



# Forest Beekeeper

The monthly newsletter of the Epping Forest Beekeepers

January 2010

[www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk](http://www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk)

## Happy New Year to All Our Members

Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2010.**

We will be meeting at 7.30pm for 8pm at Chingford Horticultural Society Hall, Larkshall Road, Chingford E4.

This is an opportunity to review the past year and look forward to, and have a say in the future of our division. Minutes of 2009 AGM and the agenda for 2010 are enclosed herewith. Please make every effort to attend this important meeting.

### Christmas Social

Our last meeting in December was our most popular festive social gathering to date! Even though the snow was falling, over 30 members braved the cold and turned out on the night. Everybody that attended was very generous bringing food, wine and all manner of consumables that were offered as raffle prizes.

New and established members chatted away and the enjoyable evening flew past, many thanks to all who helped and contributed. ☘



### Basic Course Badges

Readers of the BBKA News may have noticed That embroidered badges are now available at only £2.00 each. Please see page 27 for more information.

### Kens Corner

Ken's beginner's course starts on the 4<sup>th</sup> of February.

Fees for the course must be paid in full before this date else your place may be passed on to another candidate that is currently on our extensive waiting list. Any queries should be directed to Ken Barker on 07946 791 282 ☘

### Topical Tips

By Jenny Johns

Continue to make regular checks on the stores in the hive by hefting to gauge the weight. The only food that you can give in midwinter is candy, although if it is cold, the bees will be in a cluster and so not able to take advantage of it.

When this cold snap finally comes to an end it will be an excellent opportunity to treat the hives with oxalic acid if you plan to use it.

The long cold spell that we have had should Mean that the colony will have no brood after all this time. If you need any help with this please contact Ken or Jenny and Mike. ☘

### Membership Fees

Essex Beekeeping membership fees are now due.

If you have not already paid please send your membership forms to Ted Gradosielski at your earliest convenience, you can either send a cheque enclosed with your form or if you use online-banking, you can credit Epping Forest Beekeepers directly.

If using an internet banking service please use your name in the reference box, otherwise please post or email it directly to Ted.

It is important that you indicate in box six if you are a tax payer or not.

If you think you will be keeping bees during 2010 then please tick the single or dual member box so that you have the benefit of the public liability insurance. ☘

### Contacts

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### Winter

A most difficult time for bees, even more so if the bee keeper hasn't prepared the hives correctly. This is the time of year when the most losses occur, mainly through ignorance or bad management when hives are left to their own devices.

Good wintering techniques should start months before the first frost.