

Welwyn Beekeepers Newsletter

May 2018

NEWS SUMMARY

.... is the bad weather finally behind us and will the bees be making up for lost time? Time will tell....

We are looking forward to:

- The Herts Show at Redbourn on May 26&27
- Starting our apiary meetings

We have been busy with:

- Holding our social on April 24
- Attending the Herts Garden Show at Knebworth House
- Holding the practical sessions of the beginners' course (with exception of the last one due to inclement weather)
- Preparing the apiary site at Panshanger Park

Regular items:

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

Last Social: "The Monk and the Honey Bee"



A lot of members enjoyed learning more about the work Brother Adam (see photo) did with the buckfast bee. It was an excellent film and although it was made 30 years ago showed that the challenges the bees posed then are still the same today. It's just the surroundings and the technology that has moved on at great pace since then.

We were also all astounded with how little protection beekeepers used when attending their bees and the colonies were not always as calm as the beekeepers would have liked...

Thank you very much to Lieva who provided the refreshments for the evening and Mike who made sure the film screening went according to plan.

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Next Social Event

Sunday July 1

**Panshanger Park
Walk**

accompanied by 2 guides explaining the history of the site and helping us to spot the local wildlife

Open to all members, their families and friends.

Confirm your attendance with Lieva at welwynbee@gmail.com and let her know whether you will bring a picnic or have lunch at the White Horse in Hertford (booking essential)

Deadline:

Monday, May 21

Please note: If there are insufficient numbers of people attending we will unfortunately have to cancel the event

Event: Hertfordshire Garden Show Knebworth House May 5-7

The Herts Garden Show was held in glorious sunshine and with very high temperatures in the marquee. Maybe as a result of this the footfall was down on last year. We managed to get sales of just over £ 1,000 over the three days. A big thank you to all the helpers before, during and after the event.

Around the Apiaries



Panshanger Apiary

Good progress is being made at the new Panshanger Park apiary. The picture shows the future apiary members preparing the site by laying paving slabs and securing straps for the hives. It won't be long and experienced as well as new beekeepers will populate the empty slabs with their hives.

Things to do

We received an email from Hertford Theatre informing us of their upcoming production of "Me and the Bee" on Sunday May 20. A political party is formed to help the bees..... For more information check out the theatre's website <https://www.hertfordtheatre.com/events/detail/1826/me-and-my-bee>.

Thoughts from the Beekeeper

Peter is being kept very busy at the moment with all kind of "bee issues" and was therefore not able to provide his usual thoughts. Hopefully things will calm down and "normal service" will resume next month.

Forthcoming EVENTS with WBKA involvement

Saturday and Sunday, May 26 & 27 9.30 am – 5.30 pm each day	Hertfordshire County Show, Redbourn
Saturday, June 16, 9 am – 12.30 pm	Welwyn Festival Street Market, Welwyn
Saturday, June 23, 11 am – 3 pm	Applecroft School Summer Fete, Applecroft Road, WGC AL8 6LA

Apiary Training

The weather did not let us start our apiary training at the Knebworth Golf Club Apiary as planned and is now scheduled as follows:

Saturday, May 19, 10.30 h	Beginners course apiary session (last session open only to beginners' course attendees)
Saturday, June 2, 10.30 h	and each Saturday with the exception of second Saturday in the month This is primarily aimed for those new members that would like to gain some practical experience before deciding if beekeeping is for them, and those new members who would like some supportive practical training in their early stages of beekeeping.
Saturday, June 9, 10.30 h	Members monthly training (and then each second Saturday in the month)

Please email Mike Goodhew at training@welwynbka.org should you have any questions/queries.