

Welwyn Beekeepers Newsletter

November 2016

News

Another busy few weeks for the Welwyn Beekeepers.

Members have been busy at the Tewin Orchard Apple Day, the Codicote Apple Day and the Stanborough Lakes presentation. We thank David Chenery, Peter Folge, Mike Goodhew, Lieva Nation, Sue & Dave Parkins and Gabriela Ross for their help and time given up to attend and run the above events.

We attended the Tewin Orchard Apple Day following an invitation by the Wild Life Trust and used our new smaller marquee for the first time (see picture). It was a very successful day for us including signing up several people interested in beekeeping and the Wild Life Trust is interested in us attending this and another of their events next year.

Courses run by the Association are very well attended. This year, we had over 60 people at the beginners' course. To enhance future presentations, given the number of participants, we have acquired a new, bigger projector and screen for the Association.

Honey Tasting

The honey tasting event at the beginning of October was a success and members were able to taste 18 different honeys. Over 30 members were busy with tasting, voting for the best honey and at the same time desperately hoping the vote given was not for the supermarket honey that was also disguised amongst the members' honey. It was a very nice evening that gave plenty of opportunity for members to catch up and chat. A big thank you to Lieva Nation for organising the event.



Christmas Dinner

Tuesday November 29
7.30 for 8 pm

At the White Hart Welwyn



Presentations/Shows with WBKA involvement

Thursday – Sunday
November 17 - 20

Hatfield House Frost Fair

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HELPERS NEEDED

Thank you to all of you who have already volunteered. Andy Crossley is running the event and should you be able to help please contact him at andyc321@hotmail.com.

Thank you

*Deadline for Xmas Dinner bookings
November 15, don't miss your chance
to attend!*

Around the Apiaries

Apiary Training

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

Possible new Association Apiary: We recently gave a Bee Awareness talk to Digswell Lakes Society who expressed great interest in us setting up an Apiary at **Digswell Lakes**; seventeen acres of woodland and ornamental parkland, close to the Welwyn Railway Viaduct. We'll keep you updated.

Thoughts from the Beekeeper

by Peter Folge

Welwyn Beekeepers Honey Bee Improvement Program 2017

The Committee would like to set up a Honey Bee Improvement Program that can benefit all our Welwyn members.

The objective is to buy a couple of island mated Buckfast Queens from Denmark and raise several frames of drone brood to be passed and shared around different Welwyn Members' apiaries. These drones will then hopefully continue to improve the quality of our queens and local bee population. We will also raise new queens from these breeder queens that will be available to our local membership.

If enough interest, the aim is to roll this out as an on-going program, supported by our division, possibly over several years. This project can continue to run alongside our colonies that are already showing varroa resistance and hopefully offer a choice of both to Welwyn and other Hertfordshire members.

If you would like to be involved and/or discuss things further, please get in touch with myself or another committee member.

I look forward to any suggestions or comments that you may have.

Training

For Non Members Interested in or Contemplating Beekeeping

March 2017 Beginners Beekeeping Course

We've commenced informing those that have previously contacted us with details of the Beginners course in Welwyn Garden City.

Please inform any family or friends who might be interested.

For Members

New Season Preparation course

A three evening course for those who've completed a year's practical beekeeping experience, those wishing to use the course as a refresher and be prepared to deal with a more mature and demanding hive and colony.

Wednesdays 22nd February, and 1st and 6th March 2017 – 7.30 to 10pm - £15
Christchurch Peartree Halls, Tewin Road, Welwyn Garden City

Swarm Collecting course

To help those collecting their own swarms when preventative measures have failed! and for those wishing to become involved in going out to collect swarms.

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 course for those with at least two or three years' experience. Provides a check for you as to how well you're doing, and areas that might need some 'brushing up'. Ideal if you wish to take the BBKA Basic Assessment, as it follows the BBKA Basic Assessment syllabus.

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

BBKA Microscopy Appreciation Day

The day is aimed at those just wishing to know more about Microscopy and its work associated with Beekeeping, offers the opportunity to experience working with the different types of microscope and their uses in supporting beekeeping.

University of Hertfordshire's Bayfordbury Campus
Only £55 including use of equipment and materials, and a buffet lunch

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