



Warwick and Leamington Branch of Warwickshire Beekeepers

Vacancy for a Branch Secretary

I am in my seventh year as Branch Secretary now, and feel it will soon be time to hand over the role to someone who can bring freshness to it as from the 2017 Annual General Meeting.

The prime task is to organize, in conjunction with the Chair, our six Executive Committee meetings per annum inclusive of preparing the agenda and recording the outcomes – especially policy decisions and matters requiring further action.

The person taking over will need to be elected at the AGM in February 2017. I am very keen that there is a smooth handover with minimal disruption to the operation of the branch. To that end I would like to identify a volunteer now so that I can carry out the vital induction and training necessary during the intervening months.

The ideal person will have some experience of organising meetings, understand the significance of operating to a constitution, have a reasonable aptitude for IT tasks and enjoy being pivotal to the smooth running of the branch.

I would be pleased to have a chat with those interested in taking on the role and I have a comprehensive job description to send.

Tim Foden
01926632388 tim_foden@hotmail.com

Future Events

Our SEPTEMBER meeting at the BBKA will be at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 15th, when we have a speaker David Chandler from Warwick University talking to us on his research he and his team have done/are doing from the school of life sciences at the university. This will be followed by Tea/Coffee/Cakes and a general chat over how the Bees and us have survived the Summer months. It is always good to talk to other Beekeepers as you don't feel quite so alone in wondering what you should have done and what you could have done differently. This is what it is all about. We would be pleased to see as many members as possible.

The OCTOBER meeting on the 20th will be our branch Honey Show, and we would encourage as many of you as possible to join in the fun!!!! During the break I think we are going to try having a go at 'social media' i.e. twitter – tweets etc. All a bit beyond me at the moment as the wrong age group, but will certainly give it a go, just to keep up with the grandchildren.

NOVEMBER 17th will see Jess Fallon again from Warwick University, talking to us on DWV (deformed wing virus) which she is doing a Phd. on. #So if you have any Bees with obvious deformed wings, but them in a match box and bring with you. (Dead of course)

Now then, the biggie. Our MAGICAL CHRISTMAS CEILIGH on DECEMBER 15th. We hope to have a lot of fun and invite members and there family to attend. As the club have to pay for the Ceiligh Band and a suggested donation for Adults only (children free) is £5.00 a head. The club will provide Christmas nibbles and mulled wine, but you want anything different please feel free to bring your own. An indication of numbers would be helpful asap and if you would like to at this moment in time register your interest in this event please email mary.pemberton@hotmail.co.uk to enable numbers to be processed to turn this event a really good party.

Mary

Found

"A small item of ladies jewellery has been found at DHL, will anyone who has lost something please contact Mick Smith on 07767244539 / 01926857272 or email michael.smith670@ntlworld.com."

Boiler

The branch would like a donation of £25.00 for the boiler that is available. This will be on a first come, first served basis. Please email mary.pemberton@hotmail.co.uk Would be prepared to deliver at next branch meeting 15th September or to DHL on a Sunday morning.

Mary



Branch Library

As we re-start the monthly members' meetings on 15 September could I encourage all members to return books they have borrowed from the branch library and also to borrow some more. One or two of you have had books out for over a year so please check your book shelves, sheds, greenhouses and bee stores, or even the airing cupboard maybe. DVDs can easily get gathered up into one's own collection, so please hunt out those "long termers" and bring them to the meeting. The library will be available at the meeting so please browse and borrow to your heart's delight.

If anyone has suggestions for titles to be added to our already extensive library, then do let me have the details. There is a generous branch budget for new purchases and despite the ready availability of Mr Google, I hope you agree that books still have a place. See you on September 15.

Jane Rigby (bettabats@btinternet.com or 01926 651420)

Swarmline 2016

BBKA HQ receives up to 300 calls per day during the swarming season about flying insects and the majority are not concerning honey bees. The headquarters is staffed by administrative personnel only and the calls greatly disrupt their work. The majority of the calls are secondary referrals from city and town councils. Some councils enquire as to the nature of the insect and refer accordingly, others refer any insect that flies, to BBKA. It was agreed that the branch would offer assistance in dealing with the calls and did so from 8 May until 8 July. The system was christened 'Swarmline'.

1394 calls were taken over the period. Some callers had been erroneously told that bees were a protected species and could not be destroyed. Very few were able to describe the insects, but were able to describe the location - in a bird box, going in and out of a hole in the wall, coming in and out under the gutter - giving some inkling of the nature of the insect concerned. Some were frightened - 'they might bite the children' - and just needed reassurance. By and large if they were a large ball in a hedge or hanging off a wall they were deemed a honey bee swarm and the caller referred to a swarm collector. If the insects were large and fluffy and also came out of a hole, for example a bird box then they were deemed Bumble Bees and referred to the Bumble Bee trust. The majority however were either Honey bees or Bumble bees and suggested the caller contact a pest controller.

68 out of the 88 possible sessions were filled (77%) with an average of 20.5 calls per session. 63 of the 68 (93%) sessions were filled by the Warwick and Leamington branch and the others by Rugby (4), Solihull (1), Coventry (1) and Sutton (1).

We received a very warm welcome from the staff at BBKA who not only entertained us with tea, coffee and biscuits but regaled us with details of rare breeds of sheep, lampshades and other matters.

A big thank you to all members that helped in the scheme, some occasionally, others on a weekly basis. We all enjoyed and learnt from the experience. BBKA were extremely grateful for the assistance and would welcome the same again next year.

Peter Stanworth

Branch Annual Honey Show



This year's Honey Show is on Thursday October 20th at BBKA Stoneleigh. Entries will be received from 6.30pm with judging commencing at 7.30pm. We are delighted to welcome Douglas Nethercleft as our judge and it will be an open format which will enable us all to pick up valuable hints and tips, as he talks us through his judging decisions. The aims of the show are to highlight good practice, to inform and what makes a honey suitable for sale and to showcase bee related products and produce.

The schedule and entry form will be appearing on our web site www.warleambees.com and is hoped that all members will enter, but if not, just come along for a social!

Helen Essex
(Honey Show Secretary)

Tip for preparing for the Honey Show

- *Always overfill jars destined for the honey show so that you can skim off any debris without going underweight.
- *Ensure the jar is full! There should be no daylight visible, when the jar is held up to eye level, between the surface of the honey and the lid when in place.
- *Wipe the rim of the jar to ensure the thread is free of honey so the lid unscrews readily. Replace the lid if it is sticky on the underside.
- *Aroma is important so don't take the lid off just prior to the show.
- *Give the jar a good last wipe before placing it in the class, to ensure it is clean and free from fingerprints.

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 September 27th, latest!**

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

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