



May 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.

This month

Swarming Workshop, Buckfast Abbey This two part seminar / workshop will help you understand the complexities of swarming behavior and demonstrate various methods to stop you losing your bees by working with their natural instincts. Saturday Afternoons on 22nd April and then 6th May from 2pm till 4pm. Cost £10. To book a place, please contact Clare Densley. Mob: 07944 504283 or Email: cdensley@buckfast.org.uk

Somerset Beekeepers Association Invitation 2.00pm on 6th May at Long Sutton Village Hall. Stuart Anderson, from Queensland, Australia, will be talking about the Flow Hive and its development (see attached flyer). Tickets are £5.00. Please contact Steve Horne in advance. Email: steve.horne1@btinternet.com

DBKA County Honey Show 18th, 19th, 20th May (Devon County Show). Please see flyer for details of how to enter exhibits or sell honey through the 'Taste of Honey' stall.

Newton Abbot Branch Invitation 10.00am to 4.00pm on 29th April (Clay Lane Apiary). Nosema Day for early spring disease detection. Attached is a guidance sheet prepared by Glyn Davies on how to collect bee samples for testing. If you would like some help collecting samples, etc. please contact Joe McGuckin. Email: swbrickworksvcs@aol.com

For further details of the day itself, contact apiary manager Allen Hodgson. Email: allenhodgson@talktalk.net If anyone is able to offer help with microscopy, slide preparation, computer recording etc on the day, please contact John Kirk. Email: nabkasecretary@gmail.com

If you would like any bee samples brought to the session for you, please contact Joe McGuckin, Tel: 01803 863969, Email: swbrickworksvcs@aol.com or Leslie Bird, Tel: 07902 252804, Email: Lesleybird56@hotmail.com

Dartington Community Day 11.00am to 5.00pm on Thursday 1st 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.

Coming Up

Devon Bee Health Day 1st 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

Disease Day 22nd 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

Totnes Show 30th July

Kingsbridge Show & Branch Honey Show 2nd September

Microscopy Workshop Date TBA

Notices

Beekeeping Equipment for Sale

National cedar brood boxes - £10, National cedar supers - £7, National Nuc boxes - £10, National Snellgrove swarm board - £3, 30lb Honey Bucket - £2, Plastic National Frame Feeders - £2, Rapid top feeders - £2, 5 litre Syrup bottles - £2

Contact: Rod Saffery, Email: rodsaffery@gmail.com

The Green Table

A new café has opened at Dartington Hall, near our branch apiary. There will be plenty of tempting food from the carefully sourced, delicious handmade food menus and, of course, great coffee. So if you are visiting the apiary, why not give the café a try? Further details and regular updates on the cafe will be posted on facebook at:

www.facebook.com/thegreentablecafe

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 at Totnes Show

We are looking for help at the Totnes Show, in particular someone to deal with all aspects of the honey sales. If you would like to take part, please contact Grant Elliott, Tel: 01752 894094, Email: bees.westlakedevon@gmail.com

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

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 Centrifuge

The branch now has a centrifuge. If you would like to use it, please contact Joe McGuckin, Tel: 01803 863969, Email: swbrickworksvcs@aol.com

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

Natural History GCSE

There is a government petition aimed at encouraging the government to set up a GCSE in Natural History. The petition states that "Re-engagement with Britain's natural history has never been more urgent. Young people need the skills to name, observe, monitor and record wildlife. It is vital to understand the contribution nature makes to our lives physically, culturally, emotionally and scientifically both in the past and today". If you would like to sign the petition, please use the link below by 2nd May:

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/176749>

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, 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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