



Essex Beekeepers' Association

Jan 2019 Chelmsford Divisional Report

On 16/11/18, CBK Members enjoyed our celebratory centenary dinner at the County Hotel which was the culmination of a fantastic 2018 which saw many more members volunteering to support CBK during various events throughout 2018. Mr Guy Smith from the National Farmers Union gave an excellent humorous talk under the heading of 'People Politics and Pollination.' He had the audience transfixed as he described his encounters with a real life American 'red indian' supplied by one of the tabloid newspapers, when they heard that his farm in Essex had been officially classified as 'desert' due to the lack of rainfall. The red indian assisted by performing a traditional 'rain dance' on Guy's farm which would guarantee rainfall.....he just couldn't say when!

On 19/11/18, Jon Beasley gave a very well received talk on "Beekeeping around the world'. Members appreciated the amount of effort Jon had put into researching his subject.

Unlike 2017 which saw the pre-Christmas monthly meeting 'snowed off', we had a well supported Christmas 'fun evening' on 10/12/18 – a light hearted friendly competition decorating honey jars and enjoying hot spiced fruit drinks and mince pies.

The theme taken for 2019 will be 'Back to Basics' and a series of meetings have been planned throughout 2019 to remind experienced and assist new beekeepers alike, on how to improve their Basic Beekeeping skills.

We continue to remind members that their subscriptions are now past due and to renew their membership immediately.

CBK will hold their AGM 21/1/19 at the Links Hall, Methodist Church, Rainsford Road, Chelmsford, at 7:30pm. There has been a need to appoint some new members to the committee due to time constraints of previous committee members which has led them to stand down. Therefore we will be seeking to appoint a new secretary and re-organising some other duties. Roy Hardwicke – President, Brian Spencer – Chairman, Jon Beasley – Education, Ian Grant – Treasurer and Jan Tutton – Trustee will all be seeking re-election to their posts. In addition Jan Tutton will stand for election as Vice-Chair of CBK. David Lockie will talk to us about 'Getting ready for spring' following the formal part of the meeting.

Meetings and events

- 21/1/19 CBK AGM and monthly meeting – speaker David Lockie – topic 'Getting ready for Spring'.
- 18/2/19 CBK monthly meeting – speaker Caroline Wheeler – topic 'Hive products we can all make'.
- On the first Sunday of each month our members support the Hylands monthly Farmers markets to sell local honey.

Upcoming Events

Education

- Our beginners Theory Courses start in Feb'19 and we already have 12 people who have signed up and paid their fees.
- WE have more school visits planned for 2019 and our member Ian Grant also plans to write an article for BBKA on his engagement with local children.

Apiaries

- We continue to use the Writtle college and Hylands apiaries for practical training.



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- The Hylands Apiary is used for the filming of short live events for the CBK web site and also for Oaklands Museum where our observation hive is housed.

Finances

- Balance held at Metro Bank as at 13/1/19 £5900.
- Balance includes some beginners course fees for 2019 and renewed membership fees.

Membership (figures reflect end 2018 membership as subscriptions are still being received.)

- Singles: 117
- Doubles: 38
- Associates: 10
- BBKA (Honorary): 1
- Total = 166

Jan Tutton