

Bee Brief

Plym Branch Newsletter
August 2014



Branch Meetings 2014

PLYMOUTH BEEKEEPERS APIARY PROGRAMME 2014

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER

ALL ON A SUNDAY AT 10am except the October meeting

AUGUST (Bank Holiday: Mon 25th)

3 rd	Improvers Meeting (6)	All Members
10 th	Novice Meeting (11)	
17 th	Novice Meeting (12)	Film/End of Course
17 th	Improvers (7) & General Apiary Meeting	All Members
	Talk: Winter Plans	Kathy Lovegrove/Steve Arthur
31 st	General Apiary Maintenance	All Members

SEPTEMBER

7 th	General Apiary Maintenance	All Members
-----------------	----------------------------	-------------

OCTOBER

Thursday 9 th	Winter Branch Meeting	
--------------------------	-----------------------	--



Chairman's Blog – August 2014

The main flow appears to have finished and I hope that you have a nice crop of honey to extract. It should be a good year, as the summer has been like those of my childhood – a long, long time ago! It looks as if the weather will become more unsettled at the beginning of August, but a nice drop of rain will be welcome followed by some more sunny weather.

Once the honey crop has been removed, it will be time to do two things, namely feeding and treating for varroa. There will still be a strong population of bees in each hive and they will get hungry. A thick syrup – 2lbs sugar to 1 pint of water should be used, but there is no harm in feeding a medium syrup – 1kg of sugar to 1 litre of water -as this gives a 50% concentration and it will give the bees something to do at this time of the year to ripen it to 80% for storing and sealing. Make sure that you feed by the gallon and not by the pint! Towards the end of the month, heft your hives to make sure that they have enough stores and, if in doubt, feed some more. Also, if you have removed your entrance blocks, put them back in to prevent robbing.

It is vital that all your colonies are treated to combat the varroa mite. There is no such thing in this country as “varroa resistant bees”. Some colonies are better at coping with the mite than others, but one mite in a colony at this time of the year is one too many! There are various treatments available, the choice is yours. However, it is wise to vary the treatments over a period of time. Just bear in mind that if you are going to use a thymol based product, it is unlikely that the bees will take down any feed whilst this is in the hive. Also, if the weather is hot, you may find the bees clustering outside the hive, as they don't like the smell much, which I can understand.

I am impressed by the number of members who have attended the branch apiary meetings. For me, it is nice to get to know new members and catch up with others. I am glad that the novice courses are going so well and this is due to those who are taking the lessons – they are doing a great job – thank you. Also, my congratulations to Philip Aitken, Steve Arthur, Keith Preston and Mark Ovenden who have all passed the Basic Assessment. That makes a total of eight successful candidates from Plymouth this year. If you would like to take it next year, the only qualification is that you should have kept bees for twelve months. It is worth doing, as not only will it give you confidence, but you will almost certainly learn something from the assessor.

Last, but not least, don't forget your wasp traps. I have destroyed four wasp nests in my garden already – there are probably more!

Enjoy the rest of the summer.

DAVID

24th July 2014

This morning, 38 Degrees members handed the world's most-signed greetings card - signed by a whopping 125,000 of us - to the new environment secretary, Liz Truss MP. In it, a clear message: protect our bees. [1]

Together, 38 Degrees members asked Truss to do everything in her power to protect bees. Including championing the EU ban on harmful pesticides.

The card looked really impressive as it was carried into the Department for Environment!



Truss' predecessor, Owen Paterson, wasn't a friend of the bees [2]. Instead, he stood up for pesticide companies and big agribusiness. He made his views clear in an article he wrote for the Telegraph newspaper last week when he brushed aside people calling for a sustainable environment as the 'Green Blob'. [3]

Now Liz Truss has his job - and she'll be under pressure from the same pesticide companies. But with our record-breaking card, she also knows that she's bee-ing watched by thousands of ordinary people. A sobering prospect for any politician in the year leading up to an election.

The likes of Syngenta and other pesticide businesses are waiting in the wings to put in new applications to use pesticides that harm bees. [4]

But together, we're ready to pull out all the stops to make sure protecting our bees is at the forefront of Liz Truss's mind.

PS: What do you think 38 Degrees members need to do together this year to make sure bees are a top priority for Liz Truss?

