

Welwyn Beekeepers Newsletter

June 2017

News

May was another busy month where we attended events and we hopefully all have been (or are just about to) extract some honey.

World Food Festival WGC May 20 (report by Denys Preedy)

This year's event proved to be as successful as the previous year, despite the frequent rain showers in the afternoon. We received a lot of interest with the stall crowded with people most of the time. Four members were continuously occupied throughout the day, explaining bees with the aid of the observation hive, honey tasting, selling honey and chatting to potential bee keepers. A total of 158 jars were sold with a value of £955.00. In addition, we have a potential bulk order for 50 12 oz jars of borage honey for the organisers of the Welwyn Garden City Centenary in 2020 who will use them as gifts for sponsors. A big thank you to all the helpers on the day.

Herts County Show May 27&28 (report by David Canham)

Herts Beekeepers once again had a stand in the Horticultural Marquee (see picture on the right). Over the two days our stand was visited by 100s of people who left fascinated by honeys bees and beekeeping. St Albans kindly provided and manned the Observation hive whilst Welwyn organised a huge supply of honey and other products for sale. Education was provided aplenty, through conversation, leaflets and the numerous posters on display. There were also activities for the kids who were kept entertained (and taught) by Anne and Tamara. Our display this year was organised by South East Herts around a theme of a bee picnic and it secured a Silver Gilt award in the horticultural competition. Other divisions also supported us with volunteers were on hand throughout the weekend to share the workload and supplying us with plenty of produce to sell. I would like to pass on my thanks to everyone involved in making this event the success it was, and particularly the organisers, Luke Adams, Andy Crossley, Michelle Whittaker, Tina Rawlings, Mike Stillwill, Anne Shepherd, Tamara Lesley and Gary Hammond.

www.welwynbka.org

Next Social Event

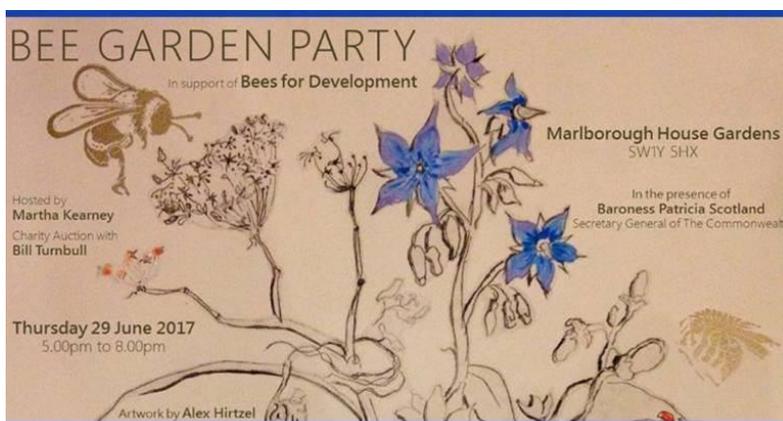
Tea Party in the Garden
Saturday, June 24, 2-4 pm

Venue: 6 Deards End Lane,
Knebworth

Please RSVP Lieva at
welwynbees@gmail.com so that we
know how many we cater for.
Cakes welcome



Martha Kearney and Bill Turnbull invite you to join them at this year's Bee Garden Party: 5-8pm on Thursday 29 June in the private gardens of Marlborough House, in London's Mall. It will be a fun evening, focussed on bees, with gin-fizz, wines and delightful food. A wonderful opportunity to meet beekeeping friends. With kind permission from the household of HM The Queen, and in the presence of the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Baroness Scotland. Raising funds to support the Charity Bees for Development. Tickets are £50 and available here tr.im/BBKAnewsBeeGardenParty and here [Bee Garden Party](#), or call 01600 714848 to book. Special rates for BBKA groups - please call.



Around the Apiaries

Knebworth Golf Club

The new members sessions with Andy Crossley are very well received and enjoyed by all.

North Mymms Park & Digswell Lake

Both apiaries are currently full. We are aware of the need for an apiary around the Potters Bar area and we are working hard on it.

Watch this space: Ramblers Holidays, Lemsford

We are awaiting the decision whether the apiary can be set up.

Congratulations to Peter and Vivienne



Peter Mathews, a longstanding WBKA member, ex WBKA committee member and until very recently chairman of the Hertfordshire BKA and his partner Vivienne got married on June 3. We wish the happy couple all the best for their future together.

Thoughts from the Beekeeper

By Peter Folge

We are now entering the June gap. Although blackberries and lime trees are beginning to flower nectar can be rather scarce. If you have extracted honey make sure there are enough stores in the brood nest.

Queen rearing and raising nucs has also been very challenging. There have been numerous queen failures and nucs turning into drone layers.

Keep looking out for queen cells to prevent swarming and remember to look first and act afterwards.

Training

Members Apiary Training Sessions

Held at 10.30 every second Saturday in the month at the Knebworth Golf Club Apiary, and is open to all Members.

New Members Apiary Training Sessions

Held at 10.30 on all other Saturdays in the month at the Knebworth Golf Club Apiary, and is primarily aimed for those new members that would like to gain some practical experience before deciding if beekeeping is for them, and those new members who would like some supportive practical training in their early stages of beekeeping.

Forthcoming EVENTS with WBKA involvement

Sat June 17	Welwyn Festival Street Market
Sat June 17	Applecroft School Summer Fete
Sat & Sun July 29&30	Pangshanger Festival of Wildlife
Sat & Sun August 12 & 13	Knebworth Steam, Crafts & Country Life Fair, Knebworth House
Sun October 8	Tewin Orchard Apple Day
Thu – Sun November 16-19	Hatfield House Frost Fair

Equipment for hire

The Association has two extractors for loan. Furthermore, you will find a copy of a hive record cards on the website. Visit the Members area for more detail.