

Welwyn Beekeepers Newsletter

December 2016

News

The month started with preparations for the Hatfield House Frost Fair, ongoing discussions about a new apiary site and ended with the Christmas Dinner!

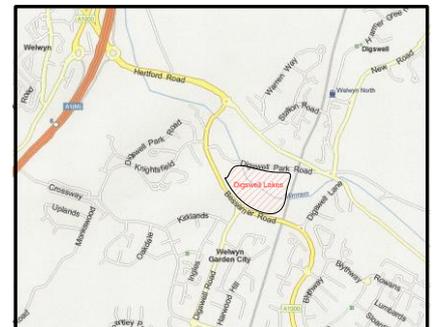
Hatfield Frost Fair

Although the weather forecast for the four days was not terribly inspiring and we were wondering whether this would have an impact on visitor numbers, it turned out better than anticipated. Thursday was a slow start but visitor numbers increased as the weekend progressed. We had total sales of £1,365. A big thank you to Andy Crossley who coordinated and organised the event and to all the volunteers who helped setting up, spending time on the stand and taking the stand down on Sunday. This would not have been possible without the help of plenty of volunteers.



Possible Association Apiary at Digswell Lakes

Digswell Lakes covers 17 acres and is owned and managed by the Digswell Lake Society. We have been discussing having an apiary there for use by our Members, and with them we have found a possible site at the lakes (see map on the right showing the location). The Society is hoping to confirm allowing the Apiary at their next meeting in January.



If it proceeds, then we will be checking who would like to keep hives there, and if someone would like to be the Apiary Manager; not a time-consuming job as it is mainly acting as a contact and providing coordination. Please let us know if you are interested email Mike Goodhew at training@hertsbees.org.uk.

Christmas Dinner

The last event of the year was held on Tuesday, November 29. Over twenty members attended the Christmas Dinner at the White Hart in Welwyn. With plenty of drink and food conversation flowed. A perfect combination to conclude a busy Welwyn Beekeepers' year! Thank you very much to Lieva Nation for organising this event.



Around the Apiaries

Apiary Training

All Apiary training has now been suspended until next spring. Details will be emailed when sessions recommence.

Thoughts from the Beekeeper

by Peter Folge

We are now in the throws of Winter and activity around the hives has all but ceased by the naked eye, however the bees inside will continue to maintain a warm clustering temperature and in so doing, will continue, for now, to consume food sparingly.

Hives should have their mouse guards and netting in place and beekeepers must continue to keep an eye on them to make sure roofs don't get dislodged and allow moisture to enter.

Next month we will discuss the controversial subject of insulation.

BBC Documentary on the A1

Diane Roberts from the BBKA had an enquiry from the BBC about a major new documentary series being planned on the A1 road. The BBC want to show the unusual kinds of things that get carried up and down the A1 and would like to do the filming in the next two months. They would like to film someone moving hives of bees between apiaries. If you are planning to do so and are interested please contact her on diane.roberts@bbka.org.uk.

Training

For Non Members Interested in or Contemplating Beekeeping

March 2017 Beginners Beekeeping Course

Tuesday Evenings 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th March, practical session Saturday 18th March, at Christchurch Parkway Halls WGC, Apiary session in April tbc

For Members

New Season Preparation course

For beekeepers starting into their second year or those wanting a refresher.

Wednesdays 22nd February, and 1st and 8th March 2017 – 7.30 to 10pm - £15
Christchurch Peartree Halls, Tewin Road, Welwyn Garden City

Swarm Collecting course

Do's and don'ts, what to expect and equipment to use.

Wednesday 29th March 2017 – 7.30 to 10pm - £5
Christchurch Peartree Halls, Tewin Road, Welwyn Garden City

Basic Assessment Preparation course

A very useful 2 evening checkpoint for those with at least 2-3 years' experience. Ideal preparation for BBKA Basic Assessment.

Wednesdays 15th and 22nd March 2017 – 7.30 to 10pm - £10
Christchurch Peartree Halls, Tewin Road, Welwyn Garden City

BBKA Microscopy Appreciation Day

An introduction into the use of microscopes supporting beekeeping.

Sunday 5th February University of Hertfordshire's Bayfordbury Campus
£55 includes use of equipment and materials, and a buffet lunch

BBKA Microscopy Training Course (rescheduled)

A 4 day course for those wishing to take up Microscopy.

Sundays 15th, 22nd & 29th January and 23rd April 9.30 am – 4 pm
University of Hertfordshire's Bayfordbury Campus
£220 includes use of equipment and materials, and a buffet lunch

Healthy Bee Day

Presentation by Regional Bee Inspectors providing up to date information regarding pest, diseases and associated actions and treatment.

Saturday 13th May, 9.30 am - 4 pm,
University of Hertfordshire's Bayfordbury Campus

If you're interested or have questions on any courses above, please contact Mike Goodhew at training@hertsbees.org.uk