



Warwick and Leamington Branch of Warwickshire Beekeepers

Show Time

The public display season is upon us and, shortly, we shall be calling upon volunteers to man the displays detailed below we have programmed for the first part of the summer. So, please make a note of these in your diary and keep an eye on your in box and/or the website for details of how to volunteer.

Helping on our stand involves sharing our knowledge and enthusiasm with the public (playing teacher), making sales of honey and wax products (playing shop), demonstrating various pieces of beekeeping equipment (just playing) and answering queries (showing off) 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 often entitles you to free admission to the show, so there is time to sample the wider delights of the event.



Date	Day	Event	Organiser
12 th May	Saturday	Mollington Village Fete**	WLBK/Chris Fisher and Robert Park
13 th May	Sunday	Charlecote Mill	WLBK
27 th May	Sunday	Lord Leycester Hospital Warwick	WLBK
3 rd June	Sunday	Hatton Country Fayre and Dog Show	WLBK
6 th -10 th June	Weds - Sun	RHS Chatsworth	BBKA
10 th June	Sunday	Charlecote Mill	WLBK
10 th June	Sunday	Growing Southam	WLBK
9 th June	Saturday	Kenilworth Agricultural Show	WLBK
16 th - 17 th June	Saturday - Sunday	Leamington Peace Festival	WLBK/

** We already have volunteers for this event but please feel free to drop by our stand should you attend as a visitor

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.

Breaking news!!..... We have now acquired a new inflatable marquee which weighs only 6.5 kg which together with its own car battery-operated pump considerably eases the process of putting it up compared with our existing one so why not come along to take a look at it on the ground, as-it-were.....or, perhaps, some way above the ground if we fail to anchor it properly!!!

The display kit we own, including the new marquee, 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

Out Apiary Opportunity

Located a couple of miles west of Henley in Arden, we have been offered an out-apiary on a 60 acre smallholding at Ullenhall by the owners who are keen to help bees as well as other wildlife. There are several suitable locations on the farm and all have good 24/7 access and security is good. The site could accommodate at least 8 stocks and would be suitable for both a single or two or three beekeepers. The small holding itself is mixed arable and pasture with woodland, hedgerows, reed beds and a carp lake. This is a great opportunity albeit a little outside our patch but is being offered to our membership in the first instance. For further details and expressions of interest contact me, Bernard Brown at bernardnbrown@aol.com

Are you getting the Message(rbee) ?

As many of you will have surmised, messengerbee@aol.com is the e-mail address used for the bulk emails disseminating news and information to the entire membership about our activities in between issues of Bee Talk but, of late, it would appear that several browsers have taken it into their heads to automatically treat this as spam or junk. Of course, you may well concur with this analysis but, if not please make messengerbee@aol.com a "trusted" e-mailer so that you don't miss out.

The Exodus.

At 0900hrs, on Saturday the 21st April 2018. A motley crew gathered at South crest farm and the Dalehouse lane apiary. The object of their trembling anticipation was the migration of the extraction unit and Tim's Palace from there locations to Hurst Farm Crackley Lane.

First Job to clear the way for an enormous articulated trailer and an equally large tractor. This unwieldy train was teased in reverse, into position down passage with laterally ½ inch to spare either side, a chicanes halfway down the passage, by way of a dead tractor making life even harder.

On the other side of the barn heavy metal gates were removed, concrete blocks and the crud of five years occupation by beekeepers were cleared for an even bigger JCB 509-23TC articulating telly lift. This machine in the hands of this driver I am sure, could drive it to thread a needle in the dark.

In the meantime, the unit was jacked up and placed on rollers and then pushed by the boys (and one girl) into position for the telly lift. After much threading of this needle the unit was placed on the trailer for its journey to its new home. Later after successfully positioning the unit into the new barn, the circus travelled to Dalehouse lane.

The problem this time was to move Tim's palace, in one piece, off the raised plateau. Once again, the JCB lifted it with ease and trundled across the field and reversing down the slope and out to the waiting trailer parked on the road and off to Hurst Farm. This time no anxieties as previously with the unit, with the low bridge in Crackley lane, and after Mick S showed us his new-found skill of levitation, the shed was once again pushed by the gang into place. The whole operation was over by 1300hrs. Just in time for a delivery of cakes from Maggy.

It's not often thing I have any input into work to plan, however this time was the exception.
My thanks to all that took part, without whose help the whole operation would not have happened.

Bernard Brown, Andrew Caine, Gerard Daykin, Terry Dillon, Katerina Prokopiou, Charles Smith, Mick Smith, Alistair Walker, David Wright,
(Transport Crew) David Sansome, Tim Sansome, and Joe.

