



PLYMOUTH BEEKEEPERS' Apiary Programme 2016

AUGUST (Bank Holiday: Mon 29th)		
Sunday 14th	Novice Meeting (11)	10 am
Sunday 21st	Improvers Meeting	10 am
Sunday 29th	No Meeting (Bank Holiday Weekend)	
SEPTEMBER		
Sunday 4 th	Novice Meeting (12) – End of Course	10 am
Sunday 11 th	General Meeting inc. Apiary Maintenance – all members	10 am
OCTOBER		
Tuesday 4th	Committee Meeting- Blindman’s Scout Centre,	starting 7pm
Thursday 13 th	Winter Meeting ~ Elburton Village Hall	7.30 pm
NOVEMBER		
Thursday 17 th	Branch AGM ~ Elburton Village Hall	7.30 pm
DECEMBER		
Sunday 11 th	Branch Christmas Lunch ~ Boringdon Golf Club £5 deposit	12.30

NB. Meetings will be held at the Branch Apiary Site unless advised otherwise.

Directions to Branch Apiary at Lee Mill, Ivybridge:

- Turn left off the A38 at Lee Mill and follow the signs for Tesco
- Drive past the Tesco entrance & take next right for Central Avenue on the industrial estate
- Drive down the hill of Central Avenue, looking for East Way on your right
- Drive along East Way, looking for Cadleigh Close on your left
- Drive into Cadleigh Close and the apiary site is behind the big iron gates of the tyre factory
- Park inside the gates, walk up the concrete path & you will see the portacabin on your right

Hello again.

We're well into late summer and nearing the time when the honey crop is ready for harvesting (if we're lucky). Our bees seem to have brought back plenty of nectar to the hives this year but we've noticed that they've exhibited a marked reluctance to cap it. It's been suggested that this may be because it has been unusually humid for the last few weeks, so the bees may simply have been unable to evaporate the necessary amount of water from the nectar to transform the nectar into honey. Humid air has a very high water vapour content so there's nowhere for the excess water to go. As a reminder, honey should never be sold if it contains more than 20% water. Ideally it should have water content of somewhere between 16% and 19%. If it contains any more than 20% water it can be sold as bakers' honey or kept for your own use, but it is advisable to use it quickly because there is an ever-present danger of fermentation.

Once the honey has been removed many of us will turn our attention to varroa treatment. To continue my theme of topics that divide beekeepers I would say that this is a particularly divisive one. Valerie and I have met beekeepers who have said that they never treat their colonies for varroa, some who rely on a regular application of Hive Clean and others who feel it's best to hit the little blighters with every chemical available. Others prefer to use an integrated pest management system, which relies on combining chemical treatment with brood sacrifice earlier in the season. My advice is to use whatever seems to work for you. However, if you are one of the many who use Hive Clean you will probably have seen the e-mail I sent out in July to let you know that the Austrian manufacturers will no longer be exporting Hive Clean to the UK with effect from October 2016. This is all connected with the licensing of oxalic acid, an ingredient of Hive Clean. It's important to be aware that although many beekeepers have relied on Hive Clean to control varroa populations, it has never actually been licensed as a varroa control medicine.

On the subject of pests, members should be aware that unfortunately the Asian hornet has reached the British Isles; Alderney in the Channel Islands to be precise. There was a confirmed sighting (by an entomologist) this summer. The good news is that the precursor nest was found and destroyed so it is to be hoped that this invasion has been nipped in the bud. There have been so many spurious reports of sightings of the Asian hornet in the last year or so that I always hesitate to pass on such information, but this one is correct and verified by the National Bee Unit. Alderney is the most northerly of the Channel Islands and therefore closest to the south coast of England. No one is sure how this hornet got to Alderney but those of us on the south coast need to stay vigilant.

Turning to the business agenda, Jean and I attended the Devon BKA Executive Committee meeting on 16 July near Okehampton. Once the minutes are available, I will be happy to share them with any member who wants to see them.

In the meantime, two matters of note are:

1. There are plans to offer equipment insurance to members, possibly by next year. Negotiations are ongoing to determine the details but the basic package is intended to cover 5 hives.
2. After a long gap with the post unfilled, Ken Basterfield has now been appointed as Devon Beekeepers' Association's Education Officer.

Cont'd

Your own branch committee met on 20 July and has already started on planning the programme for 2017.

To end on a high note, I would like to offer my hearty congratulations on behalf of the committee and the branch to Claude Pool who recently took his Basic Assessment and passed with Credit. This is a noteworthy achievement and reflects hours of dedicated work on Claude's part to develop his knowledge and skills as a beekeeper. Well done!

All the best

Terry

FONDANT

As in previous years, we will shortly have a limited quantity of bakers' fondant in 12.5 kilo packs.

