

Welwyn Beekeepers Newsletter

January 2018

www.welwynbka.org

NEWS SUMMARY

We have hopefully all enjoyed the festive period and are waiting with anticipation to the conundrums our bees will have in store for us.

And we are looking forward to:

- Our next social evening on Tuesday, February 13, 2018
- The WBKA AGM on Tuesday, February 20 at Christchurch Parkway, WGC, detailed information to be sent separately
- Opening a new apiary at Panshanger

Regular items:

- Thoughts from the Beekeeper
- Around the Apiaries (will start again in spring)
- Training
- Events (see paragraph regarding the Herts County Show)

See detailed reports overleaf.

Events during 2017

The committee would like to thank all members who have contributed during 2017 and have given up their time to host and/or help at events. It has been a successful year with total sales of £9,193.99 ensuring lots of beekeepers were able to sell some if not all of their honey and/or honey products. It has also given the WBKA a very useful £1,297.25 which will be invested in the bee improvement programme as well as help with material needed to host events.

New Apiary at Panshanger

We are delighted to report that Lieva Nation and Mike Goodhew have been instrumental in finding another apiary for WBKA. We have an agreement with Tarmac to use their site at Panshanger Park which is a fantastic location for us.

We are looking for a WBKA member who would like to take on the role of Apiary Manager. It is not an onerous task, simply keeping a general eye on the apiary, and having weekly apiary meetings to help and advise the newer beekeepers at the apiary. Please email Mike Goodhew at training@welwynbka.org if you are interested.

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 to confirm your attendance



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

Don't forget to book your place at this exciting and informative event with Lieva Nation at welwynbees@gmail.com if you are attending. We shall be kicking off the 2018 events in style and refreshments will be provided.

Please note that we are hoping that all members who are currently already involved in the Bee Improvement Programme and those who would like to start getting involved will be attending the evening. Peter Folge will talk about the full programme in detail as well as explaining the expected involvement/actions needed by the participants.

Sustainable Beekeeping: A Future without Imports



This event may be of interest to you and will be held at Eden Project, PL24 2SG Bodelva on Saturday February 17, 2018 and is organised by Roger Patterson in conjunction with the Bee Improvement and Bee Breeders Association (BIBBA) and B4, in conjunction with BIPCo. The cost of the event is £17. The write up states: "This exciting event has been organised in response to the increased interest in native and near native honey bees. Many beekeepers now realise the benefits of working with bees that are hardy, productive, healthy and best suit their conditions. Bee researchers believe that native bees are an important resource that shouldn't be lost. European studies have shown that locally adapted bees perform better than imported ones, with possible health and survivability benefits." The event has a number of speakers Check out the following link for further information: <https://bibba.com/eden>.

Event: Herts County Show Redbourn, May 26 & 27 – Looking for florists amongst us

Over the past few years the Hertfordshire branches have taken it in turn to produce a display at the Herts Show. It is our turn this year and we are looking for budding florists/artists and/or creative people who would be prepared to plan and set up a 2x2m display. Last year's entry from Southeast Herts was a floral display that won a silver medal! It does not have to be bee related so any ideas are welcome. If you are interested and/or have any ideas please contact Gabriela at secretary@welwynbka.org.

Thoughts from the Beekeeper

By Peter Folge

January is a quiet month for us and we will just need to continue to keep an eye on any possible storm damage and making sure hive entrances remain clear. Some beekeepers will treat their bees with oxalic acid, however, if your late summer treatments were successfully administered no other treatments should be necessary until next summer.

Just an important reminder; Bees are classed as livestock and a food producing animal, therefore all things we do must be carefully considered especially with regards to what goes into the hive and comes out again.

It has recently come to my attention that some Hertfordshire divisions have been advising and administering some strange concoctions to their bees in the belief that this is the magic cure for all sorts of ailments. Please can I remind everyone including other associations that the only things allowed into the hive are: Registered/Approved Medicines, White refined Sugar in plain tap or rain water and Invert Sugar for feed. Careful use of Pollen Substitutes can also be used, however, care is needed as these can contain all sorts of ingredients which are not natural or beneficial. If in doubt leave it out! Any other products are deemed as unnecessary and are clinically unproven to be beneficial in any way. These tend just to be marketing ploys and often tested on only a small select number of apiaries. Room for thought...

I wish everyone a Happy New Year.

Forthcoming EVENTS with WBKA involvement

WBKA will have a stand at the following two events (we will add more events as dates are confirmed):

Saturday – Monday, May 5-7
Saturday and Sunday, May 26 & 27

Herts Garden Show, Knebworth House
Hertfordshire County Show, Redbourn

Training

For Non Members/New Members Interested in or Contemplating Beekeeping

March 2018 Beginners Beekeeping Course

Tuesday Evenings 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th March, practical session Saturday 17th 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.

For Members

New Season Preparation course

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

Wednesdays 21st and 28th February, and 7th 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 28th 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 14th and 21st March 2018 – 7.30 to 10pm - £10
Christchurch Peartree Halls, Tewin Road, Welwyn Garden City

Healthy Bee Day

Presentation by Regional Bee Inspectors providing up to date information regarding pests, diseases and associated actions and treatment. Intended for beekeepers with at least 2 years+ experience.

Saturday 12th May, 9.30 am - 4 pm,
University of Hertfordshire's Bayfordbury Campus

WBKA has been allocated 14 places for this event which have been filled up. We are keeping a reserve list in case of cancellations or additional places if other branches do not take up their full allocation.

If you would like to attend any of these courses and haven't already applied, please email Mike Goodhew at training@welwynbka.org.