



Warwick and Leamington Branch of Warwickshire Beekeepers

DON'T FORGET THE BRANCH CHRISTMAS PARTY!!!!

***WHEN? THURSDAY, 14TH DECEMBER
AT 7.30 P.M.***

WHERE? KINGS HILL NURSERY

WHY? BECAUSE IT'S CHRISTMAS

***PLEASE COME ALONG WITH YOUR
PARTNERS AND CHILDREN – WE HOPE
TO SEE YOU THERE!***



National Hive Count

Hidden in the text of the December issue of BBKA News is a notice that The National Bee Unit has launched its Hive Count. This runs until the end of December and it is a timely reminder for all members to ensure their entry in BeeBase is up to date. Just log on to BeeBase and there is a link to update your hive count. It is very easy and quite important that the National Bee Unit has the correct information.

Chris

Advance Notice of the January Members' Meeting

A date for your diary – Thursday, January 18th at 7.30 p.m.

Your Branch is hosting 'Beekeepers Question Time' with a panel of experts including master beekeeper, Jane Medwell and commercial beekeeper David Stott.

This will be especially helpful for all new members – we do hope you can attend.

Venue: Kings Hill Nursery

Website Resources

At the last Branch Committee Meeting the subject of website access to the Warwickshire Beekeepers site was discussed. As a member of the Warwick and Leamington Branch all have access to the site (www.warwickshirebeekeepers.org.uk) but what you will need for access to the members area is the username and password. They are easy to remember – Username - beekeeper: Password - drone.

Don't forget that you also have access to the BBKA website (www.bbka.org.uk) and to the Animal and Plant Health Agency's (APHA) National Bee Unit's **BeeBase** (www.nationalbeeunit.com). In the case of the BBKA access to the member's area is set out in its home page using your membership number. For BeeBase beekeepers with active colonies will have already registered to record their hives.

Membership Renewal for 2018

It is that time of the year again where expenses appear on the horizon thick and fast. Included in this is individual member's renewal of their membership of Warwick and Leamington Beekeepers Branch of Warwickshire Beekeepers for 2018 accompanied by the fee. Subscriptions are due by **31 December 2017**.

As in previous years your membership, with the exception of Associate Members, will cover your renewal with Warwickshire Beekeepers' Association and with the British Beekeepers' Association.

The first step is to complete the renewal form on the home page of the Warwick and Leamington Beekeepers website www.warleambees.org.uk.

The second step is to pay your subscription either by BACS payments (**Account No** 00173056, **Sort Code** 30-94-93, **Account Name** Warwick & Leamington Spa Branch of WBKA) or by cheque (made out to W & L Beekeepers and sent to Mrs Val Dillon, Oak Tree Cottage, Cryfield Grange Road, Kenilworth, CV8 2JU). The fees are as follows:- **Full Members** inclusive of insurance for up to 3 colonies* - £45.00; **Partner Members** - £20.30; **Junior Members** - £16.00; **Associate Members** - £5.00. * Full Members should add £2.00 for the additional insurance up to 5 colonies, £5.25 for the additional insurance to 10 colonies, £7.75 for additional insurance up to 15 colonies, £9.50 for additional insurance up to 20 colonies and £11.10 for additional insurance up to 25 colonies.

In the event of members requiring newsletters by post as opposed to Email a further £13.00 should be added to the subscription. For a full explanation of the subscription structure, please go to the members area of the branch website <http://www.warleambees.org.uk/wlbksubscription-rates/>

Notice of Annual General Meeting

At the last Branch Committee meeting the timetable for the Branch AGM was noted now that we have a new constitution. The Branch AGM will take place from 7.30pm on **Thursday 15 February 2018** at The National Beekeeping Centre, National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh Park, CV8 2LG. Any member wishes to make any proposals at the AGM they are requested to notify the Branch Secretary by the **1st February 2018** in writing and any proposal should be counter-signed by a seconder.

Nominations for Election to the Branch Committee

Members are invited to put their names forward to the Branch Secretary for election to the Branch Committee at the 2018AGM. The Branch Committee normally meets 6 times a year at Stoneleigh on a Monday evening. The purpose of the Committee is to determine general policy, plan and implement our range of activities and services and to plan, monitor and control income and expenditure.

