

Forest Beekeeper

The monthly newsletter of the Epping Forest Beekeepers

June 2009

www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk

The Yellow Peril!

The ups and downs of keeping bees near rapeseed crops

Our first meeting outside of the Horticultural Hall at Chingford was a trip to Pam and Colin Thompson's apiary near Moreton, Chipping Ongar, Essex. The topics of discussion included handling bees during the nectar flow, and how to effectively harvest rapeseed honey once its been gathered by the bees.



The main presentation was led by Ted Gradosielski, who having recently moved home to a more rural location, has witnessed first hand the change in nature of his bees when the rapeseed was in bloom near his apiary. Those attending this meeting were warned to come with their protective clothing as the bees will have a tendency to be very protective of their stores when the nectar is in flow.

Though their bees behaved impeccably on the day, Pam and Colin have had to relocate their bees on a number of occasions through fear of them becoming a nuisance to neighbours. Their present apiary however is perfect – being completely free of any overlooking buildings, footpaths or bridle paths.

Our sincere thanks to Pam and Colin for welcoming us to their apiary and for the wonderful tea and refreshments back at their cottage following the meeting.

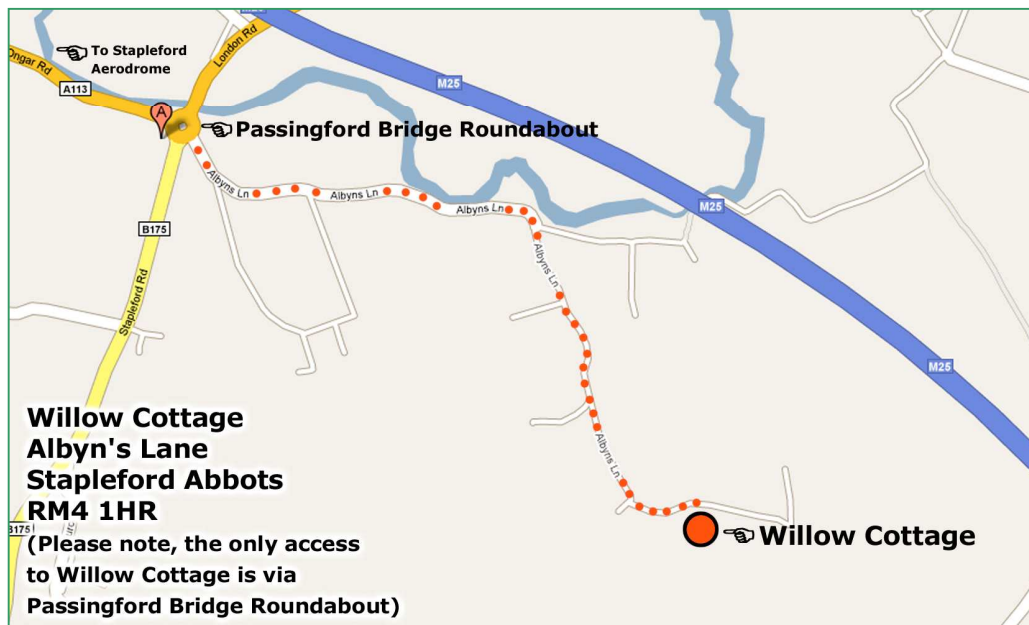


We would also like to thank all the members and guests who made it along – for what was our highest attendance ever! ♂

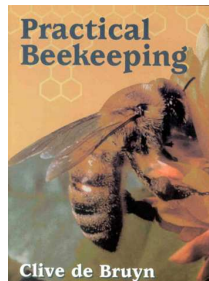
Next Meeting

Our next meeting is at Willow Cottage on Saturday 13th June 2009, meeting at 2.30 for a 3.00pm start. This is a lovely venue, well worth a visit on its own merit, and we are always given a very warm welcome by Christine Williams.

The position of the cottage is marked on the map below. At the Passingford Bridge roundabout at the junction of the A113 and B175, turn into Albyn's Lane and for about a mile follow the signs to Willow Cottage. The road becomes a track as it crosses Curtis Mill Green. Parking is available by the sides of the track by the cottage.



Clive de Bruyn will be giving a talk on Forage and Pollination. Author of 'Practical Beekeeping' Clive has 'hands on' experience as a beekeeper in many parts of the world, as well as being a bee farmer and a government adviser at the National Bee Unit.



Clive became a beekeeper in the late 1960s and has wide ranging interests and qualifications, including the National Diploma in Beekeeping. We hope to see you all there. ♂

Divisional Home

The Division received some unexpected but excellent news last month. The owner of a plot of presently unused land in Wanstead (Mr. Mark Stephens) has offered its use to the Division as a temporary apiary.

Located at 24 Langley Drive, Wanstead, London E11 2LL, the plot is approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ acre and has a small building with both water and electricity supply. Members are welcome to locate a hive on the site (one per member) subject to adherence to a set of apiary rules (available on application to the Treasurer). There will also be a nominal charge of around £10 to cover utility bills.



Though not a beekeeper himself, concerned by the recent press on the plight of bees, Mr. Stephens felt that this would be a good use to put the plot to. Though there are no guarantees as to how long the Division can make use of the site, we are sure all members would like to express their gratitude to Mr. Stephens' for his generosity.

Further details are available from Ted Gradosielski – see contact detail below. ♂

Gunpowder Mills

Despite very poor weather, the EFBKA pitch at the Steam & Country Show at Waltham Abbey in May was a great success. Our thanks to all the members who turned out in support and also those that manned the tent on the day. Let us hope that next year the weather is a little kinder. ♂



Contacts

Chairman - Helen Chadwick
Tel: 0208 523 5770
chairman@eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk

Secretary - Jenny Johns
Tel: 020 8529 2844
secretary@eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk

Treasurer - Ted Gradosielski
Tel: 01992 890 986
treasurer@eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk

Newsletter & Website - Kevin Cook
Tel: 0208 532 1584
webmaster@eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk