



Warwick and Leamington Branch of Warwickshire Beekeepers

Towards the Basic

The Basic Assessment is a very friendly assessment of beekeeping husbandry conducted "over the hive" by an assessor from outside the branch. It is intended for beekeepers who have at least a year's experience and the achievement of the Basic Certificate is a requirement for going on to take further exams and assessments run by BBKA. There was a 97% pass rate in 2017.

You can get all the details at:

<https://www.bbka.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=a98ce2cf-37b3-4dfc-888c-2d5377ad9d48>

Here at WLBK, we will be running three "revision" sessions on **19th March, 26th March and 9th April**, to address the syllabus, focussing on the parts people identify as their needs. This gives candidates a chance to chat, get geared up for the season and feel confident. We will not be outside, because the sessions are at BBKA, Stoneleigh in the evening, but we will practice good handling etc indoors. We also offer to do a "practice" basic assessment for each person in the group, if they want to do it.

We will arrange the actual assessment days later in the season, so that the assessors come to our branch apiary at convenient times.

The fee for the sessions is £20, which includes the basic assessment enrolment fee (the three sessions are free, in effect), and we will fill in the application forms at the first session. Don't worry about preparation- that's what the sessions are for!

If you would like to register, please follow the link below

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSecDZA9GbWhMB5CYJ9s38D0YPtfQfw9aPUim-NvEu9luuXfVg/viewform>
which can also be found on our website at www.warleambees.org.uk

or contact Jane Medwell , the course leader, on Jane.Medwell@nottingham.ac.uk

Wanted –Bee Suit

Bee Suit for 9yr old boy

Height: 4' 3"

Inside Leg: 21.5"

Does anyone have one that their child may have grown out of and is willing to sell ?

Please contact: Gary.

Tel: 07881260154

Wanted – Graphic Design Skills

We are seeking to revamp the banners we use at our public displays and wondered whether any member with graphic design skills would be prepared to lend us hand in promoting both the branch and the craft in this way. If so, please contact Bernard Brown on bernardnbrown@aol.com or tel 01926 843416

Annual General Meeting

The 138th Annual General Meeting of The Warwickshire Beekeepers Association ("County") will take place on Wednesday 28nd March 2018 at 7.30 pm in The National Beekeeping Centre, Stoneleigh Park.

Strutting our Stuff in 2018

The catkins are out, the snowdrops are up and other spring bulbs are pushing their noses above the ground, all of which indicates that spring is just around the corner and, whilst winter is still not quite over, the branch's displays subcommittee is already turning its attention to summer and to the programme of events at which we will promote our craft.

Bringing awareness of bees and beekeeping to the general public is part of our charitable remit and we have the kit to mount a range of different activities for which we rely on you, our members, to volunteer to help man the WLBK displays.

Helping on our stand involves sharing our knowledge and enthusiasm with the public, making sales of honey and wax products (playing shop), demonstrating various pieces of beekeeping equipment and answering queries and is well within the capabilities of anyone who has been on our introductory course. We usually arrange the help in shifts and volunteering for a couple of hours on our stand usually entitles you to free admission to the show, so there is time to sample the wider delights of the event.

We seek volunteers a few weeks before a particular event and publicise this, together with the arrangements for registering your interest, in Bee Talk and by e-mail. At this time you will be able to find a link to enable you to volunteer on line. You will also find these links on our website.

These events range from village fetes to those on a regional and national scale but all provide a thoroughly enjoyable day out in this delightful County of ours and, of course, there is plenty of opportunity for "Bee Talk". So, if this prospect appeals to you, please note the dates of events listed below in your diary now and keep your eyes on your in box and Bee talk nearer the time. A full list of these events is included in the Branch Diary section of our website.:-

Date	Day	Event	Organiser
3rd June	Sunday	Hatton Country Fayre and Dog Show	WLBK
6 th -10 th June	Weds - Sun	RHS Chatsworth	BBKA
9th June	Saturday	Kenilworth Agricultural Show	WLBK
16th- 17th June	Saturday - Sunday	Leamington Peace Festival	WLBK/
2 nd -5 th August	Thurs - Sun	BBC Countryfile Live Show, Blenheim	BBKA
19th August	Sunday	Hive of Activity	WLBK/
14th October	Sunday	Hill Close Gardens Apple Day	WLBK

The display kit we own can be made available for the promotion of bees and beekeeping by members should you be involved in a local community event for instance. To take advantage of this please contact Bernard Brown at bernardnbrown@aol.com

Bernard Brown
Public Display Co-ordinator

For Sale

2 Large National Brood Boxes with 2 dummy boards.

Used but in good condition.

£15 the lot.

Must go. I cannot manage these any more since recently fracturing my wrist.

Please call Jane on 01926 425963 Leamington

or email: pippajane@traynor@gmail.com

For Sale

National Brood Boxes complete with 12 Hoffman Frames £30.00.

Roger - 01926 852076 - roger.wilkes@kenilworthhoney.co.uk

Hints and Tips

- If you go to feed your bees and find a colony on the point of starvation with bees immobile you can spray them with warm syrup. Once they have recovered then more permanent feeding will be needed to get them through to when they can once more support themselves.
- Fresh onion applied to a bee sting is soothing and healing. Scrape out the sting then apply onion juice or rub the freshly cut surface of the onion onto the stung area (Thanks to the Montgomeryshire BKA for this little gem)
- The swarm season will be upon us soon so why not finish off that skep you started last year? Make a good job of it and then it will be ready to enter into the Honey Show.... it's not until September 13th so plenty of time!

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 March 27th latest.**

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

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