

Welwyn Beekeepers Newsletter

March 2017

News

Whilst we are all anticipating the beginning of spring and are wondering what our bees will be up to, we had some housekeeping to do. A big thank you to the members who attended the AGM on February 21 and to Ronni who introduced and answered questions about the "On the Banks of the Beane" film.

Digswell Lake Apiary

The Apiary is set up and Anne Freimanis has taken on the role of Apiary Manager. Please contact her at a.freimanis@btinternet.com; if you would like to keep your bees there. The Apiary is all set up and "ready to go" (see picture opposite).

Events

See the Forthcoming Events table on page 2 for details. Events cannot be attended or might have to be cancelled if we do not have volunteers that are prepared to either run an event and/or man stands. These events are a great opportunity to generate interest in beekeeping and to sell a few jars of honey and candles, etc. Please get in contact with Andy at events@welwynbka.org if you can help.

Swarm Collection & Lists

We would like to properly coordinate and organise swarm collections and subsequent distribution of swarms and would like to have a centralised list for all people requesting/receiving swarms. Please contact Lieva Nation at welwynbees@gmail.com if you would like to be a swarm collector, receive a swarm or also if you have received a swarm from somebody.

Welwyn Bee Improvement Programme

Further to the Newsflash (Feb 22) the members' interest is good and Peter will be in contact with everybody soon. Please note the social evening on April 25 with the main topic being the Bee Improvement Programme. Any queries please contact Peter Folge at the_beekeeper@hotmail.com.

Bee Buddies

All of you who keep bees will remember your first experience of beekeeping. Possibly you will also remember the nerves that are jangled by being responsible for your own bees. If you are a beekeeper, how about becoming a 'Bee Buddy' and providing the occasional comforting phone call and/or visit to a potential or novice beekeeper? There's no need for lots of beekeeping knowledge and experience but a willingness to help a fellow human with their beekeeping challenges is what is needed! Please contact johnpeacock@longmoore.co.uk if you are willing to become a Bee Buddy and to help a novice beekeeper.

www.welwynbka.org

Forthcoming Event

Sat & Sun March 25&26
East of England Food Festival
Herts County Showground,
Redbourn
10 am – 5 pm

We are still looking for helpers
please contact Andy Crossley at
events@welwynbka.org



SOCIAL EVENTS

Tuesday April 25, 7.30 for 8 pm
Bee Improvement Programme
discussion & Social at the
White Hart Welwyn

Saturday June 24, 2 pm
Tea Party in the Garden
Further details tbc

HELP, HELP, HELP

We need your contribution at the beginners' course. Be available to talk to the attendees as well as help with catering during the refreshment break. Please contact Mike Goodhew at training@hertsbees.org.uk.

Around the Apiaries

Apiary Training

All Apiary training is still suspended. Details will be emailed when sessions re-commence.

HEALTHY BEE DAY, SATURDAY, MAY 13, 9.30 am - 4pm

There are still places available for Welwyn members. Contact Mike Goodhew at training@hertsbees.co.uk to reserve your place.

Thoughts from the Beekeeper

Beekeepers must continue to monitor food levels and a small amount of thick syrup 2:1 can be fed to bees in an emergency, using a contact feeder. This is the bucket type (or jam jar) with a mesh which is inverted on the crown board just above the clustering bees. Keep mouse guards and woodpecker protection in place until end of March or first inspections.

BEE BOOKS LIBRARY

A suggestion coming out of the AGM was to set up a library for the members. If anyone is interested in bringing this idea to fruition and set it up for the benefit of all members please email Gabriela at andyross7@btinternet.com.

FOR SALE/WANTED

We are facilitating sale/purchase of bee related items. If you have something you would like to sell or if you are looking for a specific item email Gabriela at andyross7@btinternet.com. We will publish the request with your contact details in the Newsletter.

Training

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

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

Forthcoming EVENTS with WBKA involvement

Sat & Sun March 25 & 26	East of England Food Fair Herts County Showground, Redbourn
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.