

# Welwyn Beekeepers Newsletter

## April 2017

[www.welwynbka.org](http://www.welwynbka.org)

### News

The warmer weather over the last couple of weeks has encouraged us beekeepers to have more than just a quick peak into our hives and hopefully you found that all is well and your bees are gearing up for the spring/summer ahead.

The following updates/information shows that the association is busy too:

#### **Welwyn Bee Improvement Programme / Social evening**

Peter Folge is looking forward to talk about the program and answer any bee related questions you might have. We look forward to seeing many of you at the White Hart on April 25.

#### **East of England Food Festival, Redbourn**

Many thanks to everyone who helped out at the recent East Of England Food Festival at the Redbourn Showground (see photo of the stand on the right). Particular mention to Barry, Graham & Alison, Anwen & Aled, Ian & Blaga, Sue & David, Peter & Mrs Hills and Auriol. We managed a reasonable sales total of just over £640. Slightly down on last year's total, but considering that it is a new venue for the event and we had major competition from Mothers Day it was pretty good going. Well done all.

#### **Hertfordshire BKA AGM & Show**

The AGM and Show took place on March 25 at Christchurch Peartree in Welwyn Garden City. It was nice to see a number of current as well as new members attending the event. The AGM was run very smoothly so that a lot of time could be spent visiting the various stands, listening to the talks given as well as being able to enjoy the refreshments provided by Welwyn BKA and "talk all things bees" with friends.

#### **Website Members Area**

Hopefully you will all have had a chance to look round the new Members Area on the website. If you need the password drop Andy a line at [andy321@hotmail.com](mailto:andy321@hotmail.com) and he will sort it out for you.



Swarm collected on  
April 10, 2017

### **Next Social Event**

**Tuesday April 25, 7.30 for 8 pm**

Bee Improvement Programme  
discussion & Social at the  
White Hart Welwyn



### **FUTURE SOCIAL EVENT**

**Tea Party in the Garden  
Saturday, June 24, 2-4 pm**

Venue: 6 Deards End Lane,  
Knebworth

Cakes welcome

**World Food Festival WGC**  
Saturday, May 20, 11 am – 5 pm

Please contact Denys Preedy at [denysmpreedy@gmail.com](mailto:denysmpreedy@gmail.com) if you can help out on the day and/or have honey to sell. Setting up starts at 8am (in order to get a good pitch), observation hive will be used as well as honey tasting. We are looking for 200+ jars of honey to sell based on the previous year's success.

## **Around the Apiaries**

### **Knebworth Golf Club**

See "Training" below

### **North Mymms Park**

First inspections for the new season now completed. All but one of the colonies has made it through the Winter. There are still a few spaces available for anyone thinking of having hives there?

### **Digswell**

Just to advise that this apiary has proved very popular, and all available spaces in our initial planned setup for this year have been filled.

## **Acquisition**

The committee approved and Welwyn BKA purchased a 14"x12" observation hive to replace the current National observation hive to be used for presentations especially for schools as well as other events where appropriate. The 14"x12" provides more flexibility as BS and 14"x12" frames can be used.



## **Thoughts from the Beekeeper**

By Peter Folge

Swarming will be high on the agenda this year. Reports of the first swarms emerged already this year (see previous page). Colonies and plants are well ahead with some horse chestnut trees coming into bloom. One of my overwintered nucs swarmed on the 1st of April and another full hive had sealed queen cells. Many colonies have expanded so quickly that they have used nearly all their food reserves. Fresh nectar is starting to come in however not enough to replace depleted reserves. Bees remain on the water diluting winter stores which is a sign that a flow is not present. At our first Knebworth apiary meeting I demonstrated the transfer of a nucleus colony into a new hive.

## **Training**

### **Firstly, Many thanks**

We've just completed another successful spring Beekeeping Beginners course. As you know, a very important part of the course are the presenters and help with refreshment etc., but also the beekeepers who volunteered to come along to chat to the attendees during breaks which as always has been very helpful and well received – many thanks to those that helped out.

### **Apiary Training**

Our Members monthly apiary training sessions will be held at 10.30 every second Saturday in the month at the Knebworth Golf Club Apiary. For information, there will be a training session held at 10.30 on all other Saturdays in the month at the Knebworth Golf Club Apiary. This is primarily aimed for those that would like to gain some practical experience before deciding if beekeeping is for them, and those that would like some supportive practical training in their early stages of beekeeping.

## **Forthcoming EVENTS with WBKA involvement**

Sat – Mon April 29 – May 1	Herts Garden Show Knebworth House
Sat May 20	World Food Festival Welwyn Garden City
Sat & Sun May 27 & 28	Herts Show Herts Count Showground Redbourn
Sat June 17	Welwyn Street Festival
Sat & Sun August 12 & 13	Knebworth Steam, Crafts & Country Life Fair, Knebworth House

If you can help on any of the above dates please contact Andy Crossley at [events@welwynbka.org](mailto:events@welwynbka.org).