Clive Joyce unit Mgr.

Taster Day



You would not have guessed from the smiles on their faces that these delegates from our Taster Day were unable to get up close and personal with our girls because of the low temperatures so it is all the more credit to the organising team for making up for their disappointment. How did they do it? We had then opening a virtual hive in the nice warm surroundings of the BBKA lecture hall with none of those nasty buzzy stingy things around. Oh! and lashings of honey cake!!.....that never fails!

Spreading the Word - Charlecote Mill, Hampton Lucy

Charlecote Mill one of only a small handful of surviving commercial, working water-powered flour mills in the UK and retains all the atmosphere and charm of a mill run in Victorian times. Most of the processes used are as they would have been over 200 years ago and wherever possible grain is sourced from local farms keeping the food miles to almost zero! This truly is a place where time stands still and where quality and tradition blend perfectly to produce the unique Charlecote flours.



The miller, Karl Grevatt opens the mill to the public twice a month throughout the summer. On these open days he has offered our Branch a pitch, completely free of charge, where we're able to set up a small marquee to display information, leaflets, maybe an observation hive and if we wish, to sell local honey and hive products to his visitors whilst waiting for the tours to begin. We trialled this venue successfully a couple of times last year sharing the location with an Artisan Baker who used flour from the Mill.

The mill is currently under threat from a proposal from the Avon Navigation Trust to allow river navigation between Stratford and Warwick, so the open days are a superb way of drawing the public's attention to this. Since the honey bee is also under threat from development, there's a certain synergy here!

The open day dates this year are:-

13 th May	Sunday
10 th June	Sunday
8 th July	Sunday
12 th August	Sunday
27 th August	Sunday
9 th Sept	Sunday
14 th October	Sunday

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If you feel that you'd like to help spread the word about the importance of honeybees and enjoy a wonderful day out in the tranquillity of unspoilt Warwickshire countryside, do get in touch via the Branch website..... or directly via this link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf0PPkwbT7Jb7s1baPWfMnv5NOCBO3DIXZYIenl5ISpgesYzA/viewform?c=0&w=1>

New beekeepers – don't be shy - your help would be very much appreciated! Older hands – you know how enjoyable and important it is to interact with the public!

Co-op Purchasing



You'll all know of the huge benefits that the Branch brings when supplies are bought on your behalf. Last year, you paid just £9.00 for 12.5kg of ambrosia when it would have cost over £36 to get the same product delivered from Thornes. The same type of spectacular saving was made on bakers' fondant. And then there's the convenience of being able to collect locally rather than having to wait in for an order – or risk having foundation melt in the sun in your front porch!!!!

So, let's give a huge vote of thanks to the long-suffering stock holders who work really hard to procure and process these goods on your behalf. Do what you can to lighten their load! Please follow the instructions on the Google forms carefully – we try to include all the details for ordering and collection. And please, once you have ordered goods, do collect them promptly – remember stockholders don't have unlimited storage space!

3 No Brunel DM6 Stereo Microscopes for Sale

The Branch has 3 entry level stereo microscopes for sale. Acquired for use at public displays these microscopes have been used less than a dozen times before being superseded by more powerful versions and are thus surplus to requirements. Described by Brunel as a superb field stereomicroscope at a very affordable price providing x20 magnification and particularly suitable for the naturalist or young scientist. RRP £55 each – offered to members @£25 each Contact Bernard Brown at bernardnbrown@aol.com



Hints and Tips

Thanks to Peter Spencer for this helpful hint

- When prising frames apart during inspection always put your hive tool to the inside of the join to the vertical. This will protect the join and prevent the frame from weakening.
- Here is the recipe for this year's Honey Cake Class in the **Branch Honey Show** which is on **13th September**.

Honey Cake Recipe

200g/7oz self-raising flour, 175g(6oz) honey, 110g/4oz butter, 175g/6oz sultanas, 2 medium eggs, 110g/4oz glace cherries(halved), a little milk if needed

Preheat oven to 180°C, 350°F, gas 4. Cream butter and honey together. Beat eggs well and add them alternatively with sifted flour then fold in sultanas and cherries. A little milk may be added if necessary. Bake in a buttered circular tin, 16.5-19.0cm (6½ -7½ inches) in diameter for approximately 1½ hours. Timing is a guide as appliances may vary.

By popular demand, this year, fruit has been included.

This has sparked a discussion on how to stop the cherries sinking to the bottom and giving that 'two tone' effect!

Ideas so far have included washing and drying the cherries, dusting them in flour or poking the cherries in once the mixture has been poured!

Got any good ideas?

Try them out and let me know how you get on!

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 May 27th latest.**

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

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