



Off the Comb

News from the Totnes & Kingsbridge Beekeepers

May 2018

Last month

Apiary Open Day

On Sunday 22nd April we had our Apiary Open Day and showed off the new bee hives that we have invested in. Over 20 beekeepers turned out for the afternoon to see Kevin and Graham demonstrate a shook swarm demonstration (once they had found the queen). There was also an opportunity for branch members to buy surplus equipment and then relax with a cup of tea and a slice of cake under the gazebo. Attached are some photos from the day and also attached is an information sheet on how to carry out a shook swarm.



This month

Viruses: 7.30pm on Thursday 10th May at St Luke's Church, Plymouth Road, Buckfastleigh, TQ11 0DA. Guest Speaker Martin Hann, SBI, will give a talk on "What do viruses do all day?". Martin will explain the structure of viruses, how they function and how they affect life on earth. He will then explain in more detail how viruses affect honeybees and discuss some of the things that we can do to reduce their impact.

County Show: Thursday 17th May to Saturday 19th May at Westpoint, Exeter. If you would like to help out man the exhibition tent please contact Barry Neal on gen.sec.dbka@gmail.com . Those helping out do half a day manning the exhibition

tent and then have the rest of the day to visit the showground at their leisure. A pass is provided for the day.

Coming Up

Pollen: 2.00pm on Saturday 9th June at St Luke's, Buckfastleigh. Guest speaker, Richard Ball will give an outline of the 'DARG/Quantock BKA Pollen Project' based on a COLLOS project completed some years ago. The project is to examine bee collected pollen diversity within Devon, Somerset and hopefully Dorset. It covers pollen collection, identifying by colour or microscopy and reporting the results so far. Examination of pollen in honey and air born pollen is also touched upon. We would encourage you to join in the project, and you do not have to belong to either of the organising groups. When you look at pollen collect your views about your bee forage will change! We shall also have a cake competition. Please bring along a cake, preferably one with honey and we can then try them all out.

Totnes & District Show: Sunday 29th July at Berry Farm, Berry Pomeroy, Totnes, TQ9 6LG. The branch will have a stand at the show.

Kingsbridge Show: Saturday 1st September at Borough Farm, Kingsbridge, TQ9 7QP. The branch will have a stand at the show.

Notices

Asian Hornet

If you are interested in forming a branch Asian Hornet Action Team (AHAT), please contact Joe McGuckin on swbrickworksvcs@aol.com

Community Beekeeping at Buckfast Abbey

Buckfast Abbey will be continuing their beekeeping workshops. At 2.00pm on 19th May, they have a workshop on swarm control, cost is £5.00. They are also currently running their 'Beyond Beginners' sessions, cost is £5.00 per session, with the next date set at 14th July. Full details of these courses and other events can be found on the website www.buckfast.org.uk However, if you would have any questions please contact Clare Densley direct on cdensley@buckfast.org.uk or Mob: 07944 504283.

Hembury Bee Supplies

Agents for the main manufacturers and can supply all your beekeeping needs. Contact John Harler, Outer Finches, Hembury Cock Hill, Buckfast, TQ11 0HN. Please phone or Email before you visit. Tel: 01364 642517. Email: fire221@btinternet.com

Apiary Site

Mr Vince Fowler of Coffinswell has an area to keep hives if anybody is interested his Tel No is: 07740 918153.

Another Apiary Site

Bob and Anne Harvey have a 60 acre farm at Blackawton and wish to encourage bees on their farm. They would like to establish contact with a sympathetic beekeeper who would be prepared to put onto site and manage a few of hives on their property with perhaps a leaning towards more natural beekeeping. If you are interested, please contact Bob or Anne by email at clyston@waitrose.com or Tel No: 01803 712662.

Himalayan Balsam

BeeCraft magazine is looking to do an article of Himalayan balsam and would like to talk to beekeepers on the matter. Part of the piece will be talking to people who are very much opposed to the existence of this plant in the UK and who take part in various activities to hinder it's growth, including 'Balam Bashing'. The article would also talk to beekeepers whose bees benefit from the balsam. If you would like to take part in the article, please contact Richard Rickitt, Deputy Editor, Bee Craft. Email: Richard@bee-craft.com

Honey Jars for Development

Steve Summers has approximately 300 new half-pound honey jars and lids that he would like to sell (at approximately half retail price) to raise money for Bees for Development. If you would like to help Steve with his fund raising by purchasing some jars and lids, please contact him direct on 01803 849447 or Email: stephen@summers.org.uk

Basic Assessment

If you are interested in taking your basic assessment and would like some training at the branch apiary to help please contact Lilah Killock by Email: lilahkillock@btinternet.com

Branch Committee

President: Rod Saffery, 01803 762532, rodsaffery@gmail.com

Chairman: Graham Brown, 01364 642787, graham.brown@gmx.us

Vice-Chairman: Jeremy Wells, 01364 72180, jeremy.ena@gmail.com

Secretary & Trustee: Grant Elliott, 01752 894094, bees.westlakedevon@gmail.com

Treasurer: John Harler, 01364 642517, fire221@btinternet.com

Other members: Annie Hill, John Hart, Lilah Killock, Joe Mc Guckin, Kevin Gillard, Tammy Skinner

Branch Website

<http://beekeepingsouthdevon.uk/>

<http://www.totnesandkingsbridgebeekeepers.com/>

Need help? Ken Basterfield holds the highest UK bee-keeping qualification, the National Diploma in Beekeeping, and if you feel in need of some instant advice, you can telephone him on 01404 815885. Two of our most experienced beekeepers, John Harler in Buckfast (01364 642517) and Jeremy Wells in South Brent (01364 72180), are happy to be contacted at short notice by any member needing practical help and/or advice.



Totnes & Kingsbridge Beekeepers is a branch of Devon Beekeepers Association
Registered charity no 270675.