SBKA Epsom Division NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2011

Apiary at: Upper Mill, Kingston Road, Ewell, Surrey KT17 2AF
Registered Charity No 1026386

Apiary News- Sub Committee meeting 9th December. Report to follow

Epsom AGM - Please see a letter from the Chair, Liz Knee at the end of this newsletter

Tuesday Talks Reports-

Sweet Making - Mollie Bonard Tuesday Nov 15th Attendees cooked honey fudge, honeycomb and something called honey taffy. The fudge was a particular success.

Management of Hives Tuesday November 22nd. This was well attended, standing room only! Everyone found it an interesting and informative evening. Mike Hill of Reigate Division was very knowledgeable. Many thanks Mike for your talk

Hive photos from May to September, Hein Bence Tuesday Nov 29th. Report by Steve Secker- Hein had cleverly erected a removable rack that enabled him to suspend, hands free, each brood frame above the brood-box of his single hive. With the rack in place and his camera on a tripod each side of each numbered frame was photographed twice, once when covered with bees and again having been shaken.
Hein had done this because he admitted in his first year he lacked confidence and wanted to ensure he did not miss disease of his bees or brood. By using the same focal length for each slide and the audience were able to see a particular slide on a week by week basis through the height of the season.
Thanks Hein for a very interesting and thought provoking talk. It gave Steve the idea of using the set up to examine a specific frame on a daily basis to show how the queen commences laying in the middle of a frame and concentrically lays out to the frame extremity.

Any suggestions (or volunteers!) for future talks?

NESCOT

Spaces for 5 more members. If you would like to visit the site or are interested in keeping your bees there please contact Liz on 0208 786 8170 or by email liz.knee@googlemail.com. Room for a couple more hives only.
Sites are available in the Ashtead/Leatherhead area - please contact Catherine Delehanty: camdel36@yahoo.co.uk /tel: 01372 277107.

Dates For Diary

Feb 18th Surrey Bee Day 2012- at Ewell Castle School £20 - further details will be sent out shortly

FUTURE BEEKEEPERS: Beginners Course Jan 2012.
Our beginners Beekeeping Course starts on Tuesday 10th January 2012. An application form can be downloaded from our website: http://epsombeekeepers.co.uk, or contact Jill Forbes on either 0208 647 7963 or jill.forbes1@btinternet.com

Apimondia International Bee Health Symposium, Dublin, Ireland, 24th March

The first Apimondia International Bee Health Symposium will take place in Dublin, Ireland, on Saturday, 24th March in the Citywest Hotel and Convention Centre, and is expected to attract 250 delegates from the beekeeping and scientific community. Bee Health 2012 is the only Apimondia endorsed meeting this year that will focus entirely on the crucial area of bee health.

The Symposium, the first of its kind, will feature roundtable discussions between beekeepers and leading scientists with the aim of transferring knowledge between the two groups to create practical solutions to dramatically reduce colony loss. If you need any further information, please contact the conference organisers at this e-mail address or visit the conference website at www.beehealth2012.ie.

Still a few places left on the Theory Course Farnham Beekeeping Association will be running in February 2012 on beekeeping, which will be held at The Tilford Institute.

Course Tutors

Alastair Welch
Master Beekeeper with the British Beekeeping Association

Hazel Sharples
Holder of the Advanced Theory Certificate
With the British Beekeeping Association

Mike Dorricott
Farnham Committee Member
And Co-Manager of the Farnham Apiary

The Course is held over eight consecutive weeks, starting on Saturday 4th February 2012 commencing at 9.30 am and each session will run for approximately 2½ hours, with a break midway for tea or coffee.

Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come basis.
Apply by email to AWelch1944@aol.com

The lectures are as follows :

Session 1	Bee Castes & Life Cycle. Basic beekeeping equipment to enable you to start with bees.
Session 2	The Beekeeping year. Hive mechanics/frames and boxes.
Session 3	How to get started with bees. Where to get equipment from.
Session 4	How bees work and Setting up an Apiary.
Session 5	Diseases and Parasites. Hive hygiene.
Session 6	Swarming and swarm management. Collecting and hiving swarms.
Session 7	The Honey Crop. Storage, jars and labelling.
Session 8	Going in to Winter. Feeding and what to feed.

Information hand-outs are provided for each session.

