



Forest Beekeeper

The monthly newsletter of the Epping Forest Beekeepers

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www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk

Barbara Dalby – a demonstration of craft

Pebadale Apiaries in Cheshunt is the source of a great river of knowledge, experience, and skill, and at our recent Chingford meeting Barbara Dalby displayed those elements in unison and so demonstrated not only practical ways to deal with wax, but a lesson in true craftsmanship: excellence through application and experience.

It was evident from this demonstration that Barbara's methods are within reach of us all: how to recycle old comb by using two old saucepans; the use of nappy liners as the best filter; that a beekeeper's public liability insurance is invalidated if anything is added to hive products. These gems rolled out as wax was melted, moulds filled, and pots bubbled. Did you know that silk may be used to polish wax, or that an old marmalade tin and a coat hanger make a very effective filtration system? Nor me, but tips such as these made the evening a real, lasting practical pleasure. ☘



Ted Hooper Memorial Lecture

This inaugural lecture was held on a lovely spring day at the Coach House in Marks Hall in Essex. Some of the audience had travelled from outside the county, and they were rewarded with an excellent programme. Renowned beekeeper Clive de Bruyn and Bee Farmer and former Essex member Margaret Thomas spoke about Ted Hooper, whom they both knew well. Margaret Thomas was taught by Ted and her talk, entitled 'Learning with Ted' praised his wide knowledge as well as his patience and generosity when dealing with novice beekeepers. In 'Ted – the Bigger Picture' Clive spoke about Ted's vast experience and his work at Writtle College and as County Beekeeping Inspector, a role which sadly no longer exists. This was a fascinating insight into some recent history of beekeeping in Essex as well as an illuminating picture of Ted Hooper MBE, a man widely liked and respected. It is planned that this lecture will be an annual event, and Ian Nichols, who is Chair of Essex Beekeepers as well as a member of this Division, invited the audience to suggest speakers for 2017. ☘

Examination success

At the recent Divisional meeting EFBKA President Ken Barker presented Certificates to Ian Nichols who has passed Module 1 of the BBKA Exams, and Chris Branch who has achieved Module 7. If you are interested in taking any exams, local study groups can be arranged – contact Chris or Robin Harman in the first instance. ☘



Books by Ted Hooper

At the lecture above, there was mention of a book by Ted Hooper which was rediscovered in manuscript form just before his death, having been 'lost' for twenty years. **The Beginners Bee Book** has been revised and updated by Clive and Margaret. This is available at £6, a discount of nearly 40% and is recommended for anyone taking the Basic Assessment. **The Bee Friendly Garden** is also available, at £9 rather than the publisher's price of £15. If you would like to reserve a copy of either or both of these books, please contact Robin Harman before Thursday 26th May. Books will be available for collection at Divisional Meetings. ☘

Chair's Corner



On a local allotment recently an eight-year-old boy was delighted to be invited to mark a queen, which he did with calm assurance, primed with a handful of spring honey straight from the hive. No suit, no fear, plenty of curiosity. Engagement and education are an essential element of beekeeping, and the current beginners are an engaging lot, remaining as enthusiastic and committed (despite the cold weather) as the course tutors, to whom I give warm thanks. How did your swarm management turn out? Join us at our May meeting at Wanstead when we will offer a practical post-mortem of swarming, and suggest what to do with all those boxes.

Eric Beaumont ☘

Monthly Meeting – Help, I had Queen Cells in my Hive. What should I have done?

Our first outdoor meeting of 2016 will be held at the Wanstead Apiary at 24 Langley Drive E11 2LL on **Saturday 21st May at 2.30 pm.** Come along and find out the answer to the question above. ☘

BBKA Membership Cards

The latest from the BBKA is that cards for those renewing membership will be in the June issue of the BBKA Magazine. New members will receive a welcome pack with their card in, although it's not clear when these will be sent out. If you need your membership number to access the BBKA website please contact John Dutney or Robin Harman (numbers and email addresses shown below). ☘

Sale or Exchange

An unused Commercial brood box complete with frames cost £95 new – for sale, or would exchange for a National brood box. Please contact Tristan Palmer at thegardener@gmail.com. ☘

Bee Health Day

At **Great Easton Village Hall, Dunmow, Essex, CM62HD** on **16 June 10 am-4 pm** beekeepers of all abilities are invited to attend a one-day practical event: Live disease comb on display! Meet a Bee Inspector! Discussion will revolve around good apiary hygiene, practical tips and inspection for disease. Bring a clean bee suit and a packed lunch. Booking essential. Contact **Jim McNeill** on **01798 765898** or jimandliz44@aol.co.uk. ☘

Tips from the Bee Man

After a warm start to the year, this April was one of the coldest on record! Make sure your bees have enough stores if there are several days of cold weather. Drones have been seen hatching, so swarms are imminent; regular inspections are essential, and be ready to act promptly if you find queen cells present. If your bees have swarmed by the time you read this, make sure to come along to the May meeting! ☘

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