



# Forest Beekeeper

The monthly newsletter of the Epping Forest Beekeepers  
March 2014  
[www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk](http://www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk)

## February Meeting

Around 38 people attended the monthly meeting in February, at which the topic was Bee Diseases. Chris Branch talked about some of the viruses and parasites that bees can suffer from, including nosema, and Roy Cropley gave a demonstration of how to prepare a slide for viewing with a microscope.

Thanks to both Roy and Chris for conducting the talk and demonstration. Remember that if you are worried that your bees may have a disease, the first step is to contact Ken Barker, our Disease Officer, for advice. Serious disease outbreaks are rare, and in most cases the bees can be treated successfully, so don't panic if you think there is something wrong. ☘



Chris Branch prepares a magic trick to show the audience



Back from his travels, Chair Ted Gradosielski receives one of several Honey Show awards from President Ken Barker. The awards could not be presented last month at the AGM as Ted was away.

## Dates for your diary

- 17<sup>th</sup> May – the first outdoor apiary meeting at Wanstead Apiary
- 21<sup>st</sup> June – Willow Cottage visit - if you haven't been to this beautiful garden before, this is definitely one not to miss
- 19<sup>th</sup> July – Social Event – a BeeBQ at Wanstead Apiary

Further details of speakers and timings will be in the newsletter in due course, and we have two more indoor meetings at the Chingford Horticultural Hall before then, on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March and Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April.

It's a long way off, but please put 30<sup>th</sup> August in your diary as this will be the Divisional Honey Show at St John's Church, Epping in a shared event with the Epping Horticultural Society. ☘



## Chair's Corner

Thanks to Ken Barker for chairing last month's AGM in my absence, and to others for keeping the Division running smoothly. It's encouraging to hear that membership is still high and to see so many attending monthly meetings. We're hoping to have a full programme of events for you again this year, and if there is something you would particularly like to see on the calendar then please ask one of the Committee members or email me. ☘

**Ted Gradosielski**

## Monthly Meeting - Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March

This month's meeting will be held at Chingford Horticultural Hall, Larkshall Road, Chingford E4 6NH at 7.30 pm. The topic will be Swarm Control – without the use of real bees, of course! If you are worried about your bees swarming this year, come along and learn about the science and about how to control this natural instinct. ☘

## Storm Damage Survey

The BBKA is undertaking a survey to document the impact of this year's recent storms on honey bee colonies. If you would like to take part in the survey, go to the BBKA website at [www.bbka.co.uk](http://www.bbka.co.uk) and follow the links to 'news and events'. ☘

## Spring Convention

Last call for the BBKA Spring Convention from 4-6 April at Harper Adams College in Shropshire. Tickets available online at the BBKA website or by post at £18. There is a full programme of lectures and workshops on the website, and these can be booked once you have your ticket. ☘

## Beginners Classes

The 2014 Beginners Class has begun, we have seven in the class this year. Smaller than previous years, it suggests that the increased interest in beekeeping has probably peaked. The class got off to a good start with the new projector being put to good use by Chris Branch. We look forward to seeing the new students at future meetings. ☘

## Tips from the Bee Man

This is a good time to take stock of your equipment because with the mild winter we are likely to see swarms much earlier than usual. Don't wait till you find queen cells to start making up frames! Make sure you have enough in stock, and check that you have all you need for an artificial swarm. If you didn't wash your beesuit at the end of the season, do it now so that it's ready for use when the weather is warm enough to inspect. ☘

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