Course Fee £70, Cheques payable to Farnham Beekeeping

Beekeepers Quarterly

Some members may be unaware that they can get The Beekeepers Quarterly at a reduced rate of £16 per annum through Surrey BKA - a very worthwhile reduction on the normal price of £24. The magazine makes an excellent complement to Bee Craft, having contributions from around the globe and informative articles on a wide range of topics, as well as book reviews, etc. To keep the publishers' costs down, reduced rate subscriptions are handled by the Guildford Division treasurer, Malcolm Clarke, through his personal bank account. Just send him a cheque payable to him at Firways, Row Lane, Shere GUILDFORD GU5 9JW with a note of your name and address. A subscription also makes a Christmas present which lasts through the year.

Christmas Gift Ideas

Magazine subscriptions, books, DVDs, Apiary Guides, & gifts all available online from the Beecraft shop **http://www.bee-craft.com/shop/**

Thornes-on-line Sale: Starts 9am Monday 21st December. More details on their website: **http://www.thorne.co.uk**

If you have a spare hour or so in the next couple of weeks how about making up some bees wax lip balm for stocking fillers

Beeswax Lip Balm

Ingredients:

36g Cocoa Butter	6g Beeswax
12g Shea Butter	2g Jojoba Oil
6g Olive Oil	8 – 12 drops Peppermint or other essential oil to suit (Optional)

Method:

Place all ingredients in a glass jug and allow to melt under a low heat (don't use plastic; you'll be scrubbing wax off forever!). Keep on the heat for at least 20minutes to ensure breakdown of the shea butter crystals.

Remove from the heat and add the essential oil (if using). Pour into small slide tins and allow to cool before putting on the lid.

Shelf Life: 18 – 24 months

The supplier I use for ingredients is The Soap Kitchen http://www.thesoapkitchen.co.uk/, and for pots SHC Ltd http://www.shcweb.co.uk/eshop/

Bees in the news: Elephant and bee researcher nets green prize

By Richard Black Environment correspondent, BBC News

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-15836079 23 November 2011

A British scientist has won a coveted environment research prize for showing how bees can be used to reduce conflict between people and elephants. Lucy King's work proved that beehive "fences" can keep elephants out of African farmers' fields or compounds.

The animals are scared of bees, which can sting them inside their trunks, and flee when they hear buzzing.

"Her research underlines how working with, rather than against, nature can provide humanity with many of the solutions to the challenges countries and communities face," said Achim Steiner, executive director of the UN Environment Programme (Unep). "Dr King's work spotlights an intelligent solution to an age-old challenge, while providing further confirmation of the importance of bees to people and a really clever way of conserving the world's largest land animal for current and future generations."

Working in Kenya, she and her team showed that more than 90% of elephants will flee when they hear the sounds of buzzing bees. Subsequently, they also found that elephants produce a special rumble to warn their fellows of the danger.
They used the findings to construct barriers where beehives are woven into a fence, keeping the elephants away from places where people live and grow food.

A two-year pilot project involving 34 farms showed that elephants trying to go through the fences would shake them, disturbing the bees.

Newsletter Items

If you have any news, items of interest, book or course reviews for the news letter please send them to ebkanewsletter@gmail.com

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Merry Christmas and a Buzzing New Year to all

Tina Corr Newsletter Editor *ebkanewsletter@gmail.com*

Dear Members

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the members of the Epsom Division of Surrey Beekeepers committee and their roles.

Main committee

Chair	Liz Knee	liz.knee@googlemail.com
Secretary	Peter Smith	peter@pfhc.co.uk
Treasurer	Sue Brookes	sue.brookes62@gmail.com
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	Mike Petryszyn	mike.petryszyn@yahoo.com

We held our first meeting on Nov 28th (minutes of which will be posted on the website shortly). As a result of initial discussions we have decided to form five sub committees to ensure that all aspects of the Epsom Division Apiary are addressed. Each committee comprises a chair and up to five members. Under the direction of the committee chairs, surveys will be carried out and reports brought back to the Main Committee for discussion and action.

Chairs of sub committees

Buildings and Grounds	Neil Manley
Apiary	Steve Secker
Communication and Publicity	Andrew Knott
Education, Training and Events	Alasdair Maclean
Administration	Sue Brookes

We would like to involve all members of the Epsom Division and if you have any expertise or interest in any of the above areas please let us know.

If you have any interesting articles, anecdotes, photographs etc to do with beekeeping please contact Tina Corr for inclusion in the newsletter ebkanewsletter@gmail.com

Our next meeting will be held on the 9th January 2012 at 8pm. Any member is welcome along as an observer.

And finally would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Liz Knee
Chair