

Welwyn Beekeepers Newsletter

October 2016

News

A number of members have been busy on behalf of the Association and have been participating in the following events: Hatfield House Garden Show, Presentation to St Mary's School Welwyn, Knebworth Steam & Country Crafts Fair and the trip to Kew Gardens. Thank you to all of you who have provided help especially Barry Derbyshire, David Chenery, Mike Goodhew, Lieva Nation and Gabriela Ross.

Ian Reeves has stepped down as chairman and member of the WBKA committee with immediate effect to have more time to concentrate on new ventures. We thank Ian for his work and commitment over the years to WBKA and wish him well for the future. Phill Jepson will be acting chairman until the AGM early next year.

Tamara Leslie has been instrumental in organizing and running numerous events as well as providing catering for a number of courses. We thank Tamara for all her hard work and dedication over the years and wish her well as she is moving on to pastures new.

Ged Marshall

Ged Marshall is a bee farmer, breeds Buckfast Queens to sell. Ged started beekeeping when he was 15, spending a Summer working for a commercial (3,000 hive) operation in France. He got his first hives in the early '80s and went full time in July 1989. Building up the business, focusing on bulk honey production and more recently, queen bee production. He has worked in France, Tenerife, Denmark and at Buckfast Abbey with Brother Adam to help improve his beekeeping and has served on the Bee Farmers Association committee for 12 years, worked on the Honey Working Party in Brussels, and served on the Bee Health Advisory Panel run by the governments Ministry of Agriculture and is currently a member of the Healthy Bees Plan set up by FERA (Food and Environmental Research Agency).

Dealing with a medical emergency

October 22, 1 – 4 pm

Christchurch Parkway Halls WGC

Cost: £15

Over and above normal day to day emergencies that might occur, there is the addition of heightened risk to insect stings and bites, and allergic reactions. The course runs through the different situations and what to do, and as important, what not to do

Interested? Contact Mike Goodhew

training@hertsbees.org.uk

Hatfield Frost Fair

The committee is looking for somebody to run the event as well as volunteers to help out on this event. Please contact Gabriela Ross andyross7@btinternet.com if you can help. Thank you

Christmas Dinner

This social event will be limited to 30 people. Confirmation of place following receipt of payment. Further details to be announced later this month.

Talk by Ged Marshall "Spring Management"

Friday 7th October 2016, 8 pm
Chiswell Green United Reform
Church Hall, Watford Road,
St Albans, AL2 3HG

Social events

Tuesday October 11, 8 pm
Honey Tasting Evening at the
White Hart, Welwyn

Tuesday November 29
Christmas Dinner
White Hart, Welwyn

Presentations/Shows

with WBKA involvement

Sunday October 9
Tewin Apple Day

Saturday October 15
Stanborough Lakes
Presentation

Thu – Sun November 17 - 20
Hatfield House Frost Fair

Honey Tasting Evening

Please bring your honey to the tasting. Ensure the honey is in an unlabelled jar, pass it on to Lieva and she will ensure we all have fun tasting the honey.

Around the Apiaries

Knebworth Golf Club

The monthly members' meetings continue to be well supported with plenty of interesting colonies to observe. Andy Crossley's new weekly beginners' sessions have been attracting a small but regular attendance.

North Mymms Park

This is becoming a popular apiary with eight beekeepers on site and 12 hives. A good mix of National and WBC hives and a nice variety of beekeeping experience.

Welwyn Garden City Allotments

The two association hives continue to prosper and have produced a reasonable crop of honey. The non-treatment for varroa experiment continues and although the colonies have been somewhat feisty in previous years, they seem to be much calmer at the moment.

Bayfordbury Campus

There are now 5 University hives, and alongside Ian Reeves and Dave Canham from SE Herts hives. It is already growing into a very good and mature apiary. Please let us know if you'd like to keep hives at the Campus Apiary.

Raffin Green

It has been agreed to use Raffin Green for collected swarms that are of any concern to allow Peter Folge to have a chance to check them.

Thoughts from the Beekeeper

Robbing from a Nucleus by Peter Folge

In order to stop robbing, a five frame colony needs to have 3 frames with bees. This means the bees can fend off intruders on adjacent frames. The entrance should be no bigger than to allow two bees in or out at a time. Any unoccupied frames need to be removed. Feeding must not commence until robbing ceases. Once bees have gained control then slowly feed, adding frames one by one as required. Do not treat nuc with thymol (Apiguard) or formic acid (MAQS) during this time as this will cause further problems.

Honey to sell?

The aim at events is to draw the public's attention to beekeeping as well as selling honey to raise funds for the association. If you have honey to sell at future events, please get in touch with Gabriela Ross at andyross7@btinternet.com.

Training

For Non Members Interested in or Contemplating Beekeeping

October 2016 Bee Awareness session

Tuesday Evening 18th October 2016 – 7.30 to 10.00 at Christchurch Parkway Hall, Welwyn Garden City

For people interested in knowing more about bees and the work of the beekeeper, and those thinking about taking up beekeeping.

March 2017 Beekeeping Beginners Courses

Details to be confirmed in November.

Please let Relatives and Friends know

For Members

There are a few places left for you on the following courses:

1. **Dealing with an Apiary Medical Emergency** – October 2016
2. **BBKA Microscopy Course** – November 2016
3. **Microscopy Appreciation Day** – February 2017

New Season Preparation, Swarm Collecting, and Basic Assessment Preparation

Details for these Spring 2017 courses to be released in November.

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