Please share your thoughts on Facebook or comment on the blog:

Facebook: <https://secure.38degrees.org.uk/bees-card-facebook>

Blog: <http://blog.38degrees.org.uk/2014/07/24/bees-liz-truss-mp-receives-our-giant-card/>

NOTES:

[1] 38 Degrees blog, Bees: Tell the new environment secretary to protect them!:

<http://blog.38degrees.org.uk/2014/07/15/bees-tell-the-new-environment-secretary-to-protect-them/>

The previous record for most signatures on a card:

<https://media.ford.com/content/fordmedia/fna/us/en/news/2014/04/17/ford-mustang-celebrates-50th-birthday-with-guinness-world-record.html>

[2] The Guardian: Owen Paterson set to scupper EU plans to ban pesticides linked to bee harm:

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2013/mar/13/owen-paterson-ban-pesticides-bees>

[3] The Telegraph: Owen Paterson: I'm proud of standing up to the green lobby:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/10978678/Owen-Paterson-I-m-proud-of-standing-up-to-the-green-lobby.html>

[4] Daily Mail: Banned pesticide withdrawal welcomed:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-2679731/BANNED-PESTICIDE-WITHDRAWAL-WELCOMED.html>

1. I will Sting you Now

Another truly amazing picture, showing you exactly what the process is of when you get stung by a bee. I can actually feel the sting when I look at the picture. Interesting fact though, this looks like a honey-bee and everyone always says that all bee's die after they stung you, but in actual fact, it is only the honey-bee that will die after it stung you...



Amex Travel Offer

 sync.americanexpress.co.uk



Thanks to Neill Thomas for this item



Cornwall's Beekeeping Convention

A Bit of a Do

13th September 2014

APPLICATION FORM



One form to be completed for each delegate please.

Please send a cheque for **£10** made payable to WCBKA BOAD with this form and a stamped self addressed envelope to:-

Heather Williams, Quillet Cottage, Trenwheal, Leedstown, Cornwall TR27 6BP

Name

Address

Phone No.

Email

A pasty lunch is available if pre booked; or you may bring your own lunch if preferred.

I would like Steak, Vegan, Cheese Pasty (circle the one required) @ £3.50

I enclose a cheque for £_____ (entrance ticket plus pasty lunch if required)

Reserving your place in the Short Sessions.

The main lectures are held in the lecture theatre and are open to all delegates. However room in the short sessions is limited and must be pre-booked. To book your place on the morning or afternoon sessions please indicate your order of preference for each and we will do our best to accommodate you.

Morning A. Simon Croson. Wildlife Photography.

B. Andy Willis. Purifying and maximising your wax crop.

C. Ben Jones. The effect of dietary protein on the health & behaviour of honey bees.

Afternoon D. Simon Croson. Beekeeping in Nepal: from city to honey cliffs.

E. Bruce Henderson Smith. Preparing Honey for the Showbench.

F. Browsing the trade stands and honey for taste competition.

Please circle the Group or Association you belong to:

West Cornwall BKA: CBKA Bodmin: CBKA Carrick/Kerrier: CBKA Kit Hill: CBKA Liskeard:

CBKA Launceston: CBKA Roseland: CBKA Wadebridge: Other Association: No Association.

Wild honey bees: Does their disappearance matter?

By Zoe Gough

Read the article at this link

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/28290890>



The British Beekeepers Association

BBKA install additional line due to high volume of calls

Due to the volume of calls that we have all been experiencing this season, we are very much aware that BBKA Members have had problems contacting the main office.

As a consequence an additional line has been installed so that we may answer calls from members more quickly and efficiently.

Priority will be given to those using the new number which is purely for Member queries and requests; the number to call is 02476 698620.

The current number will, when all staff are on calls, be on an automated system, with no answerphone capability.

NEW MEMBERS

The Committee and the membership would like to welcome the following new member:

Peter Black

(Estover)

Urban Bees - Art & Craft Exhibition

Dear Beekeepers,

I'm giving you the heads-up about an exhibition I am organising in central Exeter that some of your members may be interested in.

I don't need to tell you that bees are under threat like never before. Six members of the Devon Guild of Craftsmen have come together to respond in their own way to the current plight of bees. Inspired by the example of the rooftop beehives on Princesshay shopping centre in Exeter, they have made work in the fields of printmaking, photography, ceramics, textiles and jewellery.

The exhibition seeks to engage interest in how we can all do a little bit to raise awareness of the importance of bees and how, by small acts such as choosing to grow bee-friendly plants in our gardens, we can contribute to the health of our own local bees.

The exhibition will be launched on the evening of Friday 5th September with a short talk by Jason Wallis from WeeTree Nurseries who is responsible for training the new team of Princesshay bee keepers.

Exhibitors - Lynn Bailey, Philipa de Burlet, Helen Edwards, Mei Lim, Debby Mason, Yume Martin.

All artwork for sale

Free entry



Exhibition details:-

Urban Bees: Working Together

Saturday 6th September - Saturday 27th September.

