

Welwyn Beekeepers Newsletter

February 2018

www.welwynbka.org

NEWS SUMMARY

Another quiet month has gone, New Year's resolutions still intact or wavering and we have hopefully found the time to get ready for the coming season.

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
- The start of the new season preparation course
- Hertfordshire BKA Spring Show and AGM March 24
- Volunteers coming forward to help out at the courses and the HBKA Spring Show and AGM

Regular items:

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

See detailed reports overleaf.

Social February 13

It is not too late to contact Lieva at welwynbees@gmail.com to book your place.

Open Forum and AGM February 20

As advised in our mailshot at the end of January, the Open Forum and AGM is just around the corner. The committee is hoping for a good turnout and would like to hear from the members. All our decisions and actions are in the best interest of all our members (and the bees we keep) and so that we can continue to do so we would like to hear from you with your ideas/input.

The Flowhive Super, donated by Flowhive has been assembled and will be on display too. Have a look at it and let us know what you think.

Upcoming Events

Social February 13

"Where the Wild Things Are"
by Jan Klapwijk (Wildlife Trust)

and

The Welwyn Bee Improvement Programme
by Peter Folge

at Christchurch Peartree Halls,
Tewin Road, WGC AL7 1BW

7.30 for 8 pm

Open Forum & AGM February 20

at Christchurch Parkway Halls,
110 Parkway, WGC AL8 6HN

7.30 for 8 pm



Help, Help, Help

We are looking for volunteers who are able to spare a few hours helping out at various events. In particular we are hoping that a number of existing beekeepers are willing to attend one (or several) evenings (part or the whole evening) during the beginners course (see dates under the training section). We have found that potential new beekeepers like the opportunity to have 1 on 1 conversations with current beekeepers and would like to encourage it. We are also providing refreshments at break time and any help there is greatly appreciated.

We are also looking for volunteers for the HBKA Spring Show and AGM on March 24 (12.30-5 pm). It is WBKA's turn to provide refreshments. Again, it does not have to be the whole time, any time you can spare is wonderful.

Please contact Mike Goodhew at training@welwynbka.org if you can help. Thank you.

Hertfordshire BKA Spring Show and AGM

This year's event will again take place at Christchurch Peartree Halls, Tewin Road, Welwyn Garden City AL7 1BW. The attached document details the timing and programme for the event.

Bees for Development

To celebrate Bees for Development's 25th Year they are offering fantastic Birthday Giveaways throughout 2018. Check out their website www.beesfordevelopment.org/giveaway/index.html.

The Zest Project

Bill Summers has informed us that the ZEST web-site www.thezesthive.com has now been rebuilt with one carrying more information in a new format. He is looking forward to receiving any member feedback on the contents of the website, particularly the 5 blogs. There will also be a ZEST hive and frame presentation around midday in the auditorium at BeeTradex on the 3rd of March.

Thoughts from the Beekeeper

By Peter Folge

So far, this winter has been cool enough to prevent bees from flying and being too active. This should be better for overwintering colonies as they will not waste stores unnecessarily. February is the month when spring flowers rise from under the ground, waking from their deep winter slumber. The days are growing noticeably longer and fresh pollen will soon be flooding into the hive. Snow drops, crocus, hazel and willows are some of the earliest flowers, enticing bees to forage briefly during late mornings whilst temperatures are at their highest. Continue to keep an eye on entrances and make sure these remain clear. Towards the end of February, heft hives as stores will quickly diminish once colonies start rearing this year's brood. It's also a good time to make sure that you have spare, cleaned floors and brood boxes on the ready so that frames and bees can be transferred over to them in the spring.

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

Herts Garden Show, Knebworth House

Saturday and Sunday, May 26 & 27

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.