



October 2017

Last month

Unfortunately there were no events last month.

This month

What to do with Wax? 7.30pm on 11th October at The Community Room, Totnes Fire Station, Coronation Road, Totnes, TQ9 5DF. It's the end of the season and you have bits of beeswax all over the place. Old frames that need cleaning up to be reused and odd lumps you have scraped off equipment while inspecting. Or perhaps you have extracted some honey and want to know what to do with the cappings? How do you salvage this valuable resource? What can you use it for?

This session is aimed at beginners. We'll show you various items of equipment that can be useful (including some you may already have in your kitchen) and tell you about the ones you can borrow from the branch. We will talk about the best ways of cleaning up the wax and show you some of the uses it can be put to. There's no charge, but a small donation towards the cost of refreshments is always appreciated. Please note that there is no parking allowed on site, except for blue badge holders. Please park nearby (eg Morrison's) and then walk.

Plymouth Branch Honey Show 7.00pm on 12th October at Elburton Village Hall, 109 Springfield Road, Plymouth, PL9 8PU. We have an extended invitation to bring our own entries. Doors open at 7.00pm, with judging starting at 7.30pm. The show judge will be Jack Mummery. See attached flyers for details. For any queries, please email Jean French: jeanfrench1957@yahoo.co.uk or Steve Russell: jeanandsteverussell@gmail.com

Beekeeping Beginners Course 7.00pm on 19th October. This course is intended for new beekeepers and for those with some experience who wish to obtain a good grounding in the theory and practice of beekeeping. This session concentrates on **The**

Colony. Theory classes will be held at St Luke's Church, Plymouth Road, Buckfastleigh TQ11 0DA. See attached flyers for details.

National Honey Show 26th – 28th October at Sandown Park Racecourse, Esher, Surrey. Please find attached flyer with details. You can also visit their website at www.honeyshow.co.uk

South Devon Beekeepers Convention 9.15am on 29th October at The Ariel Centre, Totnes. Registration starts from 9.15am, with the first talk starting at 10.00am. The speakers are confirmed as Professor David Evans of St Andrews University, Simon Croson, Marin Anastassov and Will Steynor. Please put the date in your diary. See attached flyer for details.

Coming Up

Beekeeping Beginners Course 7.00pm on 16th November. This course is intended for new beekeepers and for those with some experience who wish to obtain a good grounding in the theory and practice of beekeeping. This session concentrates on **The Hive**. Theory classes will be held at St Luke's Church, Plymouth Road, Buckfastleigh TQ11 0DA. See attached flyers for details.

Celebrity Lecture and Bring and Buy & Branch AGM 2.30pm on 19th November at St Luke's Church, Plymouth Road, Buckfastleigh TQ11 0DA. Guest speaker is Ken Basterfield who holds the highest UK bee-keeping qualification, the National Diploma in Beekeeping.

There will also be a bring and buy stall for members to sell on small items of surplus equipment, etc. Please ensure your items are labeled with your name and the sale price. The branch takes no commission from any sales and all monies go direct to the vendor. If anyone would like to bring some cake, biscuits to make it more of an occasion that would also be greatly appreciated.

Beeswax Candles & Glass Moulds 7.00pm on 16th January 2018 at South Brent Village Hall, Station Approach, South Brent TQ10 9AQ. Will Steynor will give a practical demonstration on making beeswax candles, with an emphasis on using glass moulds. There's no charge, but a small donation towards the cost of refreshments is always appreciated.

Notices

Branch Website

Our branch website is now up and running and can be accessed from either of the addresses below.

<http://beekeepingsouthdevon.uk/>

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

Membership Forms for 2018

Membership renewals are due by end of this calendar year. Please find enclosed our membership form for 2018. Please can you return sooner rather than later, to ease the work for your membership secretary and treasurer over the Christmas break.

Asian Hornet

The Asian hornet has been sighted in North Devon on 18th September. Beekeepers within the area will be contacted by Bee Inspectors in order to carry out apiary inspections and to hang out killing traps. Please find attached notice from the NBU on what action you should take now to assist.

