

# Welwyn Beekeepers Newsletter

## December 2017

### NEWS SUMMARY

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

- Attended the Hatfield Frost Fair
- Held our Christmas Dinner
- Shopped at Waitrose to collect tokens under the Community Matters Scheme
- Have been selected by Honeyflow to receive a free UK National Honeyflow Super

And we are looking forward to:

- Next social evening on Tuesday, February 13, 2018
- Organising and holding a number of training courses during spring

Regular items:

- Thoughts from the Beekeeper
- Around the Apiaries (will start again in spring)
- Training
- Events

See detailed reports overleaf.

### **Waitrose Community Matters Scheme**

A big thank you to all of you who have been shopping at Waitrose WGC during November, collected tokens or spread the word that Welwyn Beekeepers were one of the chosen charities and had a collection box in their name. Lieva has been informed that a cheque for £392 will be issued to us. This is excellent and will help fund our Bee Improvement Programme.



**MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR**

[www.welwynbka.org](http://www.welwynbka.org)

### **Next Social Event**

## **Talk "Where the Wild Things Are"**

by Jan Klapwijk  
(Wildlife Trust)

and

## **The Welwyn Bee Improvement Programme**

by Peter Folge

## **February 13**

**at Christchurch Peartree Halls, Tewin Road, Welwyn GC**

**7.30 for 8 pm**

Please contact Lieva at [welwynbees@gmail.com](mailto:welwynbees@gmail.com) to confirm your attendance

**Don't forget to renew your Welwyn Beekeepers membership for 2018**

## Event: Hatfield Frost Fair



As in previous years, we attended the 4-day Hatfield House Frost Fair. Sales were good, with the total coming in at just over £1,300. This is slightly down on last year, but might have something to do with the fact that unlike last year, our stand was a long way from the entrance this time.

A big "thank you" to all the helpers that came to set up, spent time on the stand selling and talking to the public over the 4 days of the Fair as well as taking the stand down at the end of the show.

Events like this need the commitment from a number of members and all help is greatly appreciated.

## Social Event: Christmas Dinner

Yes, it was already time for our members' Christmas Dinner. We all had a wonderful evening at the White Horse in Welwyn. Conversation flowed, the festive spirit was in the air and food and drink got consumed. We enjoyed ourselves so much that other diners around us decided to seek a slightly quieter area of the restaurant to continue their meal..... Thank you very much Lieva for organising a special evening for all of us.



## Flow Hive Super

After having spotted the offer from Flow Hive to donate supers to Beekeepers, we have been in contact with the company on behalf of the WBKA. Flow Hive are excited to support WBKA as they like the ethos we have with emphasis on the practical, training and social aspect of the association. We will be receiving a free Flow Super that will fit on a UK National hive. It is the intention that we will have the super on one of the association hives so that we can all follow the progress (and hopefully experience successful honey harvesting). But first, we will need to order, receive and build the super – so watch this space for further news and check out the Flow Hive website [www.eu.honeyflow.com](http://www.eu.honeyflow.com).

## Social Event: Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at Christchurch Peartree, Tewin Road, WGC, 7.30 for 8 pm

We shall be kicking off our social events in 2018 with a talk from Jan Klapwijk from the Wildlife Trust who will talk about the conservation for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century as well as discussing the work the Wildlife Trust undertakes. The second part of the evening will be dedicated to our Welwyn Bee Improvement Programme and Peter Folge will inform us of his plans for the programme for 2018. We are extending invitations to all members of the other Hertfordshire branches for this evening and it is therefore important that you let Lieva Nation at [welwynbees@gmail.com](mailto:welwynbees@gmail.com) know if you are attending. It will help with getting the correct room size as well as enough refreshments for all attendees.

## Thoughts from the Beekeeper

By Peter Folge

December and January is the time when queens generally stop laying and therefore a good time to carry out a winter treatment of Oxalic acid. This is best done on a fairly warm day or when bees can be observed milling around the

entrance. Frames should not be removed but the crown board can be gently prised up. Some beekeepers like to do this as an extra treatment, however in my experience this treatment is not necessary as long as the bees were treated properly in August-September. I wish all a very Merry Christmas.

## ***Forthcoming EVENTS with WBKA involvement***

There are currently no events/dates booked with WBKA involvement.

### ***Training***

#### ***For Non Members/New Members Interested in or Contemplating Beekeeping***

##### **March 2018 Beginners Beekeeping Course**

Tuesday Evenings 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> March, practical session Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March, at Christchurch Parkway Halls WGC, Apiary session in April tbc

If you have relatives, friends, or work colleagues interested, please ask them to email Mike Goodhew at [training@welwynbka.org](mailto:training@welwynbka.org).

#### ***For Members***

##### **New Season Preparation course**

For beekeepers starting into their second year or those wanting a refresher.

Wednesdays 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> February, and 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018 – 7.30 to 10pm - £15  
Christchurch Peartree Halls, Tewin Road, Welwyn Garden City

##### **Swarm Collecting course**

Do's and don'ts, what to expect and equipment to use.

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2018 – 7.30 to 10pm - £5  
Christchurch Peartree Halls, Tewin Road, Welwyn Garden City

##### **Basic Assessment Preparation course**

A very useful 2 evening check point for those with at least 2-3 years' experience. Ideal preparation for BBKA Basic Assessment.

Wednesdays 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018 – 7.30 to 10pm - £10  
Christchurch Peartree Halls, Tewin Road, Welwyn Garden City

If you would like to attend any of these three courses and haven't already applied, please email Mike Goodhew at [training@welwynbka.org](mailto:training@welwynbka.org).