



## September 2017

### Last month

#### Totnes Show

On 30<sup>th</sup> July we had a stand in the Food and Drink Stall at the Totnes Show. We sold over £200 of honey from the branch and on behalf of our members. The observation was also a really big draw for the public, especially the children.



#### Meet the Bees

On 13<sup>th</sup> August we had our 'Meet the Bees' day at our branch apiary at Dartington. The event gave members of the public an opportunity to see inside a hive and handle bees.

## Bee Safari

On 20<sup>th</sup> August Delia hosted a bee safari at her apiary in Loddiswell and put on a splendid buffet. The event was well attended with many newcomers to the craft coming along.

## Bee Workshop / Demonstration

On 26<sup>th</sup> August Jeremy carried out a demonstration at Lesley's apiary to show how to unite two weak colonies into a single strong colony and also demonstrate varroa treatment for the autumn.

## This month

**Kingsbridge Show & Branch Honey Show** 2<sup>nd</sup> September. Unfortunately, we have had to cancel the honey show due to lack of entries. We will try out a different arrangement at a later date and will be in contact when we have something planned.

**Cornwall's Beekeeping Convention, At Bit of a Do** 9<sup>th</sup> September. See attached flyers for details.

**Midlands & South West Counties Convention** 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> September. See attached flyers for details.

**Beekeeping Beginners Course** 21<sup>st</sup> September. 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. Theory classes will be held at St Luke's Church, Plymouth Road, Buckfastleigh TQ11 0DA. See attached flyers for details.

## Coming Up

**Plymouth Branch Honey Show** 12<sup>th</sup> 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 and the show judge will be Jack Mummery. See attached flyers for details. For any queries, please email Jean French: [jeanfrench1957@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jeanfrench1957@yahoo.co.uk) or Steve Russell: [jeanandsteverussell@gmail.com](mailto:jeanandsteverussell@gmail.com)

**South Devon Beekeepers Convention** 29<sup>th</sup> October at The Ariel Centre, Totnes. 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.

## Notices

### Apiary Sites Wanted

Branch member Paul Richards of Stoke Gabriel has 5 x hives which is now too many for his garden. Paul is looking for a secure apiary site with easy access to relocate his 5 x

hives. Anyone with any suggestions as to possible available sites, please contact Paul on 01803 782627 or email [paul@family-richards.co.uk](mailto:paul@family-richards.co.uk)

Branch member Rod Saffery is also looking for an apiary site. He is looking for space for 6 hives and possibly a small shed. If you can help, please contact Rod on 01803 762532 or email [rodsaffery@gmail.com](mailto:rodsaffery@gmail.com)

### **Stoke Fleming Village Shop**

Stoke Fleming Village Shop is looking for someone to supply them with honey for sale. If you are interested, please contact Becky on 01803 771119 or email [bexmarsh@live.co.uk](mailto:bexmarsh@live.co.uk)

### **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](mailto:cdensley@buckfast.org.uk)

On Saturday 2nd September and Saturday 16th September there will be a 'Taster Day' at Buckfast Abbey. The day starts at 11am and finishes at 4pm with an hour for lunch (bring your own or dine at the Grange restaurant on site). We will be giving you an overview of the basic responsibilities and commitments involved in keeping bees alongside the costs and where best to get your kit. You will have the chance to see inside a hive and experience the fascinating world of honey bee first hand. A full information pack will be given out for you to keep. **Cost: £25**

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:rodsaffery@gmail.com)

Chairman: Graham Brown, 01364 642787, [graham.brown@gmx.us](mailto:graham.brown@gmx.us)

Vice-Chairman: Jeremy Wells, 01364 72180, [jeremy.ena@gmail.com](mailto:jeremy.ena@gmail.com)

Secretary: Grant Elliott, 01752 894094, [bees.westlakedevon@gmail.com](mailto:bees.westlakedevon@gmail.com)

Treasurer: John Harler 01364 642517, [fire221@btinternet.com](mailto:fire221@btinternet.com)

Auditor: Grant Elliott, 01752 894094, [bees.westlakedevon@gmail.com](mailto:bees.westlakedevon@gmail.com)

Branch Trustee: Grant Elliott, 01752 894094, [bees.westlakedevon@gmail.com](mailto:bees.westlakedevon@gmail.com)

Membership Secretary: Grant Elliott, 01752 894094, [bees.westlakedevon@gmail.com](mailto:bees.westlakedevon@gmail.com)

Bee Diseases Insurance: Grant Elliott, 01752 894094, [bees.westlakedevon@gmail.com](mailto:bees.westlakedevon@gmail.com)

Social Secretary: Joe McGuckin 01803 863969 [swbrickworksvcs@aol.com](mailto:swbrickworksvcs@aol.com)

Honey Show Secretary: Susan Martin, 01752 894094, [susan.westlakedevon@gmail.com](mailto:susan.westlakedevon@gmail.com)

Off the Comb Editor: Grant Elliott, 01752 894094, [bees.westlakedevon@gmail.com](mailto:bees.westlakedevon@gmail.com)

Education Officer: Kevin Gillard, 01548 810148, [fonso@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:fonso@tiscali.co.uk)

Publicity Officer: Jeremy Wells, 01364 72180, [jeremy.ena@gmail.com](mailto:jeremy.ena@gmail.com)

Apiary Team Leader: Graham Brown, 01364 642787, [graham.brown@gmx.us](mailto: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.