

# Welwyn Beekeepers Newsletter

## June 2018

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

### NEWS SUMMARY

.... Another busy month for us....

We are looking forward to:

- Welwyn Festival Street Market, June 16, 9 am – 12.30 pm
- Applecroft School Summer Fete, June 23, 11 am – 3 pm
- Putting the Honey Flow Super onto one of the Association hives at Knebworth in July

We have been busy with:

- Finally having been able to conclude all practical apiary sessions of the beginners course
- Starting the regular apiary meetings on Saturdays
- Running the Herts BKA stand together with St Albans branch at the Herts County Show at Redbourn

Regular items:

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

### Loan Equipment

Just a reminder that WBKA has two Honey Extractors that can be borrowed by members. We now also have a Steam Wax Extractor and a Honey Refractometer available. Please contact Andy Crossley at [andyc123@hotmail.com](mailto:andyc123@hotmail.com) if you would like to borrow any of the items.

### Equipment for sale

If you are interested in purchasing any secondhand equipment, please check out our website. A number of items have been added just recently which might be of interest to you.

Next Social Event

**Sunday July 1**

### **Panshanger Park Walk**

Explore the wildlife, ancient trees and woodlands, lakes, the river Mimram and wonderful views on this 1,000 acre site

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.

### **Any late comers?**

**Lieva has extended the deadline to June 15. Book your place via [welwynbee@gmail.com](mailto:welwynbee@gmail.com) and let Lieva know whether you will bring a picnic or have lunch at the White Horse in Herford (booking essential)**



## Event: Herts County Show Redbourn May 26&27

Welwyn and St Albans branches had a successful two days at the Herts County Show under the banner of HBKA. Unbeknown to us we got rather surprised by



a visit from one of the judges of the show on Saturday afternoon informing us that we received a “highly commended” for our stand (see photo). We were aware of the fact that the competition for the best flower display was no longer happening but had no idea there was a “best stand” competition.

We were lucky with the weather and as a result had lots of people visiting our stand. All things bees were explained, children and adults rolled candles and



made bees in the “arts and crafts section” of the stand. This part of the stand is always very busy and draws in families with small children. Honey was sold and interest in beekeeping raised. The observation hive was a pull and the number of people who thought that the queen was born with a yellow dot on the back was astounding!



A special thank you to Andy Crossley who organised the stand and pulled all the strings together, to Susan Groom for an excellent flower display, to Ann Shepherd, Tamara Leslie, Michelle Whittacker and Scarlet, the daughter of one of our new members who all excelled at helping out on the “arts and craft section” of the stand, to Ann Wingate for providing the Observation Hive and all members from both branches who spent time on the stand during the two days.

## Flow Hive Super



Oil seed rape season is over and nearly time to test the Flow Hive Super. We will be putting it on one of the Association hives at the July member apiary meeting.

The super, donated to us by Flow Hive, has been assembled, been treated with wood protector and is ready for use. Check out the Flow Hive website [www.eu.honeyflow.com](http://www.eu.honeyflow.com) for information about Flow Hives and come along to the members apiary session on July 14.

Save the date

July 14 @ 10.30 am

Knebworth Apiary

## Around the Apiaries

All the apiaries are settling in well for 2018, and the Knebworth Golf Course apiary has again proved very successful in providing the Beginners Course apiary sessions.

Last year’s new apiary at Digswell Lake has established itself and become well accepted and an important part of the Digswell Lake environment.

Members previously at North Mymms Park have successfully transferred their hives to the new Brookmans Park apiary and settled in well.

The new apiary at Panshanger Park is proving to be a very good apiary site, with the apiary members working to prepare the site, and now just awaiting delivery of their nucs.

## Thoughts from the Beekeeper

By Peter Folge

Beginning June is the time when any spring honey is extracted, followed by a period of dearth that generally lasts for 2-3 weeks. If honey is taken off, make sure you leave enough food for the bees.

The Bee Improvement Programme has been off to a very slow start this year. At long last colonies have now built up to take advantage of making splits and Queen raising units. As I write, 8th June, I have started grafting larvae. Once the Queen cells are capped, in about 2 weeks, nucs will be made up and these queen cells introduced. Buckfast Drone production has been limited as queens have not been interested in laying up the drone comb added to the hives.

Next month I will update you with any progress made.

### Forthcoming EVENTS with WBKA involvement

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
Saturday & Sunday, July 28 & 29 10 am – 4 pm	Festival of Wildlife, Panshanger Park

### Apiary Training

We are back on track! Knebworth Golf Club Apiary is scheduled as follows:

Every Saturday 10.30 am (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.
Every second Saturday each month 10.30 am	Members monthly training

Please email Mike Goodhew at [training@welwynbka.org](mailto:training@welwynbka.org) should you have any questions/queries.