

Forest Beekeeper

The monthly newsletter of the Epping Forest Beekeepers

July 2009

www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk

The work of the honeybee

Jenny Johns reports on the summer meeting at Willow Cottage

On Saturday 13th June we had our annual meeting at Willow Cottage. The weather was lovely and we had the greatest support over recent times, with 65 people coming to listen to Clive de Bruyn speak on "Forage and Pollination".

Before the talk started, Ken Barker presented the beginners present with a certificate to mark the successful completion of their course.



Clive was in good form and gave a very thought provoking and entertaining talk, pitched exactly right for the wide range of experience of the audience. He started by getting us to picture two extremes; one, much like the garden we were in, with its wide range of coloured flowers attracting many insects, and the opposite situation, land with no colour, everything just green and brown and very few insects. He emphasised that we were a long way from



the latter but needed to work hard to make sure we did not get to that sad state of affairs.

All bees, solitary, bumble and hive bees are important pollinators of an enormous variety of flowering plants. These range from crop plants such as rape, borage, linseed, field beans, to fruit trees like plum, cherry and apple and also soft fruits. Although many trees are wind pollinated a large number have flowers that attract insects for pollination as do many of our garden and wild flowers.

Pollination, followed by fertilisation within the flower, enables the seeds to be produced so the next generation of plants can grow.



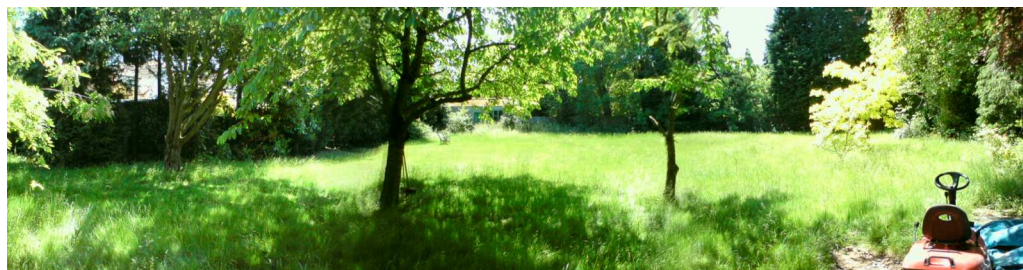
Although delivering a serious message Clive's talk was punctuated with anecdotes and jokes and so was light hearted and well received by those present. He finished by giving us a list of plants we could grow in our gardens to provide bees with pollen and nectar through out the season.

After some questions we adjourned to the garden by the cottage for a lovely tea that we have come to expect.

We must thank Christine Williams and her family who worked hard to provide us with a lovely tea and were completely unfazed by having to provide tea for 65 people at short notice! ♀

Apiary update

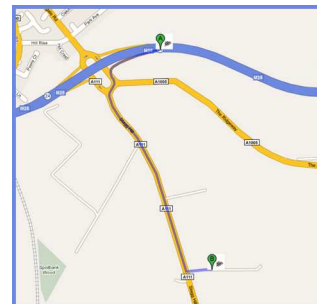
A team of division members, assisted by some volunteer newcomers, made a start on clearing the outbuildings at the division's new apiary at Wanstead.



This beautiful spot is located in the middle of a residential area, with an abundance of cultivated gardens in the surrounding areas. Members are welcome to locate a hive here, and should contact Ted Gradosielski for details (see contact details opposite). ♀

Next Meeting

Members should note that the July meeting is being held much earlier in the month (Sat 4th) – and will be held at Peter Dalby's apiary at Plumridge Farm, Stag Hill near Potters Bar. (Exit junction 24 of the M25, then head west on exit for 0.2 mile. At roundabout take the 2nd exit onto A111/Stagg Hill heading to A111/Cockfosters – 0.9 miles. Turn left destination will be on the left at about 0.1 mile).



Please be careful parking as there is a ditch at the side of the road. Final directions will be given to you on arrival.

If you are going to attend this meeting it is imperative that you contact Jenny Johns on 020 8529 2844 so that adequate refreshments can be provided. You will also need your bee suits as there will be both advanced and beginners demonstrations of hive inspections. Peter will be leading the first group whilst Ken will be leading the second.

Unfortunately there are no toilet facilities on site, but there will be cover should the weather be unkind.

Peter would like to remind members that he has stock of various beekeeping supplies (jars, frames etc) – but you will need to contact him before 3rd July if you want to collect these from the apiary on 4th. ♀

Jenny's Topical Tips

Regular 10-day inspections are still needed. Check for stores – especially if you have taken honey off as bees can still starve at this time of the year. Don't forget to carry out periodic Varroa counts. ♀

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