 2 covers the products of the hive and forage; so it is relevant to most of us. If you are interested in taking this module too and would like to share the study contact me at [chrisbranch22@hotmail.com](mailto:chrisbranch22@hotmail.com) ☘

## The Spring Convention

Don't forget that tickets are now on sale for the BBKA Spring Convention, from 12-14 April at Harper Adams College, Shropshire. This weekend event is an opportunity to browse equipment stands, attend some interesting lectures and see what's new in the world of beekeeping. Tickets can be bought online at [www.bbka.org.uk](http://www.bbka.org.uk) and you can also see the list of lectures, which you'll need to book separately. ☘

## Tips from the Bee Man

Bees will be flying on sunny days at the moment. If you haven't already done so, check for stores and if necessary put some fondant above the crown board, but don't be tempted to open the hive up more than absolutely necessary – it's still too cool for a full inspection. Some members are using VarroaGuard which is a powder treatment, rather than oxalic acid, and have reported good effects. It can be shaken on with a flour dredger or similar – it will make the bees 'fizz' a little so wear a veil even though the hive may seem quiet at this time of year. ☘

## Bees in Science Fiction

Rule No. 1 by Rupert Morgan finds a beekeeper and his bees mistakenly identified and targeted as terrorists.

The 2011 SF Masterworks paperback Hellstrom's Hive by Frank Herbert was originally published in 1973 as 'Project 40'.

Douglas Coupland's Generation A is set in a future (almost) without bees and starts with the main characters from across the planet all being stung by a bee. ☘

Thanks to Christine Poerschke for these bee-related book summaries



## Chair's Corner

It's great to see that so many new members have signed up for the Beginners Course, and we hope that many of them will go on to get bees this year and begin their beekeeping career. As usual, we are hoping to offer training and apiary meetings to appeal to all members, including more experienced ones, and in the next edition of the newsletter we'll have some dates for your diaries. ☘

Ted Gradosielski

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