

Bromley Bee News Monthly Update

Published by the Bromley Beekeepers



Cover pictures from the December apiary meeting.

Happy New Year, welcome to the **January 2002 issue** of Bromley News.

I have been catching up on a few jobs in the honey house. I like to check all my stored supers for wax moth damage and destroy any larva found, this year all my supers were clean.

As a preventative measure I protect my 30 supers from rodent damage by stacking them on a solid wood base with a hive roof on top.

During the cold spells I have been checking my hives, making sure the mouse guards are not blocked with dead bees.

On the 30th Dec I was really surprised to find my Honeysuckle flowering. I grow this plant for summer fragrance and nectar; unfortunately only bumblebees seem to get the full benefit.



Steven Wade, who runs a stall in Greenwich market (Fresh Flavours, specialising in preserves etc), is looking for a supplier of local honey. He is initially requesting 40lb or so a month. If anyone is interested his number is 020-8555-2060.

I would like to recommend the Beekeepers Annual 2002 published by Northern Bee Books. Contains: calendar and diary for 2002, year end hive records, bee crosswords, articles, directory of beekeeping organisations and statistics, and other useful beekeeping information. Cost £7.75 post paid. Tel: 01422-882751 or securely online from the website <http://www.beedata.com/beebooks.htm>



Local Honey

Looking for local honey? Beekeepers can add their own entries and can edit later www.beedata.com/localhoney/

Place to Visit

The Famous Hodsock Snowdrops - Winter gardens with a unique working Victorian Apiary located off B6045 at Blyth, Nottinghamshire. More info and photographs at: www.beedata.com/news/hadsock2002.htm "A magical sight you will never forget - a myriad of flowers in the five acre gardens plus a half-mile walk in the

woods with carpets of snowdrops to delight you"

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Apiary News

Two incorrect dates to put right this month. The first is the note in the County Newsletter which reads the 3rd of January and should read the **3rd Tuesday in January**. The other mistake was down to me when I said the BBQ would be on the 6th February when I meant the **6th of January**. Let's hope no one fell for either of those blunders.

Now that all the festivities are over we can look towards what the New Year will bring. Just one resolution and that is those of you we never see just come along and say hello, we're not a bad bunch and you might even enjoy your visit.



Some of you at the December meeting will have noticed me applying BVT (Bee Venom Treatment) to my leg. Yes, it comes to us all - arthritis in my right knee. I was forced to give up badminton for about five weeks but fortunately I am now back on court. Is that due to the BVT I wonder? Those of you who read these notes on the web site will be able to see the pictures, but believe me it's not as painful as it looks. I notice that today a little stiffness has developed in my knee so if there are any bees about it appears that another dose of treatment is due.

Our April Lecture is on the subject of BVT, so perhaps our speaker will be able to give me and anyone else affected a few words of encouragement.

The first item on the programme this year has nothing to do with beekeeping but is something not to be missed. Derrick Sleeve, will be giving a first hand account of the D-day landings and the part that the Mulberry Harbour played at that memorable time. **Tuesday 15th January at 7:30pm** at our Clubhouse. Bring a friend and we promise there will be no bees flying around.

As the days begin to lengthen, queens will start to lay and there will be ever-greater demands on stores. Make sure all your stocks are well supplied by gently testing the weight of each one and those that are light give them a block of candy. Don't worry about giving to those that are not in need as they will just ignore it and the candy can be removed and saved when natural supplies start coming in.

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