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Warwick and Leamington Branch of Warwickshire Beekeepers

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## Membership Renewal

This is a reminder to all members that their membership for 2019 is now due.

Please go to our website [www.warleambees.org.uk](http://www.warleambees.org.uk) and complete the membership renewal form which you will find in the Members' Area. The password is mandible.

The basic membership for full members with up to 3 hives is £43. An extra £2 to be paid for up to 5 hives. If you have more than 5 hives then please follow the information on the website.

Partner members subs are £20.30, Junior Members £16 and Associate members £5.

Please make your payment as soon as possible. Membership runs from January 1<sup>st</sup> until December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Val Dillon  
Treasurer  
and  
Membership Secretary

## Branch Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Branch is to be held in February. The business of the meeting shall include:

- (a) the receipt and consideration of reports including references to the achievement of its charitable objects and of the Branch accounts for the previous year.
- (b) the Election of Officers and Committee Members.
- (c) the Appointment of an Independent Examiner.
- (d) the demonstration of the Branch capitation fee payable by all the grades of Member other than Branch honorary life Members for the next financial year.
- (e) consideration of any proposal of other matter of which due notice has been given as set out below.

Any eligible Member of the Branch wishing to make any proposal or raise any other matter for discussion at a Branch AGM shall give written notice to the Branch Secretary not later than 14 days preceding the meeting. In the case of a proposal, the notice shall be counter-signed by the eligible Member seconding the proposal. This sub-rule shall not preclude the amendment of any proposal during the discussion in the course of the AGM.

At least 28 days' notice of the Branch General Meeting shall be given to all Members of the Branch. Any proposal must be received by the Branch Secretary at least 14 days prior to the meeting, and the Agenda and any proposals to be sent out to eligible Members at least 7 days before the AGM."

The Timetable:

Notify Members of AGM	by 17 <sup>th</sup> January 2019
Deadline for receipt of proposals	31 <sup>st</sup> January
2019	
Circulation of Agenda for AGM	by 7 <sup>th</sup> February 2019

## Help ! Warwick and Leamington Beekeepers need a Librarian.

Over many years Jane Rigby has carried out the role of Librarian for the Branch. In this role she has manfully (have checked this is appropriate in this gender conscious age) appeared at many functions laden down with the large boxes containing a multiplicity of books, both old and new. Jane has manned the tables and kept the records of who has what. She also managed the small annual budget each year in case members wished the library to obtain particular reference books for members. (Note: This sum was normally unspent as it appear we already have an extensive list of reading matter augmented by many books gifted to the branch.)

Jane has decided to stand down at the Branch AGM in February and we now need to find a member who will be willing to volunteer to take on this role.

One aspect of the role, following the move of the Training Apiary to Kings Hill Nursery and with most of our meeting taking place there, is that the storage and hefting (a good old beekeeping term) of the books will no longer be such a problem as Kings Hill have kindly offered us some storage space.

If you are interested in taking on this role please let the Secretary know by emailing [secretary@warleambees.org.uk](mailto:secretary@warleambees.org.uk).

I know branch members much-appreciated Jane's efforts over the years and that we all would like to register our thanks for all her efforts.

Chris Cox.

## **A Year at the Branch**

This year has been an outstanding year not only for beekeeping but for branch activities.

The course run by the branch 'Introduction to Beekeeping', run by Maggie Curley covers all aspects of beekeeping for those new to the subject. It is always very popular and this year was even more so. The feedback was very complimentary and of the 50 who participated, 30 joined the branch on completion of the course (60%).

Following this there were weekly evening training sessions at the branch apiary, held between April and September, open to all including those who had attended a taster day. Again these were found to be very practical and helpful. Our thanks to the 22 tutors and to those responsible for administering and maintaining the apiary.

Taster days, for those with no experience but interested to know more about the subject, run in May and September, and are again very popular and some participants follow on with the evening training sessions.

The training apiary is due to move to Kings Hill Nursery in the new year. The site will provide excellent facilities with immediate access to utilities, toilets and has a very comfortable meeting room.

The branch runs courses to prepare people for examinations, such as the Basic and various modules as well as husbandry etc. Jane Medwell organises the 'Before Basic' and the dozen or so who attended this year all passed, some with commendation. Again we have a very high pass rate with the modules, with the occasional distinction.

