



Warwick and Leamington Branch of Warwickshire Beekeepers

Membership reminder

A number of members have not yet renewed their membership and shortly BBKA will consider them to be lapsed, at which point they and their hives will no longer be insured.

So if this applies to you, can I urge you please to go to our website www.warleambees.org.uk and complete the membership renewal form, which you will find in the Member's Section at the top of the page. The password is mandible

When payment has been received I will send you an email to confirm your payment. If you are a Full member, this will also contain confirmation of your BDI payments

We are using a new email address for contacting our members from now on and this address may slip into your Junk Mail instead of your Inbox, so please check your Junk Mail to see if you have received any emails from the address below.

Val Dillon <noreply@membershipservices.org.uk>

This is a shared email address, so sometimes you will get emails sent by other members of our team, but it will show the same address. As stated, it is a 'No reply' email, so if you need to respond to it, please contact the person who sent it, which may not be me.

Val Dillon

.... And Now For Something Completely Different

For our monthly meeting at WLBK we try to choose a topic which is bee-related so why is our March meeting entitled "How Steve Sidaway Spent Last Christmas". Well Steve is a member of the branch and has kept bees since he was knee-high to a brood box. He is an ace swarm collector and lectures on the subject on our Introductory course. So what? I hear you say! What is so special about Steve's Christmas? The link to bee keeping is a bit tenuous to say the least! Well, he spent it in the middle of the Atlantic - again I hear a "So What"! Lucky Steve to be on a cruise.

But when I tell you that he was a member of a four person crew competing in the Talisker Whiskey Atlantic Challenge rowing from the Canary Islands to Antigua – a mere 3000 miles which they successfully completed, you may well gasp, as I did.

So, that is what he did?. Do come along to our March 21st members' meeting at **7.30 p.m. at Kings Hill Nursey** to find out the 'Why' and 'How' of his amazing experience.

Steve used this challenge, through sponsorship, to raise money for Molly Olly, a charity which provides support for kids with terminal illnesses and there will be an opportunity to recognise Steve's achievement and donate to this worthwhile cause at the meeting.

May Taster Day

Places for this years' May Beekeeping Taster Day, being held at **Kings Hill Nursery**, on **Sunday 5th May**, are going fast so if you have friends, neighbours, relatives, work colleagues etc. who are interested, please encourage them to enrol soon. This couldn't be simpler. Just go to our website and follow the "Taster Day" link on the right hand side of the home page. The cost is for the Day is £30 per delegate and, 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 still 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

Bee Movie It's time to move the training apiary (again)

Volunteers have transformed a disused patch of land into a splendid purpose built training apiary at King's Hill Nurseries, Kenilworth.

Previously, the apiary was moved to the BBKA Stoneleigh when our location at Dalehouse Lane was vacated to make way for roadworks, a year ago. Our BBKA hosts have subsequently asked us to make way for re-development of their own apiary so another move has been quickly organized.

King's Hill Nursery kindly agreed to accommodate us and in December we took over an overgrown plot there. Working parties have since landscaped the ground, rebuilt the sheds, moved the equipment and are now ready to receive up to twelve colonies which have been over-wintered at Stoneleigh. Many examples of "Bee friendly" plants have been planted (and labelled) with the assistance of the on-site nursery staff, who will be happy to assist members choosing such plants for their own gardens.

The new site has ample parking, toilets and mess facilities during training sessions so we are really looking forward to a good season.

The purpose of the apiary is to familiarise WLBK members with various equipment and the practicalities of apiary management, bringing to life the classroom based Introduction To Beekeeping (ITB) course. Beginners will experience handling bees in a supervised environment throughout the summer months, carrying out general husbandry and manipulations. We will also practice queen rearing and use the colonies for practical examinations / assessments. If we are lucky, any products (queens, nucs, honey) will be made available to members to purchase for the benefit of the association. The site location is Kings Hill Lane Nurseries, Kenilworth. CV3 6PS

Thanks again to all the members who given up their time to help create this valuable asset for the club.

Before and After...