Launch event: Friday 5th September 6-8pm

Yard Gallery, Exeter College, Exeter, Devon, EX4 3SR

Opening Hours

10am - 6pm Monday - Friday, 9am - 1pm Saturdays, Closed on Sundays

Lynn Bailey
07449 499 404

A Conference for all Beekeepers

- ◆ 26 - 28 September 2014
- ◆ The Pavilion, Llangollen, North Wales
- ◆ Practical and scientific topics
- ◆ Improve your bees and beekeeping
- ◆ Bee breeding and queen rearing techniques
- ◆ Management systems for native and near-native bees
- ◆ Three lecture streams each day
- ◆ 40 UK, Irish and International speakers
- ◆ Local attractions for non-beekeepers
- ◆ Good access by road, rail, ferry and air

Hosted by South Clwyd Beekeepers Association

Programme: www.bibba.com/conference_2014.php

Book now: <http://goo.gl/uCBLf8>



Member Adverts

Free to Members

A good quantity of sacking
suitable for smoker fuel,
free to anyone who needs it.

CONTACT

Roger Round
roger.round@hotmail.co.uk
7, Buena Vista Close, Glenholt,
Plymouth PL6 7JH
Telephone: (01752) 701945

FOR SALE
Top Bar Hive
£10

Contact: Bill Finnemore
Tel: (01752) 404184



4 Colonies for sale

I want to downsize before the winter and have four colonies for sale,
all with this year's queens (already marked - green).

The colonies are on full national brood boxes and have filled at least one
super this season.

Two of the colonies would be particularly suitable for novices.

Cost £100 each

Further details from Kathy Lovegrove
Tel: 01752 342880 or anemone1975@talktalk.net



JARS & LIDS

Please let me know by 12th August if you would like me to get these for you.

I am sure that most of you will be harvesting your honey shortly and, like me, will need some jars. I can get a selection provided I fill at least a pallet of 17.5 gross of 1lb (454g) jars, which on past performance I usually can. The prices are extremely keen when you compare them to Thornes and delivery is free!

Anyway some prices for you.

Standard Honey jars and gold lids

1lb Gross £38 1/2 gross £19

Hexagonal Jars and lids

pack quantity	price	
2 oz	76	£15
4oz	72	£17
8oz	36	£10
12oz	84	£23

Round jars and lids

8oz	128	£29
12oz	72	£25

Please note that hexagonal and round jars are available in these pack sizes only, but you can order as many packs as you like!

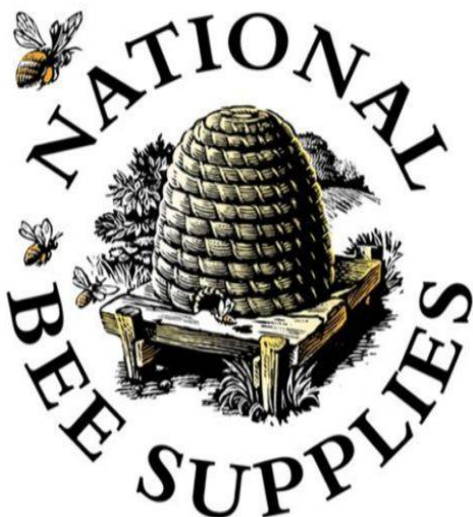
Gold honey jar lids 1 gross £15 72 £7.50

Please let me know by 12th August if you would like me to get these for you. Payment will be on collection from me, so please don't send any cheques or cash to me. If you can get these cheaper (which will only be possible if I get a pallet of unboxed jars and I am not going to count those!) do please let me know.

Cheers David Milford **Tel:** 839751 **Email:** m14drm@aol.com

Contact Details

Chairman	David Milford	839751	m14drm@aol.com
Secretary	Jean French	338279	Jean French1957@yahoo.co.uk
Treasurer	Bernie Talling	709470	Bernie868@hotmail.com
Editor	Dawn Clarke	309483	oakwoman@gmail.com



The UK's Premier Beekeeping Suppliers

Hameldown Road Okehampton Devon EX20 1UB

United Kingdom | tel: +44 (0)1837 54084

Email: info@beekeeping.co.uk

Buy Online @ www.beekeeping.co.uk

HEMBURY BEE SUPPLIES

Agents for the main manufacturers

We can supply all your

Beekeeping needs

Foundation Hives Frames Jars

And many many more

We can be found at

John Harler

12 Hembury Park

Buckfast

Devon

TQ11 0SE

Tel/Fax **01364 642517**

\Mobile **07769878476**

Email fire221@btinternet.com

Please Phone before you make a visit

Beekeeping Supplies

**A range of products and equipment at
sensible prices for the local beekeeper**

Contact: honey@cornwallhoney.co.uk

Or 01752 845783 / 01822 834881

For prices, information, collection or delivery

Wax exchange available

**For Beekeeping Course's
visit our website for details**

Stockist of Organic Treatments



www.cornwallhoney.co.uk