As with any volunteer led organisation its strength is founded on the active participation of members at all levels (young; old; new and experienced etc.etc.) and with a wide range of skills and knowledge. We will have some vacancies on our Committee in 2018, and we wish to ensure traditional ideas are questioned and new ideas are considered in taking the branch forward in 2018. Influencing the branch's direction is rewarding and as a member you will discover more about how the Branch, County Association and the BBKA function.

If you would like your name put forward contact the Branch Secretary.

Chris Cox (email: secretary@warleambees.org.uk)

Time for a Re-think

As beekeepers we should be used to mother nature confounding and surprising us but as the following fotos taken by Steve Poynter in the BBKA Apiary show, we have been outsmarted by this particularly determined and voracious woodpecker who has overcome the polythene protection, which we all thought would prevent it from getting sufficient grip to perch and peck, and forced entry into the super.

Or perhaps it wasn't a woodpecker??? Any ideas?

Whatever, it's back to the drawing board methinks!



A call to the Wild

I had one of those phone calls all Beekeepers dread last month “ I’ve been given your name as we have some problems with Bees in an old Willow Tree we have to fell”

The first visit revealed a very old Weeping Willow leaning at a steep angle ,50 foot tall, across the garden and not near any buildings thank goodness.

There was clearly a very active Honey Bee colony going into the base of the tree but we were unable to estimate how long they had been there or how big the nest was going to be!

After giving the normal advice! And asking that they give me a call when the team are about to come and fell/demolish the tree so I can be at hand to try and save the colony.

Needless to say I got a call a couple of weeks later to say they had “ chopped down” the tree and the Guys using the chainsaws got stung by the defending Bees.

So on the second visit I turned up expecting to find a right mess but to be fare foliage and trunks cleared away and I was faced with an open stump and a calm Colony going about their own business even if the “Roof” was missing from the homestead.

The owner of the Stump then tasked me if I could take the bees away ,as he films it, as they are coming to grind down the stump tomorrow.



The following You Tube link then shows my antics removing the Colony and putting it into a suitable cardboard box for transport back home to my Apiary.

<https://youtu.be/57igLJ73kXo>

The owner set up his camera, set to record and then most of the time retreated to a safe distance even though I had given him a Veil and decent gloves to wear.
After removal of the comb I left them to gather in the box and collected them that evening.



The next day transferred them into a National hive and fed them a little Pollen Substitute I had left from the Spring and a good lump of candy.

It was the wrong time of year to mess around putting combs into frames so they were sat onto a solid floor within two super boxes and covered with a Queen excluder so they had somewhere firm to attach the combs to for the winter.

A week later a Novice Beekeeper who wanted to increase the size of his Apiary came and took them away and hopefully they are strong enough to survive the winter.

Two guesses who will be helping to get them into a” proper”brood box and frames but that’s a problem for 2018

Last but not least a couple of weeks later the owner of the “Old Willow” who has a lot more sophisticated filming and editing skills than I sent the following “You Tube” link enjoy the show.

Brian Donley.

A very old Member of Warwick and Leamington Branch.

Hints and Tips

Thoughts may be turning to Christmas. You might like to try this recipe out, it is very easy , very very yummy and would make a lovely gift

Honey Fudge

115g butter
450g granulated sugar
1 (397g)tin condensed milk
2 tablespoons honey
140ml full cream milk
A pinch cream of tartar



Line or grease a 18cm (7inch)square tin.

Heat all the ingredients together slowly until completely dissolved.

Bring to the boil ,stirring all the time, until it reaches 114C or 240F on a sugar thermometer.

Remove from heat and continue to beat until it thickens. Pour into tin.

When it has cooled slightly, mark into squares. Set it aside to cool completely

Should make about 16 pieces .

Can add nuts, cherries, dried fruit, coconut, peppermint flavour etc to the mix or partly dip the set pieces in melted chocolate to make an interesting assortment.

Enjoy!

If you have any hints or tips that you would like to share, please send them to h.essex@virgin.net

Helen Essex

Thank you

May I thank those members who have sent me items for Bee Talk throughout the year without these I would be redundant and you would be short of things that happen within the Branch.

At the same time I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful Honey Gathering New Year.

Roger

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 December 27th latest.**

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

BeeTalk is: Designed, produced, printed and distributed by Roger Wilkes

Warwick and Leamington Branch
of Warwickshire Beekeepers Association
Reg Charity No. 500276 www.warleambees.org.uk