



Stowmarket & District Beekeepers' Association

WINTER BULLETIN 2011/12

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Affiliated to the British Beekeepers' Association, Current Membership 81

Welcome to a brief winter edition of the bulletin. I hope you all had a cheery Christmas and a very happy beekeeping year to you all.

Please make a note of our events coming up in your new diaries. Please come along to our AGM next month and have your say. Further details will follow shortly. Let's hope for a good turnout for this year.

Also don't forget your subscriptions which are now due. You should have received the form by now. Contact the treasurer if you have a query.

EVENTS SCHEDULE 2012

Date	Time	Location	Event	Contact	Comments, any Costs
Thursday 16th February	7.30pm	Creeting St Mary Village Hall	Beekeepers Course Theory Day 1	Tony Payne 01359 244244	Phone for prices & booking
Sunday 26th February	1.45pm	Creeting St Mary Village Hall	Stowmarket and District Beekeepers' Association Annual General Meeting	Sue Haynes 01449 722570	All welcome, please complete and return notification sheet
Wednes day 7 th March	7.30pm	Creeting St Mary Village Hall	Suffolk Beekeepers' Association Annual General Meeting	Ian McQueen County Secretary 01473 420187	
Thursday 15th March	7.30pm	Creeting St Mary Village Hall	Beekeepers Course Theory Day 2	Tony Payne 01359 244244	Phone for prices & booking
Thursday 7th & Friday 8th June		Trinity Park	Suffolk Show & County Honey Show	Ian McQueen County Secretary 01473 420187	See bulletin for further Info

DO YOUR BEES NEED FEEDING !!

As the winter continues our bees are surviving on diminishing stores. To ensure their survival through to the spring a check at this time of year is essential. Hives should be hefted and any light ones must be given help.



Bees on the fondant

If unsure of how to heft the hive or in some doubt then a technique I have successfully followed is to carefully lift the roof on a dry calm day. Importantly it must be cold, say below 8 °C. The bees should be observed through the feed hole of the crown board. If the bees are at the top of the hive then the chances are that they need feeding. A fondant, not syrup must be used. I use the ambrosia version (see photo) which is quite expensive if you have more than a few hives. Making your own or buying baker's fondant could be cheaper alternatives.

If you are unsure any member of the committee will be willing to advise

GR&RM

2011 INTRODUCTION TO BEEKEEPING COURSE

25 'budding' beekeepers attended last year's course, a small increase on 2010. Approximately half of them were helped to get started as the season progressed: usually by providing swarms and a few with personal supervision in the novice's early days.

Most of the course participants attended a follow-up day at Little College Farm, where swarm hiving and frame assembly were demonstrated. We realised that these two skills should have been included in the basic practicals, so the 2012 course has been extended to 3 practical sessions.

A post-course survey revealed a very high level of satisfaction with the only real criticism being the disturbing noise from another room in Creting Village Hall. This year we have booked the entire hall.



2012 B.K. Course

At the time of writing, we have 19 people registered, so have room for a few more. This year we are pleased that John Izzard, our President, is joining the 'tutorial' team. We should have purchased a club digital projector in time for the first session on 16th February.

President's day 18th September

Over 20 members attended our President's Day event hosted by Richard and Kathryn Martin at Little College Farm, Creeting St Mary on a dull, but warm and dry Sunday afternoon.

Our President gave an extremely informative and entertaining practical demonstration of wax handling and processing.

The afternoon demonstration concluded with the manufacturing of a sheet of home-made foundation using the garden roller.

Many thanks go out to John for a great afternoon and also to our hosts Richard and Kathryn.

GR



Bees & Flowers - Jeremy Quinlan

On 6th October Jeremy provided an evening of education for us at Creeting village hall.

His presentation entitled "Bees and Flowers" focussed on the interactions between the two and how they have evolved. It was accompanied by some wonderfully colourful and detailed slides covering the methods used by bees and flowers to get the most from each other. I found the magnified photos of the various pollens both beautiful and fascinating. Such views can be obtained as hobbyists with a simple microscope and a digital camera.

The talk provided inspiration for further thought and reading on this aspect of our hobby. Many thanks go out to Jeremy and also to those of the committee who looked after us on the night. GR.

SUFFOLK SHOW 2012

That's right! Once again The Suffolk Show is upon us.

This year the Show is being held on Thursday 7th June and Friday 8th June 2012. As usual Stewards are required to ensure a smooth running occasion.

So, if you can spare a few hours on one or both days please contact me, on jackie.mcqueen@ntlworld.com or 01473 420187 so that we can make it the best ever show.

If you would like to enter in the competitions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Full details will be available on www.suffolkbeekeepers.co.uk in the near future.

Ian McQueen
Show Secretary

Useful Sources of Information

British Beekeepers' Association www.britishbee.org

Suffolk Beekeepers' Association www.suffolkbeekeepers.co.uk

BeeBase, the National Bee Unit website <https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/beebase/>

Regional Bee Inspector Keith Morgan keith.morgan@fera.gsi.gov.uk 01485 520838, 07919 004215

Seasonal Bee Inspector Sylvia Pettitt sylvia.pettitt@fera.gsi.gov.uk 01638 500378, 07775119432

Officers and Committee Members

Chairman:	Richard Martin	01449 720491
Vice- Chairman:	Tony Payne	01359 244244
Secretary:	Sue Haynes	01449 722570
Treasurer:	Tony Molesworth	01449 612633
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	Carol Chalkley	01449 711353
	Michael Heath	01449 744000
	John Insley	01449 780207
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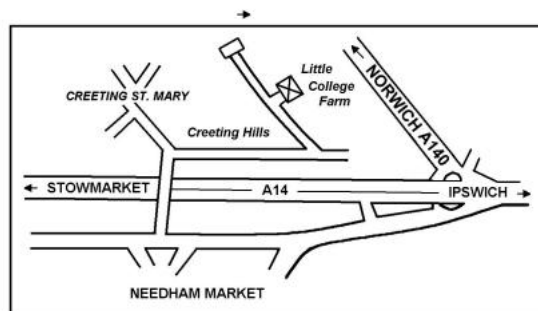
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Little College Farm, Creeting Hills, Creeting St. Mary, Needham Market, IP6 8PX
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OPEN

1 April to 30 September 4 to 7 pm daily excluding Sundays
All other times by arrangement only please