



Forest Beekeeper

The monthly newsletter of the Epping Forest Beekeepers
November 2012
www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk

October's Microscopy Meeting

Members gathered in the Horticultural Hall for the chance to look down microscopes and to see various pests and diseases that affect honeybees. Roy Cropley had kindly arranged to present this meeting, and he demonstrated the basics of pollen identification, and how to make up a slide for viewing.

The photos below show some of the Division members looking at slides and discussing their findings. Many thanks to Roy for preparing and presenting this useful session. ⚡



Next meeting – Thursday 16 November

Our November meeting will again be at the Chingford Horticultural Hall, Larkshall Road Chingford E4 6NH. The speaker will be Dr Tony Madgwick, who is going to talk on bee diseases. Please arrive from 7.30 pm for the talk to start promptly at 8.00 pm. ⚡

A date for the diary – Christmas Social Meeting, Thursday 20th Decem

Yes, even beekeepers can't escape the word 'Christmas' – it may only be November, but make sure that this date is in your diary! As usual our last meeting of the year will be a social event at the Horticultural Halls, further details to follow but it will involve food, a raffle and a chance to chat to your fellow Division members over a mince pie or two. Carol singing is optional, you'll be glad to hear. ⚡

Honey Harvest

Some of you will have responded to the BBKA annual Honey Survey, and the results were published recently. Overall, figures suggest that yields were down by around 72% and that is certainly borne out by many Division members. The exceptionally wet summer was the main cause, and London was one of the worst-hit areas with average yields as little as 5lbs per hive. The BBKA are predicting that this may have a long-term effect on bee health and productivity, with some colonies too small to get through the winter. Next year's Colony Survival Survey will show whether these predictions are true. ⚡



Wanstead Apiary

Progress has continued with the new fence, as you can see from the photo below. Many thanks to all those who have helped with this project. Other photos show a feral colony being collected and hived by Division members at the apiary. ⚡



Photos by Ian Nichols



Photos by Ted Gradosielski



Tips from the Bee Man

All feeding should now be over, and your hives protected from the risk of woodpecker or mouse damage. If weather permits, clear vegetation from around the hives to encourage air flow – this will also make it easier to access them in wet or muddy conditions, if that is necessary in spring. There's little more to do at the moment, bees may still be flying on sunny days but avoid opening the hive unless absolutely necessary. ⚡



Chair's Corner

Now that we are back into winter meetings at the Horticultural Hall, it's encouraging to see such a good turnout. If you have joined the Division in the last year or two, please do come along to meetings – we try to arrange sessions which will provide some useful tips on beekeeping as well as a chance to socialise with other members. I look forward to seeing some of you at the November meeting, and at the Christmas Social. ⚡

Ted Gradosielski

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