The bulk order is being delivered on Monday 8th August.

The cost of each 12.5 kilo pack to Plymouth Branch DBKA members is £8. This is cost price and I don't think anyone will find it cheaper than this.

Our telephone number is 01752 219573 and I would ask potential buyers to ring first to make sure we haven't run out.

Terry

HIVE CLEAN - BEING WITHDRAWN FROM SALE IN OCTOBER

In case you missed Terry's email:

This is to let you know that Hive Clean is being withdrawn from sale with effect from October 2016. This is because Hive Clean contains oxalic acid and as such, now needs to be registered with and licensed by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate. The cost of this registration is £30,000 and the manufacturer (Bee Vital, Austria) believes that this is too much to pay.

I know that a lot of our members use Hive Clean and are impressed by how well it works in maintaining healthy colonies, so I'm sorry to be the bearer of bad news especially as there is not much point in stocking up due to the limited shelf life.

It is to be hoped that an effective replacement can be found as soon as possible.



DEVON APICULTURAL RESEARCH GROUP

Stop! Don't kill that queen! She can help with an important DARG Study

The Devon Apicultural Research Group started investigating reasons for the poor mating of queens in 2012 and this prize winning survey continues to be funded this year. The group is supported by a number of scientific establishments but also needs the support of local beekeepers to provide live queens which would otherwise just be discarded.

What is needed?



drone layers



poor layers



bad tempered or swarmy queens



virgins



older queens being replaced

All you have to do:

- contact me on 01752 342880 to arrange collection
- you or I can pop the queen in a plastic cage with a few attendant workers
- record brief details of the age and history of the queen

What happens next?

I have been given details of how to preserve the queens in small tubes of glutaraldehyde. They are sent to the laboratory at Abbey Veterinary Services, Newton Abbot for analysis of the spermatheca then to Marine Biological Association, Plymouth to test for virus infections.

Kathy Lovegrove

www.plymouthbeekeepers.btik.com

Queen Safari No. 5

You may have read in last September's Bee Brief about the Queen Safaris planned for 2016. I am pleased to say that this is proving to be a successful venture.

The basic idea is to visit other members' apiaries as part of the Improvers' Education Programme. During the visit we hope to help them find and mark their queens.

The latest safari was the most ambitious and most varied. I will let the participants (Roy Stephenson, Mike Nally and Annette Quartly) give you a flavour of how it went.



Roy's bespoke Bee Bunker



Mike to Roy:
Is that the queen, there?

Safari Thoughts by Roy Stephenson

Before I went on my first safari in Africa I was less than enthusiastic. I rather thought if you have seen one elephant you have seen them all. How wrong I was!

Whilst our Queen Safari might have been rather closer to home, I can report that it is most certainly NOT the case that when you have seen one colony you have seen them all! One of the most interesting aspects of the day was the sheer variety of issues faced by we novices and our bees and the striking differences in temperament and type of bees.

It was a great way to learn and gain confidence as we looked around three different apiaries and we were, I think, helped and sustained not only by Kathy's expertise but also by the reasonably frequent pauses for tea, cake and lovely garden lunches!

I came home fired up with new found confidence and determination to put into practice some of the great ideas I picked up during the day. I certainly hope to be able to wangle my way onto a further safari, confident that I will have a thoroughly enjoyable time!

Safari Thoughts by Mike Nally

I really enjoyed last Wednesday and for me the bits that I thought made it such a success were:

- ♦ Looking at colonies at different stages of development and with different issues. Both Roy and Annette had much more orderly hives than the two at Saltram, especially my bulging brood!
- ♦ It was great being able to see other hives in different settings and to work with and talk to colleagues under Kathy's expert tutelage.
- ♦ Roy's garden and cakes, as well as lunch in the sun at Annette's were definite highlights.

Whatever the colony size, finding the queen was no easy matter - we went through Roy's brood box twice and still didn't spot her. I think collaborating, especially for beginners, is so useful as it helps build your experience and confidence as you realise that 'you are not alone' and others have the same trials and tribulations.

Roy's bees in their own landscaped corner of the garden.



Safari Thoughts by Annette Quartly

The queen safari was firstly a thoroughly enjoyable social beekeeping day out with excellent company and simple but more than adequate catering: two lots of elevenses with Roy and a 3 o'clock picnic lunch at my place including contributions of cake from Mike & fruit from Kathy.

Our queen bees detected that we were enjoying ourselves hunting them, and did their best to be elusive. Roy had a spare brood box, and there, we went for rigour. We transferred the frames from one box to the other, and back again, upset the bees, but failed to spot his queen. Success in queen hunting seems to be inversely proportional to the amount of equipment used!

