

Forest Beekeeper

The monthly newsletter of the Epping Forest Beekeepers

May 2008

www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk

EFBK Open Evening exceeds expectations

With around 40 attendees, the EFBK Open Evening on 17th April was a resounding success, not only in attracting new members, but also in raising general awareness of the important role that honey bees play in our lives.

Even before the doors opened officially at 7.30pm, we found ourselves dealing with an oncoming tide of enquiring minds. Young and old, complete novices and experienced beekeepers, and even those who were simply trying to locate local honey producers – the marketing for the event seemed to attract a complete cross-section of people.

During the planning of the event we wanted to provide something for everyone, with areas segregated into specific aspects of beekeeping.

Michael and Jenny Johns produced some excellent display panels illustrating the anatomy and lifecycle of the bee. Peter and Jackie Clarke were demonstrating candle making and, to the approval of many visitors, had a sample of their two-year old mead. There were a few guests that seemed to keep popping back to their display again and again to sample the wares!

Tiffany Levi and Kevin Cook brought along various bits of essential beekeeping equipment, giving visitors an idea of the cost of setting up and keeping bees - and explaining each piece of equipment's role.

Ken Barker had brought along a complete beehive and moved around the hall all evening helping some of the less-experienced beekeepers deal with visitor's queries. Roy Cropley also lent a hand and had brought along a very informative DVD for visitors to watch.

However, the star of the show by far was Ken's observation hive – stocked with bees from Ted Gradosielski's apiary. Excuse the pun, but every visitor made a "bee-line" for the observation hive on their arrival, and were attracted back to it as soon as there was room to get up close and personal with the bees.



Ted was also kept busy all night with his display on products from the hive. This includes various types of honey, propolis and beeswax. Ted also explained the process of how the honey is extracted from the comb with a hand-powered spinner.

Some visitors came to buy local honey, and whilst this was the wrong time of the year, they at least went away with contacts for this season's honey.



The success of the evening was rounded off by all the division members who helped by welcoming visitors, making the teas and coffees, and by helping to spread the word prior to the event amongst work colleagues, local press, family and friends.

This was an extremely successful and satisfying event – resulting in at least two new members for the division, and a whole lot more people better informed about bees and beekeeping. ☘

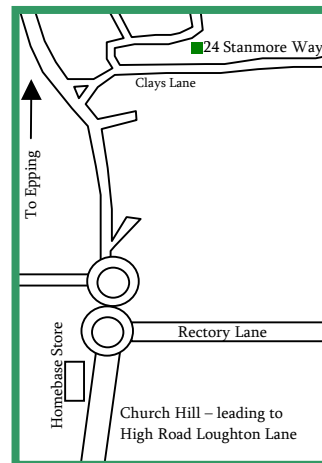


What's on this month...

This month the division will be holding their meeting Kevin and Tiffany's apiary on Saturday 10th May. The main topic will be Disease Identification – presented by chairman, Ken Barker.

The meeting will start at 2.30pm, with Ken's presentation starting at 3pm sharp. There will be refreshments, and there are full "facilities" on site.

The address for the apiary is 24 Stanmore Way, Loughton, Essex IG10 2SA. (see map below). There is street parking in Stanmore Way, but please take care not to block any of the neighbour's driveways. If you are having difficulty finding the address on the day, please call Kevin on 0777 153 5692. ☘



More certificates

Ken Barker presented three more certificates at the open event in April.

Emma Hewitt was presented with her beginners course certificate, whilst Pam and Colin Thompson were presented with their certificate for attending the course on applying Oxalic Acid treatment for Varroa. ☘

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