As part of the education programme the branch has stands at a number of shows throughout the county. These are organised by Bernard Brown. Not only are observation hives used but also a show hive and candle making is demonstrated and honey sold. The notable ones are at Kenilworth (£700 lbs honey sold), the Peace festival at Leamington (£1700 lbs honey sold) and the one held at Avon Dassett. These attract a huge amount of interest and many questions and of course some progress to joining the branch.

The Branch Honey show in September run by Helen Essex produced 112 entries. They were judged by John Home to be of good standard and in particular medium honey and the candles were up to County standards. Honey shows are always good fun and educational at the same time. This year's was no exception.

The branch co-operative run by Clive Joyce goes from strength to strength with members saving in the region of 50% on equipment etc in some cases. Clive has also relocated the extraction unit to Hurst Farm, a cleaner and more pleasant environment.

Forgive me for not including all who have made contributions to the running of the branch, without whom we would be unable to function.

All in all a very good year and this has been reflected in the volume of honey produced by the members.

Only 25% of members participate in the running of the branch. If you have time, only half an afternoon please do consider helping in any way in which you feel comfortable.

Best wishes for what we hope will be an even better New Year.

Peter Stanworth,  
Chairman

## My Top Tip for January

At this time of the year and into the spring when I look into my hives on a warmish day and I find the bees have consumed the honey from the immediate frames closest to the brood.

But have frames with plenty of capped honey away from the brood.

I will do the following take the frame of full capped honey score the capping's to release the honey then replace the empty frame, this can be done on both sides of the brood.

I have found this very beneficial to the hive saves using too much fondant which only crystallises anyway making it difficult for the bees to liquidise in freezing conditions.

Give it a try I am sure your hives will benefit as mine do.

Roger

If you have a top tip why not share it with other members, if it's month or season related so much the better as it can then go in Bee Talk as that months TOP TIP.

## Hints and Tips

Use oxalic acid as a follow up varroa treatment now when the colony should be broodless. Be aware that oxalic acid solution can degrade. If it has developed a brownish tinge, before you get around to using it, then it should be discarded as it would be toxic to the bees. Take a flask of hot water to warm the bottle of oxalic acid in before using.

You might like to try this recipe out, it is very easy, very yummy and would make a lovely gift.

### Honey Fudge

115g butter

450g granulated sugar

1 (397g)tin condensed milk

2 tablespoons honey

140ml full cream milk

A pinch cream of tartar

Nuts , cherries, biscuit pieces(optional)



Line or grease an 18cm (7inch) square tin.

Heat all the ingredients together slowly until completely dissolved.

Bring to the boil, stirring all the time, until it reaches 114C or 240F on a sugar thermometer.

Remove from heat and continue to beat until it thickens. Pour into tin. Sprinkle on nuts etc. If using.

When it has cooled slightly, mark into squares. Set it aside to cool completely

Should make about 16 pieces.

Enjoy!

NEW YEARS RESOLUTION IDEA..... send me a hint or tip!

If you have any hints or tips that you would like to share, please send them to [h.essex@virgin.net](mailto:h.essex@virgin.net)

Helen Essex

## For Sale

A complete Bee Hive all sterilised ready for the new season (Just add foundation)  
Open mesh floor with slide. Entrance block and mouse guard. Or solid floor if preferred.  
Brood Box complete with 12 Hoffman frames.  
Queen extruder. Metal or plastic whichever is preferred.  
2 Supers complete with 12 Hoffman frames in each  
Crown board with 2 porta bee escapes  
2 inch feeding eke.  
Roof.

All for £120, Thorns price £204 and you get the advantage of a used hive which a swarm or nuc take more readily to.

National Brood Boxes complete with 12 Hoffman Frames £30.00.

Roger - 017926 852076 - [roger.wilkes@kenilworthhoney.co.uk](mailto:roger.wilkes@kenilworthhoney.co.uk)

## Pallet Wrap

I have a number of rolls of pallet wrap film is 16 inches wide usually sell at about £5 all I am after is donation of your choice which will go to a charity I support.

Roger



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12 Mercia Avenue, Kenilworth CV8 1EU. **Content to him for next month by January 27<sup>th</sup> latest.**

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

**BeeTalk is:** Designed, produced, printed and distributed by Roger Wilkes

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