



SBKA EPSOM DIVISION NEWSLETTER JULY 2011

Apiary at: Upper Mill, Kingston Road, Ewell, Surrey KT17 2AF
Registered Charity No 1026386
Website: www.epsombeekkeepers.co.uk

Apiary News

News from Queen Rearing Programme

5 frame nucleus colonies available now...

Three five frame nucs have now been delivered to Association members and a fourth is in the pipeline. Further colonies are available for sale at £125 each. The QRP team is happy to deliver within a reasonable radius of Ewell and to advise on siting and management if desired. Colonies are supplied in a polystyrene nucleus which we ask you to return to the club apiary at Ewell when you have transferred the bees and frames to your own hive.

Colonies have been building up well in the recent honey flow and should be in good condition for overwintering ready for a flying start next year.

If you would like one of these colonies, all of which have been raised from known stocks of bees (not swarms), please contact Phil Shepherd at shepland1@googlemail.com or David Jones at david.jones2008@o2.co.uk

Local Vandalism

Apparently there has been some "wilful damage and graffiti" along the foot paths by the river outside the apiary and the police are warning everyone to be vigilant and keep cars locked at all times.

A big 'Thank you' to the person who removed all the rubbish cardboard boxes etc from the apiary. If anyone can spare an hour or so on **Saturday 16th from 10.00 am** onwards to help tidy up in preparation for our open day, we would really appreciate your help. You might even get a cuppa!

NESCOT Apiary

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

Waitrose Community Matters – July - Shop now!

Epsom Beekeepers have finally been selected to participate in the counter collection scheme in July at the Epsom store located in the Ashley centre. So look out for the collection boxes as you leave the store and encourage everyone you know to post their tokens in the Epsom Beekeepers' collection box. Waitrose donate £1000 every month which is then shared out between the 3 charities in proportion to the amount of tokens collected. Thanks to Andrew Barnett for arranging this.

Congratulations to the following members who have passed their BBKA Basic Exam 2011: Roz Lewis, Caroline Herring, Alasdair Maclean, Nigel Sewell, Mike Madgwick & Peter Smith.

And congratulations to Bob Maurer, Chairman of SBKA on becoming a Master Beekeeper.

New Members We would like to extend a very warm welcome to the following new members: Dave Sheppard and Sue Whiteway.

Forthcoming Events at the Apiary...

'Clean-up Sunday' at the Apiary The clean up day has been **cancelled** and will be rearranged in the autumn

Open Day at the Apiary – 16th July If anyone has any spare honey to sell (10% to club) we would be most grateful for contributions, as well as any honey & bee related produce. Volunteers required to help out on the day (**Apiary tidy-up from 10am**) - bring all your family and friends along to see the apiary. Contact info@epsombeekkeepers.co.uk

Request for Man with a Van !!! Would any one be able to help transport 4 tables and 2 gazebos to and from the Lavender fields on weekend of 24/25th July. Please contact Mollie Bonard on 0208 647 7424 or moleandbee@gmail.com.

Autumn Club Evenings

We will be running a series of talks and demonstrations in the autumn provisionally to be held on Tuesday evenings. If you have any suggestions for topics and/or speakers who may be of interest to members at the club, please email Peter Smith at [:info@epsombeekkeepers.co.uk](mailto:info@epsombeekkeepers.co.uk)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2011

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|--------------------|---|
| Jul-16 | Epsom Open Day at the Apiary |
| Jul-16 | Garden Plants For Bees Workshop- University of Sussex |
| Jul 24-29 | FIBKA Summer School (Irish Beekeepers Association) Gormanstan |
| Jul 30/31st | Carshalton Lavender Fields Harvest |
| Aug 5-7 | First UK Natural Bee Keeping Conference 2011 |
| Aug-06 | Blackhorse Apiaries - OPEN DAY |
| Aug 29 | Epsom Family Fun Day – Epsom Racecourse |
| Sep-10 | Epsom Honey Show |
| Oct 27/29 | National Honey Show, Weybridge |
| Nov-12 | Epsom AGM |
| Dec-03 | SBKA AGM at the Tilford institute, Tilford, Nr Farnham |

Epsom Family Fun Day – Epsom Racecourse Monday 29th August 2011

Epsom Beekeepers have booked a stand at this event which is organised by The Epsom Training and Development Fund . Attractions include a parade of ex-racehorses, pony rides and a Shetland Pony Derby. The organisers estimate that 11,000 people attended last year so we will be looking for volunteers to set up and man the stall , and also plenty of **honey** and bee related produce to sell on the day: ...wax candles, honey cake, fudge, soaps, cosmetics etc. All members are welcome to supply and sell goods on the stall, with 10% of your takings donated to EBKA. Please contact Jill Forbes (0208 6477933 or jill.forbes1@btinternet.com) who is kindly coordinating the event on our behalf.

