



**July 2017**

## **Last month**

**Events** Unfortunately there were no branch organised last month.

## **This month**

**BIBBA Improvers Course** 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> June at Harrowbarrow, Cornwall, PL17 8B0. 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> June at Mount Edgcumbe, Cornwall, PL10 1HZ. 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> June at Exeter, EX5 1EJ Devon. The course is aimed at beekeepers who wish to improve the quality of their bees with emphasis on suitability to the environment, docility, calmness on the comb, ease of management, good use of stores etc. - all aspects that concern the caring beekeeper but which are not often included in tuition. The tutor is Roger Patterson, an experienced practical beekeeper who is the Apiary Manager of his local BKA in West Sussex and is the Conference & Workshop Secretary for BIBBA.

During the two days we will cover many of the topics and techniques that will suit the "ordinary" beekeeper, with a large practical element that is easy to understand. Both natural and artificial methods of queen rearing will be covered. The course is intended to be fun, not packed with intense technical information. Cost is £85.00, including lunch and refreshments. For further details and booking see <http://bibba.com/event-list/>

**Devon Bee Health Day** 1<sup>st</sup> July from 9.00am to 4.30pm at Bow Village Hall, EX17 6HU (Okehampton Branch). Cost for the day £5. Remember to bring a clean bee suit and wellies. Drinks available throughout the day. Please bring a packed lunch. To register on a first come, first served basis contact Simon O'Sullivan, Tel: 01363 82838, Email: [grannysmeadow@hotmail.com](mailto:grannysmeadow@hotmail.com)

**Using a WBC** 8<sup>th</sup> July from 2.30pm at Clay Lane Apiary. Newton Abbot branch event hosted by our own Lilah Killcock, please contact Lilah, Tel: 01803 866028, Email: [lilahkillcock@btinternet.com](mailto:lilahkillcock@btinternet.com)

**Disease Day** 22<sup>nd</sup> July at Buckfast Abbey from 11.00am to 4.00pm. Cost £10. Bring your own lunch. The event will show you how to recognise when things are not going right for your colony. Plenty of hands on experience including a practical workshop session looking at actual combs illustrating the most common brood diseases and problems. To book a place, please contact Clare Densley. Mob: 07944 504283 or Email: [cdensley@buckfast.org.uk](mailto:cdensley@buckfast.org.uk)

**Totnes Show** 30<sup>th</sup> July. Lilah has offered to coordinate honey sales. If you would like the branch to sell honey for you at the show, please contact Lilah, Tel: 01803 866028, Email: [lilahkillcock@btinternet.com](mailto:lilahkillcock@btinternet.com)

## Coming Up

**Kingsbridge Show & Branch Honey Show** 2<sup>nd</sup> September. See attachment for entry details.

**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.

**Microscopy Workshop** *Date TBA*

## Notices

### International Meeting of Beekeepers

Our branch has made a financial contribution of £1.00 per member to support the 'International Meeting of Young Beekeepers' which is being held at Marlborough College, Wiltshire between 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> July 2017. For further details, please see:

<http://www.imyb.co.uk/>

The organisers are also looking for practical support and are looking for beekeepers to provide sample bees for testing for one of the assessments. The samples would need to be with Ian Homer, Exeter branch on the afternoon / evening of 6<sup>th</sup> July. If you would like to help, please contact Ian Homer directly at [beekeepers@hotmail.com](mailto:beekeepers@hotmail.com)

### Sale of Bees, Beehives and Apiary Equipment

1<sup>st</sup> July at from 11.00am at Harbournford Lodge, Harbournford, South Brent, TQ10 9DA. See attached flyer (1.1) from Rendell's for details.

### Sale of Nuc Boxes

Nuc Boxes for sale at Stoke Gabriel. Please see attached flyer (1.2) from Marjorie Clarke for details.

## **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)

## **Help Wanted with Branch Events**

We are looking for people to host a bee safari, which would essentially be an informal branch visit to your apiary. If you would like to do this, please contact Joe McGuckin, Tel: 01803 863969, Email: [swbrickworksvcs@aol.com](mailto:swbrickworksvcs@aol.com)

## **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.

## **Quince Honey Farm & Donegal Bee Conference**

The branch is considering an outing to Quince Honey Farm and also a visit to the Donegal Bee Conference. If you are interested, please contact Joe McGuckin, Tel: 01803 863969, Email: [swbrickworksvcs@aol.com](mailto:swbrickworksvcs@aol.com)

## **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, Dick Everett, 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.