



Warwick and Leamington Branch of Warwickshire Beekeepers

Branch Annual General Meeting – A Reminder

The AGM of the Branch is to be held at Kings Hill Nursery on Thursday 14th February. Yes! I know this clashes with Valentine's Day but the Secretary is oblivious to these things. Next year there will not be a clash.

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.

By the time you receive Beetalk the key deadline dates will have passed as they are all in January. What you can now expect is to receive a copy of the Agenda by 7th February 2019.

Don't Forget that the AGM is followed by a Cheese and Wine Buffet to enliven proceedings. This will be a good opportunity to mix and share experiences with a view to the coming season.

Finally, the Warwickshire Beekeepers Association AGM, of which Warwick and Leamington Beekeepers is a Branch is on Wednesday 27th March 2019 at BBKA Offices at Stoneleigh. Currently the nominated trustees of Warwickshire Beekeepers Association from our Branch are Bernard Brown and Chris Cox.

Dates for your Diary

The BBKA Spring Convention, held from Fri 12th –Sun 14th April at Harper Adams University, Newport, Shropshire, TF10 8NB, is the major event in the beekeeping calendar and probably Europe's biggest national beekeeping event. With 20 lectures from top flight international and leading UK speakers and more than 50 workshops and courses during the three day event, not to mention the Trade Show on the Saturday, there is something for everyone, expert, improver, beginner and non-beekeeper

Harper Adams is comfortably within daily travel distance from Warwickshire but overnight accommodation is also available if required

Go on! Indulge yourself. It really is a good event

For more information and programme of lectures and workshops go to www.BBKA.org.uk
[Tickets](#) are now on sale through the [BBKA On-line Shop](#) and by post.

Bee Tradex 9th March Kicking yourself for missing all those bargains in the Bee suppliers' January sales? Then do not despair. Beetradox is back in town and right on our doorstep on Stoneleigh Park. Billed as being the biggest beekeeping show of the year it is open from 9:00am to 4:30pm. All the major suppliers are represented along with some of the fledgling ones – all with bargains for you. Whether you are an experienced or novice beekeeper, there will be plenty to interest you and encourage you in your hobby or livelihood. You can take the weight off your feet at the free lectures or in the restaurant nearby.

Tickets cost £5 for adults s if booked online (and avoid the queues); £6 on the day. Children under 10 free, family tickets (2 Adults, 2 Children) £12 on the day

January Members' Meeting

The January members' meeting turned out to be something of a surprise both to the attendees and to the organisers. Billed as a talk on "Bee-friendly Planting" to be given by speakers from Kings Hill Nursery, the arrangement was for the site manager together with his horticultural manager to deliver the presentation. Unfortunately, at the twelfth hour the horticulturalist could not make it and so the site manager stepped into the breach and expanded what was originally intended to be a "ten minute" introduction to the ethos and activities of the nursery, to fill the entire slot.

An organiser's nightmare to say the least.

In the event, we were treated to an entertaining trip through the history of the Nursery which, as a charity, was set up to provide people with special needs a bridge into the world of work. This is achieved by growing their own plants and selling them to the public as a normal commercial nursery. Being home produced, you can also reasonably be assured that the plants will not harbour the nasties such as small hive beetle and Asian hornets which globalisation threatens to bring down upon us. Not for them the current vogue of Garden Centres where you are hard pressed to find a plant among the ceramic ornaments, hot tubs, clothing, paraffin wax candles etc. Plants take centre stage at Kings Hill.

With a total site area of 7 acres incorporating nature trails, a lake, wild life areas and areas planted for butterflies, the creation and maintenance of these provides plenty of scope for the acquisition of new skills by their clients

In addition to these horticultural activities, opportunities in catering are also available from their commercial standard kitchen and their licensed bar with the food served up in their function rooms which, by the way, are available to hire for a wide range of events such as weddings, wakes and corporate away days

With the double whammy of having to vacate our recently established training apiary at BBKA and alterations to the BBKA building making it unavailable as a meetings venue, Kings Hill Nursery has been very accommodating to WLBK, both in providing a training apiary site and in the use of their function room for our meetings. Their co-operation has extended way beyond that originally envisaged by making storage space available to us. The function room and ample car parking are particularly well suited to our needs.

So, whilst it was disappointing that the topic for the meeting as billed did not materialise, - particularly for those who had travelled a long way - it was useful to find out more about our new landlord's activities, the understanding of which will hopefully lead to a long and mutually beneficial relationship.

Bee assured. We fully intend to revisit the topic of "Bee-friendly Planting" a later date.

In true WLBK fashion, there was no disappointment with the post talk refreshments nor with the "Bee Chat" where the "Buzz" was as enjoyable as ever.

