

Welwyn Beekeepers Newsletter

October 2017

NEWS SUMMARY

Here's what we've been up to during the last month:

- Attended Mill Green

And we are looking forward to:

- Attending the Tewin Orchard & Codicote Apple Day
- Honey Tasting Evening at the White Hart, Welwyn on October 10 (7.30 for 8 pm). Mari Stevenson, the HBKA President will be joining us for the evening.
- National Honey Show October 26-28
- Hatfield House Frost Fair November 16-19
- WBKA Christmas dinner November 28 at the White Horse Welwyn

Regular items:

- Thoughts from the Beekeeper
- Around the Apiaries
- Training
- Events

See detailed reports overleaf.

2018 Membership Fee

At the recent WBKA Committee meeting held on October 2, the committee has set the 2018 membership fee as follows: Registered Member £26, Country Member £14, Partner Member £17 and Junior Member £16. The committee has also decided to no longer offer the combined membership and Beecraft subscription offer. This as a result of the administrative burden being too extensive for a very small saving as well as the very limited uptake of the offer from the members. Members still wanting to ensure they continue to receive Beecraft are asked to set up their own subscriptions for 2018. With the subscription we will be asking for a gift aid declaration to ensure that we claim the maximum possible from HMRC. We have recently claimed gift aid for the years 2013 to 2016 and expect to receive payment shortly.

www.welwynbka.org

Next Social Event

Honey Tasting

October 10

**Win a prize for the best set
and best runny honey**

at the White Hart Welwyn
7.30 for 8 pm

Please bring an unlabeled jar of
honey that will be returned to you
at the end of the evening.

An invitation to join

**St. Albans BKA's
Winter Meeting**

Friday, October 20, 8 pm at

**United Reform Church Hall
Watford Road
St Albans AL2 3 HG**

**Speaker
Peter Folge**

Don't forget to book your place at our Christmas Dinner by October 10

£27 per person, glass of wine and coffee included. Lieva Nation welwynbees@gmail.com or tel. 07949 624

Invitation from St Albans BKA to join their Winter Meeting

St Albans Beekeepers Association are holding their winter meeting on Friday 20th October 2017 at United Reform Church Hall, Watford Road, St. Albans AL2 3GH, and they are extending the invite to all Welwyn members. Peter Folge will be speaking and there are plans to hopefully have a second speaker on the night. Should you attend the evening please contact Collette (St Albans BKA's secretary) at collettebees@gmail.com to let her know that you will be there. This will help her in getting an idea how many people to expect on the night.

Social Event: Christmas Dinner, Tuesday November 28, 7.30 for 8 pm at the White Horse Welwyn

Join us for our Christmas Dinner. It will take place at the White Horse, Mill Lane, Welwyn. The cost for a 3-course meal will be £27 which includes a glass of wine and coffee. We look forward to a festive evening. Please contact Lieva Nation (by email welwynbees@gmail.com or by phone 07949 624 354) in order to book your place by October 10.

Thoughts from the Beekeeper

By Peter Folge

As the days once again start becoming shorter and temperatures start falling bees will start to cluster and we will need to start considering Winter protection for our colonies.

Entrances can be reduced and mouse guards fitted. This is a piece of metal or mesh with lots of holes not much bigger than 8 mm. This will prevent mice from entering during the cold winter months. Garden netting should be loosely pinned to the hive's exterior or plastic strips can also be used as long as these do not trap moisture. This will help stop damage from Green Woodpeckers. Some beekeepers use insulation sheets between the crownboard and hive roof, however this is not essential in the survival of your colony. Other than Oxalic acid treatments all others should now be finished. Feeding should also be completed in the next week or two, so bees have time to finish processing and capping stores to prevent fermentation which can cause dysentery in bees. As a matter of interest, some of my National hives were fed up to 24 ltrs (2:1 syrup) as there were few stores remaining in the hive.

The BBKA are running a honey survey this month to get a general consensus of colonies and honey prices.

Forthcoming EVENTS with WBKA involvement

Sunday, October 8	Tewin Orchard Apple Day
Sunday, October 15	Codicote Apple Day
Thursday – Sunday, November 16-19	Hatfield House Frost Fair

Training

All Apiary Training Sessions have concluded for this year.