

Dear Member

I hope you are all keeping well.

As I write this, I'm conscious of the distinct chill in the air as this year's long autumn transitions into winter. I'm sure your thoughts, like mine, are turning both to cosy dark evenings at home beside a warm fire and the forthcoming family seasonal celebrations. But do remember to make sure that your colonies are comfortable too - topping up their stores, as necessary, with a supply of fondant and giving health boosting winter Varroa treatments. Our Club shop is open in the coming weeks to help you with this with all the essential items for your bees. Do note the new opening hours below.

Going forward, we're looking making it easier for members to make online orders for items from the shop. It's part of the hard work, our webmaster, Nick Fry, has been doing to update and rejuvenate our internet presence creating a vibrant portal for the public and members like. Nick would welcome your thoughts on the items/resources you would like to see on the Membership pages. Please send your thoughts and comments to webmaster@epsombeekers.co.uk

This is my first newsletter as your new Chairman. It's a great privilege to assume the role. As I set out I'd like to pay tribute to my predecessor, Gill Fitcher, for her hard work and enthusiasm on behalf of Epsom Beekeepers. You're going to be a hard act to follow, Gill - and I'm very pleased you'll be staying on to give us the benefit of your expertise as our new Trustee.



Gill receives a Thank You bouquet at the 2022 AGM

While I'm at it, I'd like to welcome our new Committee members and to thank all the Committee for their help and enormous energy during the year. Finally, I'd like to

thank you all for being active members and playing your part in our lively, friendly beekeepers club.

Our next Club meeting is on **10 January 2023**. On behalf of the Committee, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a merry Christmas and all the best for a happy and healthy 2023!

Stuart Gendall
Chair, EBKA

Candle Dipping Tuesday 6 December or 13 December - but you must book your place!

We are excited to announce that the Christmas candle dipping event will be held again in December! As this is always popular, we are offering a choice of two dates to ensure that we get as many of you dipping that we can! Limiting the number of people attending (15) gives maximum space and time to make sure that you take home a high-quality candle (or two) for your Christmas table. There will be a small charge of £3 per candle to cover the cost of wick/electricity - this will be payable on the door when you check in.

Please email education@epsombeekeepers.co.uk with your preferred date ASAP. Spaces will be allocated on a 'first come first serve' basis so if one date gets booked out you will be offered the alternative.

NEW! Winter shop opening hours

During the festive season we are making a change to our usual opening hours. We will now be open:

- Tues 6 December - from 7pm (before candle dipping, no appointment needed)
- Tues 13 December - from 7pm (before candle dipping, no appointment needed)
- Sat 10 December - by appointment from 11:30am
- Sat 24 December - closed for holiday (*Ho! Ho! Ho!*)
- Tues 3 January - closed for holiday (*Oh! Oh! Oh! My head!*)
- Tues 10 January - from 7pm (before meeting - no appointment needed)
- Sat 14 January - by appointment from 11:30am
- Sat 28 January - by appointment from 11:30am

Winter Feed

If you are at all worried that your colonies don't have enough stores - the [National Bee Unit](#) recommends 18-22 kg (40-50lb in olde money) or about 10 brood frames - then please consider top up winter feeding with fondant.

Our shop stocks 2.5kg packs of **Apicandy** for £6 each. The Ambrosia fondant is made of Microfine sugar crystals surrounded by a sugar syrup. The syrup prevents the crystals from becoming encrusted and enables easy acceptance by the bees. Because of the low water content, it can also be stored for around 2 years in temperatures

between 10-14°C. The major benefit is ease of handling for the beekeeper all you do is create a 2cm wide slit and lay the pack directly on top of the frames.

Give your Bees a Treat

While you're at it, don't let the festivities distract you from the fight against the beekeeper's public enemy #1 **Varroa Destructor**. Despite the mild weather the Queens will be at their lowest laying rate or indeed stop laying at all around the solstice on 21st Dec. This means midwinter is the perfect time to treat bees by sublimating or dribbling **Apibioxal** (the approved version of Oxalic acid). We sell 35g packs of Apibioxal (enough for 10 treatments) for £13.50.

Hope you and your bees are well fed and healthy going into 2023!

Ewell Yule is Back!! – It's the place to be on Friday 9 December!!!

With no lock down restrictions and a lovely new market area in the Grove the village traders are going all out for a spectacular Ewell Yule on the evening of Friday 9 December. Set up starts from 4pm with the market area open from 5-8pm.

It would be lovely to have a rota of people for our EBKA stall through the evening. This way everyone can also take some time to shop the market, visit the festivities - and grab a warm drink! The forecast is for dry but chilly.

We have a number of people helping put our stall up – but not many volunteers to help through the evening including packing up between 8-9pm when the road reopens.

If you can help - if only for a few hours - please email shop@epsombeekers.co.uk Many hands make light work!

PS With the dark evenings well upon us we'd like to make our stall shine out from the crowd. Please contact us if you have some battery powered fairy lights, strip lights or camping lights you could lend the team for the event'

PPS Anyone with a Facebook or Instagram account please share the posts about the event – it all helps to bring local people in for the evening. *Ho! Ho! Ho!*

Reminder – Help Zoe's fundraising for our Club

Zoe Kingham has taken up the challenge to run a **half-marathon on 29 January 2023**, at Crystal Palace to raise vital funds for the club.

Zoe - our bee fundraiser!

"I'm raising money for the Epsom and Ewell Bee Club", Zoe says. "They practice and promote the craft of beekeeping in Epsom and the surrounding area. They help educate people of all ages (from schools to adults) about the importance of honeybees and what can be done to help protect them and prevent their decline."

Zoe's target is to complete the run in 2 hours. Please consider supporting both Zoe and EBKA by visiting [Zoe's Just Giving Fundraising Page](#) and sponsoring her. You can keep up with her progress on this page as well.