May Taster Day

This years' May Beekeeping Taster Day will be held Kings Hill Nursery, on Sunday 5th May and we need your help in promoting this event far and wide amongst your friends and neighbours, relatives, work colleagues etc.

We have promotional leaflets should you have the opportunity to post one on a notice board, or to hand out which can be obtained from Bernard Brown (bernardnbrown@aol.com). With Easter in mind, we are also providing "Taster Day Gift Certificates" for those who would like to give an original and unusual present for that special person.

Aimed at helping delegates decide whether they would like to take up beekeeping, a very popular part of the day is the opportunity to get up close and personal with some live bees and to do this we are looking for members to come along and open some hives. So, if you would like to volunteer to help with this demonstration and to interact with the delegates please contact Bernard Brown on bernardnbrown@outlook.com

The cost is for the Day is £30 per delegate and they can enrol by going to our website and following the "Taster Day" link on the right hand side of the home page.

Free to a Good Home

Approximately 30 privet hedging plants. Originally planted to form a wind break at our Dalehouse Lane training apiary some 4 years ago, these one-metre high plants are slap bang on the route of the new road layout and will be trashed unless they can be dug up and found a caring, loving home. If you can find it in yourself to save these noble, loyal plants please contact Mick Smith on michael.smith670@ntlworld.com

Bee Talks

We all know how beekeepers can drone on about their subject, so perhaps it is not surprising that the response to our request for volunteers to join our panel of speakers willing to expound to all and sundry on a whole range of bee – related topics has been very encouraging. So much so that we are now well placed to respond to the requests regularly received from interested parties ranging from WI's to Tractor Clubs not forgetting schools, youth clubs, brownies etc.

Backed up by an expanding library of presentations and other material, such talks present a golden opportunity to promote our craft, encourage new trainees and raise awareness of the plight of our girls.

Of course, should you be involved with a local association which would be receptive to such a talk, please contact us

News from the Co-op Sub Committee

In response to member's requests, some new lines will be stocked in 2019:

- 12oz round jars
- Cut comb containers
- Drone super wax
- Candle rolling wax



Please watch future issues of BeeTalk for details of when these become available.

Head to the Members' Area of the website to find a full listing of all the goodies that are now available.

And note that Apiguard, Api-Bioxal and Candipolline can now be purchased throughout the year rather than as a one-off (and it's planned to extend this arrangement to MAQS and fondant).

Decluttering Sale

Decluttering is very much in vogue at the moment, so, when we came to transfer the training apiary from BBKA to Kings Hill Nursery, we seized the opportunity to identify surplus kit which we are considering offering for sale, possibly by auction, towards the end of February. We are already aware of some members wanting to include their own unwanted beekeeping items in the sale but suspect that there may be more who would like to take advantage of this opportunity. So, if that is you and you can bear to part with what, for some, will be "old friends", please contact Bernard Brown on bernardnbrown@outlook.com with details.

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

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 say £1 each which will go to a charity I support.

Roger



Hints and Tips

If you fancy practicing your candle making ready for the much anticipated **Honey Show on September 12th !** here are some hints to help.

- Do take care when heating wax. Too much heat destroys the aroma and darkens the wax.
- If using silicon moulds place these in the freezer for 30 mins to get them ice cold. This will help to give your candle a perfect surface, crisp and clean.
- Wicks on candles should be centred. For poured and moulded candles, wicks should be trimmed to ½inch with a slight tilt for ease of lighting.
- Do finish your candle bottomthe judge will look! Holes not filled or bottoms that are not flat will count against you. Put a little washing up liquid around the side of the candle near the base but not underneath. Place the base on a tilted hot saucepan. This will level the base of the candle. The melted wax will not stick to the side of the candle that has the washing up liquid on it

If all the Christmas goodies have gone here's a yummy recipe to replenish your stock! I really like this as the sweetness comes solely from the honey and dates with no added sugar.

Honey and Date Muffins

3oz butter

6oz honey

9oz chopped dates

2 eggs

60ml milk

8oz plain flour

2 tsp baking powder

Heat butter and honey just

long enough to melt both. Stir in chopped dates.

Beat eggs with milk. Sift flour and baking powder

Make well in the centre of the flour and add the honey and egg mixtures. Mix until dry ingredients are just moistened.

Three quarters fill muffin cases and bake 200°C for 15-20 mins. or until cooked.

Great straight out of the oven!

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



Editor Roger Wilkes, email address is roger.wilkes@kenilworthhoney.co.uk or hard copy can be posted to him at: 12 Mercia Avenue, Kenilworth CV8 1EU. **Content to him for next month by February 27th latest.**

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

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Warwick and Leamington Branch
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