

# Welwyn Beekeepers Newsletter

## November 2018

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

### NEWS SUMMARY

.... Christmas is almost around the corner....

We are looking forward to:

- The Christmas Dinner on December 11 at the White Horse, Mill Lane, Welwyn AL6 ET
- Attending the Aldenham Country Park Frost Fair, November 15-18, 10 am – 5 pm, Aldenham Rd, Elstree, Radlett WD6 3BD

We have been busy with:

- The Bee Awareness evening on October 23
- Attending the Codicote Apple day on October 14

Regular items:

- Q&A with Peter Folge
- Thoughts from the Beekeeper
- Around the Apiaries (will resume in spring)
- Training

### Bee Awareness Evening October 23

Over 40 people attended our Bee Awareness Evening at Christchurch Parkway. The evening is best summed up by one of the thank you emails Mike Goodhew received:

*"Thank you to you and your bee keeper colleagues, for creating; an interesting, informative, useful, friendly, welcoming and engaging evening. I was initially concerning with how long the evening would be - but the evening went too quickly. I believe your presentation format, having various bee keepers talking kept the momentum of interest going. Upon reflection of the evening I believe you and your colleagues have got the balance right. Provided a perfect introduction into all things bee keeping and what we can do to help bees even if we do not keep bees ourselves."*

A big thank you to everybody who was involved in the evening.

A date for your diary:

**Tuesday, February 12, 2019**

**Social Evening and AGM – information to follow**

**We are all set for the last social event of the year**

### CHRISTMAS DINNER

**Tuesday  
December 11**

**7.30 for 8 pm**

at the  
White Horse, 30 Mill Lane,  
Welwyn AL6 9ET

If you forgot to book your place, Lieva might be able to secure you a space at late notice. Contact her at [welwynbees@gmail.com](mailto:welwynbees@gmail.com) or by phone 07949 624 354

### 2019 Membership

Rachel Dagleish has been busy and you should have all received an email from her with the 2019 membership form. Should this not be the case please contact Rachel at [rachel.leech@hotmail.com](mailto:rachel.leech@hotmail.com) Please make sure you keep Rachel up to date with any changes in your contact details so that we can keep you informed.

## **Event: Codicote Apple Day**

After glorious sunshine for the Tewin Apple Day the previous week, the Codicote Apple Day took place in rather wet conditions. Stalls were quickly moved under cover and despite the adverse weather conditions stall holders and visitors persevered and honey got sold. A big thank you to everyone involved on the day.

## **Q&A with Peter Folge**

Q: How concerned should we be about the threat of the Asian Hornet and what should we do?

A: As many of you will be aware, there have been several positive Asian Hornet sightings this year. Early in the



season during April a queen found its way over from France on a cauliflower and ended up in Leicestershire and has never been seen again. Nests were then found later in the season during September, first in Cornwall and then near Winchester and one near the south coast, East Boldre.

At the end of October, further male hornets were found along the south coast blown over with the strong southerly winds again from France. Unfortunately, it is possible that queens may also have come across undetected in the same way, which will now be able to hibernate like other wasps.

I setup a monitoring trap in Panshanger Park Apiary for a couple of weeks in October, which caught 2

moths, plenty of flies, two wasps and finally one European Hornet. It is advisable and possibly a good precaution to put up further traps in all association apiaries from next May.

## **Thoughts from the Beekeeper**

*By Peter Folge*

Beehives should now have mouse guards and netting in place for the long winter ahead. I have noticed in the Knebworth apiary some hives have small heaps of dead bees outside some of the bees display varroa damage others I'm not sure? It could just be old bees dying off after foraging actively and processing Ivy honey or they may have received some spray damage from either a farm or garden?

Until December's ramblings.

## **Forthcoming EVENT with WBKA involvement**

Thursday – Sunday, November 15-18,  
10 am – 5 pm

Aldenham Country Park Frost Fair  
Aldenham Road, Elstree Radlett WD6 3BD

## **Training**

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

#### **March 2019 Beginners Beekeeping Course**

Tuesday Evenings 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> March, practical session Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March, at Christchurch Parkway Halls WGC, Apiary session in April tbc

### **For Members**

#### **Sunday, January 7, 2019 Use of Microscopes in Beekeeping Taster Appreciation Day**

An opportunity to experience working with the different types of microscopes and understanding their uses

University of Hertfordshire's Bayfordbury Campus

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

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

Wednesdays 27<sup>th</sup> February, 6<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Christchurch Peartree Halls, Tewin Road, Welwyn Garden City AL7 1BW

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

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

Wednesdays 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>st</sup> March & 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2019 – 7.30 to 10pm

Christchurch Peartree Halls, Tewin Road, Welwyn Garden City AL7 1BW

#### **Swarm Collecting course**

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

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019

Christchurch Peartree Halls, Tewin Road, Welwyn Garden City AL7 1BW

#### **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 11<sup>th</sup> May 2019

University of Hertfordshire's Bayfordbury Campus

Please email Mike Goodhew at [training@welwynbka.org](mailto:training@welwynbka.org) if you have any queries or would like to attend any of the courses.