



Warwick and Leamington Branch of Warwickshire Beekeepers

January Members' Meeting

Branch Meeting Thursday 18th January at Kings Hill Garden Centre.

BEEKEEPERS QUESTIONTIME

We have an illustrious panel consisting of Jane Medwell, David Stott and Dave Bonner, who I believe are all master beekeepers!!!!

We would love as many members as possible to come along with any questions about Bees. If you are a little shy, then write out your question and it will be passed to the panel for them to answer.

Usual time 7 for 7.30 p.m. with cake, biscuits, coffee, tea and plenty of chat.....

Mary

Membership Renewal for 2018

It is that time of the year again where expenses appear on the horizon thick and fast. Included in this is individual member's renewal of their membership of Warwick and Leamington Beekeepers Branch of Warwickshire Beekeepers for 2018 accompanied by the fee. Subscriptions are due by **31 December 2017**.

As in previous years your membership, with the exception of Associate Members, will cover your renewal with Warwickshire Beekeepers' Association and with the British Beekeepers' Association.

The first step is to complete the renewal form on the home page of the Warwick and Leamington Beekeepers website www.warleambees.org.uk.

The second step is to pay your subscription either by BACS payments (**Account No** 00173056, **Sort Code** 30-94-93, **Account Name** Warwick & Leamington Spa Branch of WBKA) or by cheque (made out to W & L Beekeepers and sent to Mrs Val Dillon, Oak Tree Cottage, Cryfield Grange Road, Kenilworth, CV8 2JU). The fees are as follows:- **Full Members** inclusive of insurance for up to 3 colonies* - £45.00; **Partner Members** - £20.30; **Junior Members** - £16.00; **Associate Members** - £5.00. * Full Members should add £2.00 for the additional insurance up to 5 colonies, £5.25 for the additional insurance to 10 colonies, £7.75 for additional insurance up to 15 colonies, £9.50 for additional insurance up to 20 colonies and £11.10 for additional insurance up to 25 colonies.

In the event of members requiring newsletters by post as opposed to Email a further £13.00 should be added to the subscription. For a full explanation of the subscription structure, please go to the members area of the branch website <http://www.warleambees.org.uk/wlbksubscription-rates/>

Notice of Annual General Meeting

At the last Branch Committee meeting the timetable for the Branch AGM was noted now that we have a new constitution. The Branch AGM will take place from 7.30pm on **Thursday 15 February 2018** at The National Beekeeping Centre, National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh Park, CV8 2LG. Any member wishes to make any proposals at the AGM they are requested to notify the Branch Secretary by the **1st February 2018** in writing and any proposal should be counter-signed by a seconder.

Nominations for Election to the Branch Committee

Members are invited to put their names forward to the Branch Secretary for election to the Branch Committee at the 2018AGM. The Branch Committee normally meets 6 times a year at Stoneleigh on a Monday evening. The purpose of the Committee is to determine general policy, plan and implement our range of activities and services and to plan, monitor and control income and expenditure.

As with any volunteer led organisation its strength is founded on the active participation of members at all levels (young; old; new and experienced etc.etc.) and with a wide range of skills and knowledge. We will have some vacancies on our Committee in 2018, and we wish to ensure traditional ideas are questioned and new ideas are considered in taking the branch forward in 2018. Influencing the branch's direction is rewarding and as a member you will discover more about how the Branch, County Association and the BBKA function.

If you would like your name put forward contact the Branch Secretary.
Chris Cox (email: secretary@warleambees.org.uk)

Wax workshop 2017

On 25th November Gill Grimshaw hosted a beeswax workshop at Warwick Saltisford Centre. Roger was swamped by 11 very enthusiastic women as Gill presented a fun, informative and interactive workshop.

The morning started with a brief overview of all you need to know about making beeswax products; this included how not to set your kitchen on fire and your responsibilities when selling cosmetics. The morning flew by as we divided into 3 groups and rotated around to ensure we all had an opportunity to make polishes, soaps, cosmetics and candles.

The venue was ideal with the canal providing a beautiful backdrop as we hung our creations out to cool. There was plenty of equipment, wax, butters, oils, colouring and good humour as we experimented with different combinations to create our unique recipes.

We all received great written information and plenty of goodies to take home. We ended the morning with a birthday cake to celebrate Sylvia's birthday. Feedback from us all was exceptionally positive; well organised and managed by Gill and her team of trusty workers, great value for money and a request for more workshops in the future.

Hints and Tips

- If one of your New Year Resolutions is to try to be more organic this year, a good place to start would be to think about what you put in your smoker! Because smoke by definition contains pollutants and toxins, the type of fuel used in the smoker is important. Ideally only use smoker fuels that are derived from natural sources. Natural in this case means in its natural form without any added ingredients or chemicals. This therefore excludes newspaper and cardboard but wood shavings and sawdust (from untreated wood), pine needles (recycle your Christmas tree!), leaves and dried grasses are all fine.

Did you know of all the creatures in the wild, the moth is the only one famous for not having a healthy fear of fire

- And finally..... make 2018 the year that you enter the Branch Honey Show there are lots of sleeps left to dream about that perfect entry!

If you have any hints or tips that you would like to share, please send them to h.essex@virgin.net...

Thank you Helen Essex



**A VERY HAPPY
NEW YEAR
TO YOU ALL
ROGER**



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Please send in plain text, unformatted, using Microsoft Word or another common program.

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