David Phillips Apiary Manager

Apiary site needed

A Beekeeper in Whitnash is looking to relocate his 3 hives of Bees from his back garden into a nearby out Apiary.

The reason for this is that his 3 year old son, who had been stung by the bees in the past, was stung recently and had an adverse reaction and had to be taken to Hospital.

He is now undergoing allergy tests at a well known Birmingham Hospital to see what the issue is and plan for his future.

Anyway the bees have got to go out of the back garden but Dad and Mum still want to keep their Bees but away from home for all the right reasons.

If they cannot find an out Apiary the bees clearly will have to be evicted.

So does anyone in the Branch have knowledge of a site for an out Apiary near to the Whitnash area so this family can in the future “ very carefully” continue to keep Bees.

Please contact below who will link you into this family of Apiarist.

Brian Donley

07880783487

Bee Tradex 9th March

Are you getting excited about the forthcoming season? In need of new/more kit or just curious to find out what is new this year? Well, if any of these apply, “bee aware” that 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

A place to keep bees

Members will know we have a place within the ‘Members’ area of our website listing ‘available apiaries’.

These are places where someone who doesn’t want to keep bees themselves has kindly offered for one our members to do so.

These are usually surveyed beforehand by Bernard Brown, Mick Smith or myself.

I have listed on the website a small field adjacent to the canal known as the old coal wharf at Cropredy. It has been occupied by a beekeeper in the past but is currently available for a couple of hives so if you are interested please contact me at michaelatownsend@hotmail.com for further information.

Although it appears a little far out for our members it is close to major road routes making it a practical place for someone who may pass by going to and from work.

Mike Townsend

Strutting our Stuff in 2019

The catkins have been out for some weeks as have the snowdrops and other spring flowers, all of which indicates that spring is early this year but, 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 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	Organised by
5 th May	Sunday	Ecofest	WLBK
11 th May	Saturday	Whitnash Fayre	WLBK
11 th May	Saturday	Mollington Village Fete	WLBK/
5 th – 9 th June	Weds - Sun	RHS Chatsworth	BBKA
8 th June	Saturday	Kenilworth Agricultural Show	WLBK/
15 th -16 th June	Saturday - Sunday	Leamington Peace Festival	WLBK/
3 rd August	Saturday	Dassett Country Show	WLBK
1 st – 4 th August	Thurs - Sun	BBC Countryfile Live Show, Blenheim	BBKA
26 th August	Monday	All Saints Church Burton Dassett	WLBK
26 th August	Monday	Barston	Gill Grimshaw
6 th 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, for instance, you be involved in a local community event. To take advantage of this please contact Bernard Brown at bernardnbrown@outlook.com

Bernard Brown
Public Display Co-ordinator

Hints and Tips

- If there is no activity observed, on a warmer day, lift the crown board and have a look down between the frames to see if there is any sign of life. If all seems ok then put the crown board on again and the lid as quickly as you can to minimise heat loss. If it appears that the colony has died then have a closer look to see if you can decide why this may have happened. If you are concerned then seal the hive up, to prevent any robbing occurring, which may spread disease and seek further advice either from an experienced branch member or from the Regional Bee Inspector.
- One method of swarm control, that receives less publicity, is the nucleus method. You need a nucleus box with frames. If you find queen cells that are unsealed put a frame of food, with its bees into the nuc box. Find the queen and put her and the frame she is on into the nuc. Remove any queen cells that may be on this frame and ideally this frame should be about a quarter full of brood. The nuc needs lots of food so put in another frame of stores. Shake or brush the bees from 2 more frames into the nuc and add the extra frames, you brought with you, to fill it up. Stuff the entrance tightly with grass and put nuc crown board the roof on. (Place the nuc on another stand and leave for 48 hours. If the bees haven't removed the plug then remove it for them after this time at dusk.)



Check the original brood box but only remove queen cells that are very close to being sealed. Put in the extra frames, you brought along, to fill the gaps. Leave for a week and then reduce the number of queen cells to one only. Leave this colony alone for 2-3 weeks by which time the new queen will have hatched, mated and be laying..... hopefully!



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 28th 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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