Community Beekeeping at Buckfast Abbey

There is an open invitation to join the beekeepers at Buckfast abbey on Sundays for an afternoon of beekeeping. They have around 8 colonies set in a woodland setting. This is an ideal opportunity to get more "hands on" experience, but anyone can come and just watch and learn, including children. The activity is free but a donation would be appreciated to cover drinks, or bring along a food / drink donation. The group usually meets at 1.30pm at the Bee Barn. If you are interested please contact Clare Densley first, in case plans change and so she knows how many are coming. Mob: 07944 504283 or Email: cdensley@buckfast.org.uk

Help Wanted with Branch Events

Do you want to see Totnes & Kingsbridge Beekeepers holding regular branch events where you can learn more about bees and beekeeping and/or get to know fellow beekeepers? Organising meetings with talks and/or demonstrations, or social get-togethers is not too arduous a job and one that does not involve a large time commitment unless all the work for all events falls to one person, as has happened in the past when we have appointed an Events Organiser from amongst the Branch Committee members.

For the twelve months December 2017 to November 2018 we'd like to spread the load among the general membership. *Anyone volunteering to organise a one-off event will not be expected to join the Branch Committee or be responsible for any events in the future. It's a one-off commitment.* Could you undertake to organise just one event between December 2017 and November 2018? It could be one of our monthly meetings in January or March or September or October for a talk or demo. Why not hold it locally to you (and make it convenient for other branch members in your area), perhaps in a local village hall or school? Or would you like to organise a social event this coming December in time for Christmas: a buffet supper with quiz, question and answer forum, or other entertainment perhaps? (We already have a volunteer to organise the Branch's annual dinner in February 2018.)

What is involved? You find the Hall, speaker/demonstrator, helpers (if necessary) and organise the refreshments, and decide whether to charge. You open up and close down and handle the money. We have a budget for hall hire, speaker fees, etc, and will help

you finalise your ideas. You make sure the branch newsletter contains details. If for some reason you later find that you need help or someone to take over, rest assured a Branch Committee member will have the responsibility to support you and, if needed, step in. Perhaps you would like to liaise with another Branch for a joint meeting, or organise a visit to a member's apiary (it could be your own) in the summer months?

It would be great to have someone take charge of organising the Branch Apiary's Opening Day in late April, or our Totnes Show stand in late July? We also have bigger events like the Branch Honey Show or the South Devon Beekeepers' Convention in Autumn 2018. (These last two do require a considerable time commitment). You don't have to be an experienced beekeeper to do any of the tasks above. Organising events is a great way of getting to know new people. All that is required are some basic communication skills and a lot of enthusiasm!

Interested? Want more information before committing yourself? Email Grant: bees.westlakedevon@gmail.com or speak to any Branch Committee member.

Branch Website

Our branch website has now closed. We are looking at setting up a new website and a Facebook site and will circulate details when this is done.

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

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

Auditor: Grant Elliott, 01752 894094, bees.westlakedevon@gmail.com

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

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

Bee Diseases Insurance: Grant Elliott, 01752 894094, bees.westlakedevon@gmail.com

Social Secretary: Joe McGuckin 01803 863969 swbrickworksvcs@aol.com

Honey Show Secretary: Susan Martin, 01752 894094, susan.westlakedevon@gmail.com

Off the Comb Editor: Grant Elliott, 01752 894094, bees.westlakedevon@gmail.com

Education Officer: Kevin Gillard, 01548 810148, fonso@tiscali.co.uk

Publicity Officer: Jeremy Wells, 01364 72180, jeremy.ena@gmail.com

Apiary Team Leader: Graham Brown, 01364 642787, graham.brown@gmx.us

Apiary Assistants: Steve Summers, Mark Elliot-Smith, Lilah Killock

Webmaster: Position Vacant

Other members of the Committee: Lesley Bird, Mark Elliot-Smith, Nick Grech-Cini, John Hart, Lilah Killock

Website for branch news: No longer up and running.

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.