Since I had no spare equipment to test, I simply went through the box one way and back the other before discovering Christina lurking on a frame of partially drawn foundation. The frame was handed to Kathy to pick her up and mark her. We stood round for a brief but solemn naming ceremony as the paint dried.



Success! Annette's bees have taken all the syrup down and pulled some more foundation.



'Christina' back on her frame, accepted by her courtiers after being marked

Earlier, at Saltram, where beekeepers arrived armed with nuc boxes, Kathy had successfully found her marked queen in a slightly tetchy, rather overcrowded colony and showed us how to make up a nuc. Unfortunately, Mike's large colony had become angry by the time the queen was spotted on the second pass. As Kathy had retreated into gloves, she lacked the dexterity to hold her. The queen got away unmarked and angry bees followed us from the apiary.

The Queen Safari gave me an opportunity to see other people's apiaries. During my first year as a pre-novice incipient beekeeper, I only saw the branch apiary but spent long hours wondering where best to site bees in my large, suburban, windswept, irregularly-shaped garden, and how best to prepare the ground and adapt the planting for them.

My bees now seem happy down the bottom of the orchard, sitting on a paved breeze block island (designed by Mark Ovenden and sourced from the reclamation yard suggested by Claude Pool), but I find it very interesting to observe how others have tackled the siting problem.

At the end of the day I was pleased with my bees who had built up nicely and been perfectly good tempered. I was delighted to have a marked queen which would make future inspections much easier and will be looking out for the next opportunity to sign up for another of Kathy's excellent queen safaris.

And finally, since this report was put together, the safari hunters have kept in touch and we have a couple of updates:

Roy has been able to put his new-found skills into action and has seen his queen whose colony (originally a swarm from Patrick) have now built up to 7 frames.

Mike has split his "bulging" colony into two hives and his queen is now wandering around with a white spot on her thorax.

**If you would like to take part in an August Queen Safari
let me know at one of the branch meetings or by e-mail (anemone1975@talktalk.net)**

Kathy Lovegrove



PLYMOUTH BEEKEEPERS LIBRARY

- The library is contained within three plastic crates, one for books on General Beekeeping; one for Specialised topics, and one for Novice beekeepers' books.
- The library also has a number of DVDs.
- The club meets once a month during the winter, and during the summer there is one general meeting; one improvers' meeting, and one novice meeting per month. It is intended to open the library for borrowers for 20 mins before and 20 mins after each of these meetings. I, or a member of the education team, will be checking out the books and receiving them back at the beginning and end of each meeting.
They can be renewed for a further month, but must be returned after that.
Renewal can be by phone or e-mail to the librarian (see below).
- If a book is not returned at the end of one further month there will be a charge of £1 per week to the borrower.
- There are three rare, and therefore valuable, books in the branch library. These books are listed in the relevant plastic crate, and can be borrowed only by arrangement with the librarian.
- If a particular book or books are constantly being borrowed it is the intention to buy further copies.
- If you feel that a particular book should be included in the library, then please do give us recommendations and we will hope to get them for our library.
- For those who have never borrowed books previously I urge you all to have a look through the boxes and see what's there.
- If you have read one of the books and can particularly recommend it (or otherwise) then please give feedback to the librarian.

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PLYMOUTH BEEKEEPERS LIBRARY BOOKS August 2016

SPECIALISED TOPICS			
Book Number	Title	Author	Notes
1	The Introduction of Queen Bees	L E Snelgrove	Rare and borrowed by arrangement only.
2	Beeswax Candles	Clara Furness	
3	Honey	Jeff Rounce	
4	Queen Rearing	L E Snelgrove	
5	Beekeeping Study Notes Microscopy Cert. Mod. 9	J D & B D Yates	
6	Beekeeping Study Notes Microscopy Cert. 2nd Edition	J D & B D Yates	
7	Beekeeping Pract. Guide to B/K in school grounds	Dr John Feltwell	
8	Honey by the Ton	Oliver Field	
9	Bees: The Vision, chemical, senses and language	Karl Von Frisch	
10	Mary Workman's Honey Recipes - booklet 1	Clara Furness	
11	Honey Marketing	Harry Riches	
12	Garden Plants Valuable to Bees	Internet Bee Res. Assoc.	
13	Honey Cakes and Biscuits	Mary Wardle	
14	Candlemaking	David Constable	
15	Micronucs an Experimental Approach To Queen Mating	John Atkinson	
16	Managing Micronucs (copy 1)	Ron Brown	
17	Microscopy First Steps to a Secret World	Natural History Soc.	
18	Queen Rearing with Simplicity	Jack Berry	
19	Managing Micronucs (copy 2)	Ron Brown	
20	Anatomy of the Honey Bee	R E Snodgrass	
21	Anatomy, Physiology & Natural History of the Honey Bee	W Herrod-Empson	
22	Anatomy & Dissection of the Honey Bee	H A Wade	
23	Make Yourself a Nucleus Hive	F A Taylor	
24	Histological Methods of Entomologists	H Eltringham	Rare and borrowed by arrangement only.
25	Build Your Own Honey Extractor	Garden Way Plans	
26	A Colour Guide to Pollen Loads of the Honey Bee	William Kirk	
27	Pollen, Its Collection & Prep for the Microscope	John White	
28	Making Nests for Bumble Bees	Manfred Intenthron	
29	Beekeeping Study Notes Modules 1-2-3-4	J D & B D Yates	
30	Beekeeping Study Notes Modules 5-6-7-8	J D & B D Yates	
31	Beekeeping Study Notes for Basic Certificate	J D & B D Yates	

