



Forest Beekeeper

The monthly newsletter of the Epping Forest Beekeepers
September 2013
www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk

Honey Extraction

As novice beekeepers and new members, this was our first meeting of Epping Forest beekeepers so we were looking forward to learning about the extraction process and meeting other members. The meeting was held at Ted's place at Chapel Barn in Nazeing and 13 members attended both novices and old hands. We were pleasantly surprised by the warm welcome we

received and impressed by Ted's cool handling of his own bees and the way he got everyone involved in 'doing' with others contributing not just watching. First we saw his queen rearing, then he showed us two ways to take off the frames using a clearer board and the shaking method, which we all had a go at. We then moved inside to watch the extraction process and some took turns at taking off the wax and pouring the honey into jars. I thought this would be a simple process but it turned out to be quite a challenge to get just the right amount in the jar and not let any drips fall. The session was followed by a fantastic spread of pizzas, pastries and cream scones put on by Ted's wife Jackie who added an inch or two to my waistline. Thanks to Ted and all for a fantastic introduction to the group. ⚡ Thanks to Wendy Taylor and Ted Grad for words and photos



Extreme beekeeping

This colony is being recovered from a height of 20 feet. Below, a top-bar hive at Peter Dalby's apiary. ⚡



Honey Show entries

Don't be shy – forms can be downloaded from the Division website at www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk/honeyshow - entries must be in by 10.00 am on Saturday 7th September, so you still have time to polish off a jar or two, or print out your best photograph. Even if you haven't submitted an entry, come along to see what you've been missing and find out what the judge is looking for. This is your Divisional Show, and it's for everyone, not just for experienced beekeepers. The more entries there are, the better the Show, and although there is a spirit of friendly competition it's not taken too seriously so don't hesitate to have a go. ⚡

Honey Show – Saturday 7th September

It's our annual honey show and even if you are not exhibiting, come along to see the winners. This will take place at the Chingford Agricultural Hall, Larksfield Road from 11.00 am
Saturday 21 September – the Essex Conference

Don't miss the chance to attend this, with some eminent speakers and an opportunity to meet other beekeepers from the County. The all-day Conference, hosted by our own Division, will be held at the Greenacres Woodland Burial Park in North Weald. Tickets must be purchased in advance as numbers are strictly limited, please go to the Division website or contact Robin Harman if you haven't already bought yours. Lunch is included in the day. ⚡

Divisional Extractor

If you're lucky enough to have some honey this year, don't forget that the Division now has two extractors for loan. Contact Selma Attan on 07814 700 974 if you would like to arrange to borrow one of these. ⚡

The Essex Country Show

takes place on 14/15 September, at Barleylands near Billericay, and the Essex Honey Show will be held in the EBKA marquee, along with honey sales, candle rolling demonstrations and much more. This is a great day out, more information can be found at the show's website which is www.barleylands.co.uk/essex-country-show ⚡

Tips from the Bee Man

Wasps are thriving this year, and with many hives having a store of honey you should look out for possible robbing. If you see a lot of wasps around then consider reducing the size of the entrance to make it easier for the bees to defend. Now is the time to start thinking about your plan for varroa management and winter feeding, but if you still have honey to remove, make sure to take this off before you begin either of these. ⚡



Chair's Corner

I hope to see as many of you as possible at the Essex Conference on 21st September – it's a great opportunity for the Division to host this event, and we are very excited about the speakers who have been booked. Tickets must be booked in advance but there is still time although space is limited. You can go to the website at www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk/conference to download a form - this really is one not to miss. ⚡

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