



Forest Beekeeper

The monthly newsletter of the Epping Forest Beekeepers
June 2010

www.eppingforestbeekeepers.co.uk

The apiary meeting on Saturday 8th May at Wanstead was well attended, and division members sheltered from the elements under the new gazebo, to hear Ken Barker talk about apiary hygiene with some practical explanations. There was an opportunity for all those present to inspect a hive, a good chance for some of the beginners in the group who don't yet have their own bees to practise their handling skills.

Don't forget there will be another visit to the Wanstead apiary on Saturday 28th August. It is a real bonus to have this apiary available to us, thanks to the generosity of local resident Mark Stephens ☺



Bees in slo-mo

Division member, Kevin Cook, regularly reviews new video technology for his trade body's monthly magazine and recently had the opportunity to use Olympus' i-SPEED TR high-speed video camera to film some slow motion shots of bees.

The camera is capable of capturing up to 2,000 frames per second which resulted in some very interesting footage of his bees flying in and out of the hive. Bees' wings beat roughly 250 times a second, so the footage shows quite clearly the butterfly-stroke movement of their wings.

Kevin has uploaded the video to the Vimeo website here (<http://vimeo.com/11791440>). ☺



Our next meeting is on Saturday 12th June 2010 at Willow Cottage. We will meet at 2.30 and the talk will commence at 3.00pm Breda Reynolds is coming to talk to us about Organic Gardening. Breda is an Environmental Scientist who has specialized in sustainable horticulture and practical allotment gardening. She is very enthusiastic about gardening without the use of pesticides and will be able to give us lots of ideas on how to do this.

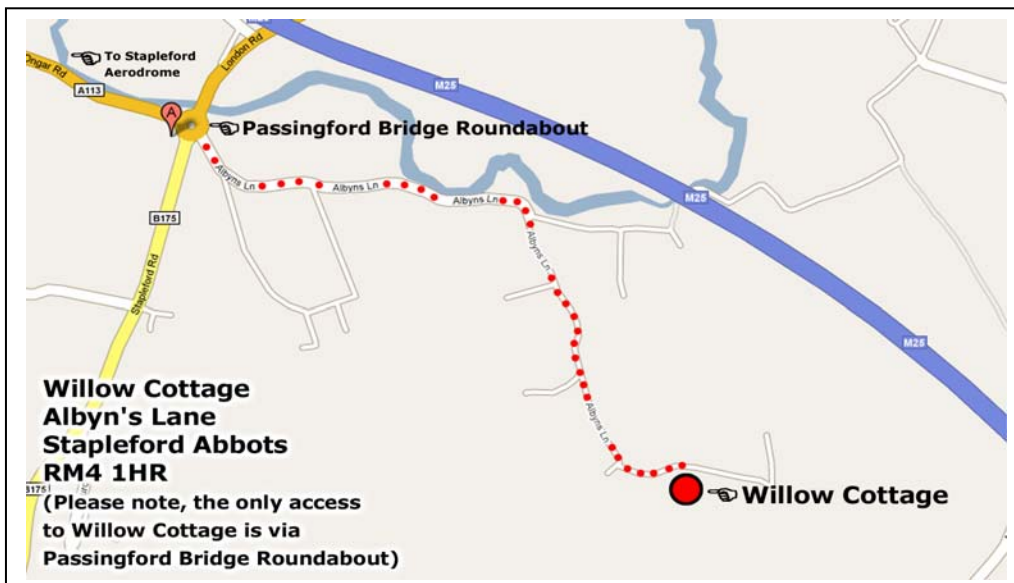
Willow Cottage is in a beautiful setting tucked away in Curtis Mill Green, near Stapleford Abbots and is worth a visit on its own merit. We have been going there regularly since the 1950s and have always been very warmly welcomed by the Williams family. After the talk we will be able to wander in the lovely garden and have tea. ☺

Directions to Willow Cottage:

Please see the map on the left. On the A113, the Abridge to Ongar road, at Passingford Bridge, which is at the junction of the A113 and the B175, turn into Albyn's Lane and follow for about a mile the signs to Willow Cottage.

The tarmac road winds along for about a half a mile and then becomes a track as it crosses Curtis Mill Green. Parking is available by the sides of the track by the cottage. ☺

Directions to Willow Cottage



Topical Tips Try and keep up with regular weekly inspections if possible to look out for queen cells, as bees often swarm this month. If any queen cells are found you will need to carry out an artificial swarm if you want to stop them from swarming.

Keep adding supers as necessary, to give them plenty of room. This also helps to prevent swarming. Let's hope for good sunny weather so we have a good foraging month and lots of honey! ☺



Chair's Corner

At long last the weather has turned warmer and the supers are filling up. I gather that some beginners are getting hives and bees and putting all the theory into practise.

I look forward to having a chat with everyone while enjoying a leisurely tea at Willow Cottage, hope to see you all there.

Helen Chadwick ☺

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