



**June 2017**

## **Last month**

**Memory Café & Ivybridge Caring** Two of our Branch members have volunteered to give a talk at the dementia friendly Memory Café in Ivybridge to give a short presentation on bee keeping. The Memory Café has asked me to pass on their thanks for our support.

**Newton Abbot Branch Invitation** Members from our branch attended Newt Abbot's Nosema Day for early spring disease detection.

## **This month**

**Dartington Community Day** *11.00am to 5.00pm on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June at Dartington Hall.*

An event at Dartington Hall to showcase to the local community the work of Dartington Collaborative Network. Dartington's Community Day will give everyone a flavour of what Dartington is all about. Bring the family, a picnic to enjoy on the Great Lawn and experience the best of the Dartington Hall Estate. On the day there will be a range of activities for all ages at this free event, including magicians, musicians, tractor and trailer rides, face-painting, wood-working, archery, pony rides and sample local produce.

**Queen Rearing Workshop, Buckfast Abbey** Propagating queen bees and new colonies need not be too complicated or technical. Anyone can have a go as long as you have a basic grasp of the bees' natural rhythm and mating behavior. The course teaches you about these. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> June and 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> July from 2pm till 4pm (ie 4 sessions spaced 2 weeks apart). Cost £100. To book a place, please contact Clare Densley. Mob: 07944 504283 or Email: [cdensley@buckfast.org.uk](mailto:cdensley@buckfast.org.uk)

## Coming Up

**Devon Bee Health Day** 1<sup>st</sup> July 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)

**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: [lilahkillock@btinternet.com](mailto:lilahkillock@btinternet.com)

**Kingsbridge Show & Branch Honey Show** 2<sup>nd</sup> September

**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)

### 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)

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

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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  
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