



Forest Beekeeper

The monthly newsletter of the Epping Forest Beekeepers

March 2015

www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk

February Meeting – Swarm Control

The February meeting was well attended with 35 members who clearly preferred listening to a talk on beekeeping to finding out who killed Lucy Beale! Chairman Eric Beaumont explained the principles behind swarming and how to avoid this from happening in your colonies by the 'artificial swarm', assisted by Peter Clarke.

This meeting also looked at swarm collection, whether your own bees have swarmed or you are asked to collect a swarm by a member of the public. Bees however are generally less dangerous than the stepladder shown as an accessory in Eric's talk below. ☘



Exams in 2015

Have you been keeping bees for two years or more? Why not take your Basic Exam this year – it's a straightforward practical exam followed by some questions, there is no written paper and it's a really good way to consolidate your knowledge and to demonstrate that you take beekeeping seriously. If you are interested in this then please speak to any of the Committee at the next meeting or contact Ken Barker. Guidance and help is available to take you through the syllabus – we would like to see as many Division members as possible achieving this qualification. ☘

What to do with your bees if

Former chair Ted Grad will be speaking at a meeting for Chelmsford Division on Monday 16th March at Trinity Methodist Church, Rainsford Road, Chelmsford. Ted will be talking about his experience in beekeeping, and answering questions from the audience. ☘

Spring Convention

This year's BBKA Spring Convention will run from 17-19 April at Harper Adams University in Shropshire. Tickets are available now on the BBKA website, and there are more than 30 lectures and workshops and a number of trade stands. Tickets are £18 if booked in advance by BBKA members and accommodation is available. ☘

Microscopy Course

Would you like to learn how to use a microscope and to understand more about bee anatomy, disease diagnosis and pollen structure? David Mallindine is offering to share his skills with a short course in this fascinating area. The course runs on 14th, 21st and 28th April and is not just for those who want to take an exam, nor do you have to be an experienced beekeeper. If you would like to take part then please contact David on davidmallindine@icloud.com for more details. ☘



Chair's Corner

Mead is an ancient and powerful intoxicant and the theme of the next Meeting, which reminds me that ROB Manley mentioned in his great, great book 'Honey Farming' that he woke up in a hedge after an evening of drinking metheglin. What is metheglin, you ask? Join us on 19 March and Ron Hunter will explain all, including pyment, hippocras, melomel and cyser.

As the weather warms so brood increases and stores consumed. Have you checked? I lifted lids on colonies yesterday and several were in need of fondant, which will suffice until spring nectar arrives. Not long now! ☘

Eric Beaumont

Monthly Meeting – Thursday 19th March

The next monthly meeting will take place on Thursday 19th March at Chingford Horticultural Hall on Larkshall Road E4 6NH. At this month's meeting we will hear from Ron Hunter on Mead Making. As usual please arrive at 7.30 for the meeting to begin promptly at 8.00 pm. ☘

Membership

Despite repeated requests there are still a number of readers who have not renewed Division Membership. This means they have no Bee Disease insurance, no public liability insurance and will not receive the BBKA monthly magazine and access to the Members area of the BBKA website. Could this be you? If you have still not got round to it, contact Secretary Robin Harman without delay. ☘

Bee Tradex

This event is now in its second year, and will be held on 7th March at Stoneleigh Park in Warwickshire. It's a chance to see more than 40 trade exhibitors, there will also be some free lectures although the details of these are not yet on the website www.beetradex.co.uk ☘

Essex AGM – 14th March

Don't forget that the Essex BKA Annual General Meeting will take place on Saturday 14th March at Writtle College at 14.00. The meeting will be followed by a talk on Bees and the Law by beekeeper and former solicitor Andrew Beer. Details will be available on www.ebka.org ☘

Tips from the Bee Man

Last year, swarms were seen as early as March after a very mild spring. Start hive inspections as soon as there is a suitable warm day. Check for eggs and brood to see that the queen is laying and make sure the bees have enough stores to sustain them if there is a cold, wet spell. If you can do it without chilling the bees, take the opportunity to clean floors and queen excluders. ☘

Contacts

Chairman – Eric Beaumont
chairman@eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk
Secretary – Robin Harman
secretary@eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk
Treasurer – John Dutney
treasurer@eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk
Newsletter – Olivia Burren
editor@eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk
Tel: 020 8504 0664
Website – Kevin Cook
Tel: 0208 532 1584
webmaster@eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk