



Forest Beekeeper

The monthly newsletter of the Epping Forest Beekeepers

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www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk

Honey Show

More than just a celebration of honey – with entries received in most of the categories.

Gathering early on the morning of 12th September at St John's Church Hall, Buckhurst Hill, entrants and organisers of the EFBKA Honey Show set about displaying the entries for judging. Though primarily a honey show – there were entries for candles, mead, cakes and photography.



Show secretary, Peter Clarke, said "After a slow start this year's Honey Show was quite a success – with 13 entries and most of the categories covered. There were some new members who took part and did extremely well – even beating some of our more experienced beekeepers. Even being issued with the infamous entrant number '13' didn't seem to change their luck."

Once the entries were on display, all the entrants were asked to leave whilst our judge, John Mumford, made his deliberations. Peter added, "John said he was very impressed with the standards of honey – saying that it was some of the best he had ever tasted. He also said he enjoyed sampling the cakes and mead!"

The results from the show will be published later this year – with the presentations being made at the AGM on 21st January.



Peter finished his report by announcing that this will be his last year as Show Secretary. "I've been doing this for 5-years now and its probably time I made way to some of the new blood now coming into the Division. If anyone is interested I would be more than happy to assist them for the first year until they get their feet under the table."

Peter, and all Division members, would like to thank John Mumford for judging the show and the Buckhurst Hill Horticultural Society for playing host. Peter would also personally like to thank all the Division members who helped out on the day and all those that made the effort to enter. Without their participation we simply would not have a show. ♀



Chair talks allotments

By Helen Chadwick

Many months ago I was asked to give a talk by Division member, Chi Chan, at his allotment to promote beekeeping. 20th September was the dreaded day and I arrived at Cheshire Field Allotment site backed up by Joe, my son Nic and his girlfriend.

Chi and the Chair of the committee warmly welcomed us warning us that there were a couple of people who were extremely anti-bees and one in particular could burst into tears at the mere mention of the word.

The Committee had already prepared an excellent proposal to put forward to the plot holders. In the argument for bees I pointed out a healthy looking runner bean frame and said did you realise you already have bees on site other wise the beans would not have been pollinated. I then listed all the vegetables, herbs and fruit that would be pollinated by honey bees.

The only thing against was the slight possibility of getting stung. I then spoke about the responsibility of the beekeeper and said that they should have done a beginners course, be a member of an association, and keep good tempered bees.

I also said that from experience it was advisable to not work the bees at weekends and to put contact phone numbers on the site notice board. I advised plot holders not to wear strong perfume, and not to use cultivators near the bees which could annoy them.

I urged them to learn to recognise honey bees and I was asked many questions throughout the talk, and at the end we had honey available for the plot holders to taste and buy. Hopefully I had allayed their fears but Chi will let us know the final outcome in a couple of months time. ♀

What's on this month...

15th October – at the Chingford Horticultural Hall, Larkwood Road. The subject will be Beekeeping Anecdotes. If you want to add your own anecdotal stories on the night please contact Jenny Johns. ♀

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