



Forest Beekeeper

The monthly newsletter of the Epping Forest Beekeepers
September 2012

www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk

Divisional Honey Show

This year's Divisional Honey Show took place on Saturday 1 September, and below you can see some of the entries – and the prizes available. Congratulations to all those who took part

and our thanks to Oonagh Gabriel for judging the entries again. With the Division membership being at an all-time high, it's disappointing however that there weren't more entries. It hasn't been a good year for honey harvesting but you only need a couple of pounds to enter one of the classes, and there are categories for novice beekeepers so you don't have to have lots of experience. Prizes will be awarded at the AGM in January. ⚡



Feline happy? These candles won Joe Chadwick a first prize

Another winning exhibit, and some of the trophies which will be presented in January

Essex Beekeepers' Conference

The 132nd Essex Beekeeping Association Conference will take place on Saturday 10th November this year, hosted by the Harlow Division. There will be a number of trade stands and the presentation of the 2012 Honey Show Awards, as well as three lectures by well-known speakers. John Hendrie will talk on 'The Senses of the Honey Bee', Terry Clare on Swarm Control and in the afternoon Mike Brown will talk about the work of the National Bee Unit. The cost for the day is £20 including lunch, and booking must be made by 29th September – book online at www.harlowbees.co.uk/conference/ or contact Harlow Beekeeping Division. The venue for the conference is Stewards Academy, Pinceybrook Road, Harlow, Essex.

Next year Epping Forest Division has the honour of hosting this Conference, and we are currently looking for a suitable venue. ⚡

Book Review: Honey and Dust by Piers Moore Ede

During a stay on an organic farm in Italy the author meets his first beekeeper and bees. This plants the seed of an idea for a series of journeys in search of unusual honey: to the Middle East looking for beekeepers still using traditional terracotta bee jars and clay cylinder hives, to New York with rooftop hives and honey, to Sri Lanka and finding wild nests in trees, and to Nepal and a honey-hunt with hand-made ropes and ladders to reach nests on a cliff face.

An enjoyable and educational read the book's narrative weaves together travel diary, background research and adventure elements. Recommended to beekeepers and non-beekeepers alike. ⚡ Contributed by Christine Poerschke



Chair's Corner

We don't know what this winter holds, but for many of us just getting our bees through the summer proved challenging enough with feeding going on till June. Last winter many colonies were lost through starvation rather than cold. We can't do much about the weather conditions, but give your bees a chance by making sure they go into the winter with plenty of stores.

Ted Gradosielski ⚡

Next meeting – Thursday 18 October

We are back indoors for the first time this autumn at the Chingford Horticultural Hall, Larkshall Road Chingford E4 6NH. Roy Cropley will deliver a talk on microscopy, please arrive for 7.30 pm. A couple of future dates to note: 8 October – London Honey Show 25-27 October – National Honey Show, Weybridge ⚡

The BBKA Guide to Beekeeping

A new book on beekeeping is the first officially to be endorsed by the BBKA. Written by Dr Ivor Davis and Roger Cullum-Kenyon this is aimed at novice and beginner beekeepers but will no doubt prove a useful reference book for anyone. The authors produced the BBKA 'Course in a Case' and this is intended to take beginners up to the BBKA Basic Assessment. Published by Bloomsbury Press it is available from the BBKA and from booksellers for £16.99. ⚡

Beginners Course

It can't be time already, can it? After the success of this year's course we are already planning next year's course and taking bookings. The course will take place over four Thursday evenings, beginning on 14th February 2013 and then there will be two apiary visits on Saturdays in April. Total cost, including all materials and Division membership for one year will be £75. Contact Membership Secretary Mary West for more details.

Tips from the Bee Man

Unless you have late forage such as ivy or Himalayan Balsam near your apiary, you should take off any remaining honey and begin treatment for varroa this month. If you are using Apiguard or similar products the temperature needs to be 15° or higher for best results. Although varroa treatment may make your bees reluctant to feed, it would be wise to begin feeding as soon as possible rather than waiting until the treatment period has ended. ⚡

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