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://epsombeekkeepers.co.uk>, or contact Jill Forbes on either 0208 647 7963 or jill.forbes@btinternet.com.

FIBKA Summer School in Ireland

From 24th –29th July. The venue is Gormanston College – a boarding school, north of Dublin and only a couple miles from the sea. There is accommodation on site.

The lectures and demonstrations are pitched at three levels, basic, intermediate, and advanced.

For more information see:

www.irishbeekeeping.ie/

The National Honey Show 27 -29th October 2011 – Offer for New Beekeepers

If you joined Epsom Beekeepers Association after 1 August 2010, the National Honey Show is offering you a reduced entry fee of £5 rather than £15. Please contact our Club Secretary Peter Smith peter@pfhc.co.uk to apply on your behalf. Cut off date for applications are 31 July 2011. For more information see BBKA News May 2011.

Hum by Mary Oliver

What is this dark hum among the roses?
The bees have gone simple, sipping,
that's all. What did you expect? Sophistication?
They're small creatures and they are
filling their bodies with sweetness, how could they not
moan in happiness? The little worker
bee lives, I have read, about three weeks.
Is that long? Long enough, I suppose, to understand
that life is a blessing. I have found them-haven't you?—
stopped in the very cups of the flowers, their wings
a little tattered-so much flying about, to the hive,
then out into the world, then back, and perhaps dancing,
should the task be to be a scout-sweet, dancing bee.
I think there isn't anything in this world I don't
admire. If there is, I don't know what it is. I
haven't met it yet. Nor expect to. The bee is small,
and since I wear glasses, so I can see the traffic and
read books, I have to
take them off and bend close to study and
understand what is happening. It's not hard, it's in fact
as instructive as anything I have ever studied. Plus, too,
it's love almost too fierce to endure, the bee
nuzzling like that into the blouse
of the rose. And the fragrance, and the honey, and of course
the sun, the purely pure sun, shining, all the while, over
all of us.

Letters to the Editor...

Hello, my name is Amy Hatton and I am a freelance journalist. I am interested in writing an article about beekeeping for syndication to UK publications. The article will highlight current messages in the press about the plight of bee populations and the importance of keeping bees. However I am looking to put a bit of a different spin on the piece.

We read a lot about how to support bees, the benefits of beekeeping to swarms and to the environment in general. My extra interest is in the benefits of beekeeping for the beekeepers themselves. I am looking for interesting case studies from beekeepers who have found the experience has in some way had an unusual impact on their lives.

For example: Income from bee related produce may have helped a couple or family beat the recession.

Beekeeping may have helped a couple save their marriage, helped a family relationship, or perhaps even been therapeutic for somebody suffering from illness or a condition.

These are just examples - I would love to hear from any beekeeper who feels that beekeeping has had a positive impact on their life for a particular reason.

I am also interested in any companies or businesses that are encouraging the practice of office rooftop beekeeping - how has it helped them to build their team?

Writing the article would involve an interview - by phone or face to face, possibly a visit to the beekeeper to see them in action, and photograph them.

I hope your members might be interested in participating in this. The article will reflect the facts and figures about beekeeping, but is also intended to be a warm, and entertaining piece designed to get readers thinking about what benefits beekeeping might have for them, and possibly even get more people interested in taking the plunge!

I would be very grateful if you were willing to forward this to your members and they are very welcome to e-mail me directly if they would be interested in taking part. There is no payment offered for taking part - just the fun and satisfaction of seeing themselves in print, and helping the media to encourage more people to take up this valuable pastime.

I would be grateful if you could let me know whether you can help by circulating my request.

*Many thanks,
Amy Hatton*

Please contact Amy directly if you would like to participate: <http://amyhatton.writersresidence.com>

HIVE SITES available in the Ashted/Leatherhead area.

Contact Catherine Delehanty: camdel36@yahoo.co.uk phone 01372 277107 Thank you.

Bees in the News:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/cafedirect/small-scale-artisan-food-producers-uk-sustainability>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-south-east-wales-13734617>

(Ladybirds!) <http://www.iol.co.za/scitech/science/environment/ladybird-facing-same-fate-as-honey-bee-1.1084173>

<http://planetearth.nerc.ac.uk/news/story.aspx?id=996>

http://www.london24.com/news/london_mayor_boris_johnson_in_save_the_bees_bid_1_920601

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-lancashire-13742045>

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