

Welwyn Beekeepers Newsletter

February 2017

News

There is still very little if no action coming from our beehives with all of us wondering how our bees are coping with the ever changing weather conditions. All the more time for us to turn our attention to bee-related things we could do/plan ahead. Here are a few ideas:

AGM & Social Evening

Last year's AGM and Social evening was very well received as it was intentionally made very informal by discussing with you what happened last year, and our plans for next year. We are planning to take the same approach this year, and it will be followed by the short film "On the Banks of the Beane".

Ronni Edmonds-Brown from the University of Hertfordshire, who is also a member beekeeper appears in the film and will be there to introduce the film and answer any questions.

We look forward to seeing many of you there.

Skep making course

Interested in making a skep? The Bee Shed, The Field, Shipley, Derbyshire, DE75 7JH, is offering one day courses on August 26 and September 9. The Bee Shed is located within a 13 acre herb garden. Check out the Bee Shed website for further information <http://thebeeshed.webs.com/apps/webstore>.

National Honey Show 27th October 2017

Louise Jutsum (louisejutsum@gmail.com) is organising a coach trip to this year's honey show. The coach will pick up from Baldock, Letchworth and Hitchin at 9 am and will leave the show at 4 pm. The cost is £10 per person. Please contact her direct should you be interested.

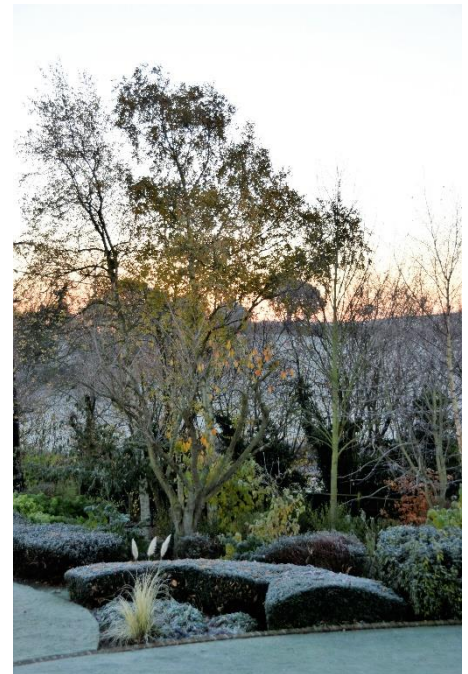
Helpers needed

With a course running every Tuesday and Wednesday evening starting from February 22 and ending on March 29 we are looking for volunteers to help with the catering during the break (30 mins normally from 8.30 to 9 pm). Catering is limited to offering tea/coffees/soft drinks and biscuits. Whilst you are very welcome to attend the whole evening, setting up prior to and clearing up after the break is what we are hoping to get help with. Please contact Mike Goodhew at training@hertsbees.org.uk if you are willing to help. Thank you.

AGM & Social Evening

Tuesday February 21, 2017
7.30 for 8 pm

At Christchurch Parkway Halls,
110 Parkway, Welwyn Garden
City AL8 6HN



HELPERS NEEDED

We are looking for people to help with the catering at our forthcoming courses. Please contact Mike Goodhew at training@hertsbees.org.uk if you can spare an evening and help. Thank you

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

February is the month where the days noticeably become longer and sun's rays stronger. One of the first years flowers 'snowdrops' appear from under their frosty carpet.

As our honey bees commence brood rearing and resume hive activities and fetching their first pollen from outside, they will start consuming larger amounts of food and the beekeeper will need to gently heft hives and be prepared to either feed some fondant or homemade candy.

Apart from hefting and measuring hive weight, another sign of bees running out of food is, as they move upwards consuming food reserves they may well be seen huddling just under the crownboard by the porter bee escape holes. At this point the beekeeper can just place some feed straight over them. At this time of year it should not be a liquid feed as this not only can cause them dysentery but the bees will try to store this liquid feed which can possibly end up fermenting or cause loss of latent heat generated by the bee cluster.

Hope to See you all at the AGM!

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

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