GENERAL BEEKEEPING

Book Number	Title	Author	Notes
1	Apis Through the Looking Glass	Graham Royle	
2	The Honey Bee Around and About	Celia F Davis	
3	Honey Bee Democracy	Thomas Seeley	
5	Living With Varroa	Andrew Matheson	
7	Beekeeping Study Notes	J D & B D Yates	
8	Bees & Mankind	John B Free	
11	The Bee Book	Daphne More	
13	Managing Varroa	FERA	
14	The Beekeeper's Garden	Hooper & Taylor	
15	The Honey Bee Pathology	Leslie Bailey	
16	National Honey Show pamphlets (set of 9)		
17	The Hive and the Honey Bee	Dadant Publications	
19	At The Hive Entrance	H Storch	
20	Beekeeping at Buckfast Abbey	Brother Adam	
21	Swarming - Its Control and Prevention	L E Snelgrove	
22	Beekeeping Senior Study Notes - Part 1	J D & B D Yates	
23	Oilseed Rape and Bees	Allan Calder	
24	Beekeeping and The Law - Swarms & Neighbours	David Frimston & D Smith	
25	Keeping Bees	John B Free	
26	The Social Organisation of Honey Bees	John B Free	
27	Honey Bee Biology	John B Free	
28	Recycling and Working with Beeswax with Simplicity	Jack Berry	
29	America's Beekeepers Hives for Hire (booklet)	Alan Mairson	
30	The Backyard Beekeeper	Kim Flottum	
31	The Golden Throng - A Book about Bees	Edwin Way Teale	
32	Honey Bees and Beekeeping	Keith S Delaplane	
33	Finding and Marking the Queen (leaflet)	BBKA	
34	Beekeeping for Dummies	Howland Blackiston	
35	Swarming of Bees	Min of Agr. & Fisheries	
36	Queen Rearing using the Cloake Board Method	Adam Vevers	
38	Bee Diseases Nosema/Amoeba/Acarine (leaflet)	Brian Palmer	
	DEFRA LEAFLETS IN A FOLDER		
39	Mead, Making, Exhibiting and Judging	Harry Riches	
40	A Practical Guide to Producing Heather Honey	Tony Jefferson	
41	Dr Sara's Honey Potions	Dr Sara Robb	
42	The Principles of Bee Improvement	Jo Widdicombe	

NOVICE			
Book Number	Title	Author	Notes
1	Beekeeping - A Seasonal Guide	Ron Brown	Two copies 1985 and 2011
3	Natural Beekeeping Organic Approaches to Modern apiculture	Gary Paul Nabhan	
5	Life of the Honey Bee - Ladybird Natural History Book	W Sinclair Ph. D	
6	A Beekeeping Glossary	Bill Clark	
7	A Case of Hives	Len Heath	Rare and borrowed by arrangement only
8	Beekeeping in a Nutshell, Manipulations (booklet)	Matthew Allan	
9	The Bad Beekeepers Club	Bill Turnbull	
10	Haynes Bee Manual	Claire & Adrian Waring	
11	Bees at the Bottom of the Garden	Alan Campion	
12	Honey Bees - A Guide to Management	Ron Brown	
13	Beekeeping - A Novice Guide	David Wootton	
14	Collins Beekeepers Bible	Phillip McCabe	
15	Practical Beekeeping	Clive De Brun	
16	A Guide to Bees and Honey	Ted Hooper	
17	The Complete Guide to Beekeeping	Jeremy Evans	

LIST OF DVDs

		Notes
1	An Introduction to Beekeeping with Paul Metcalf	3 copies
2	An Introduction to keeping Bees	3 copies
3	A Queen Rearing Workshop	
4	National Geographic Channel film 1998	2 copies
5	The Honey Bee with Gill Sentinella	
6	Jimmy and the Wild Honey Hunters	
7	Dancing with Bees	10 minute film, suitable for children

A Sentinel Apiary

Whilst attending the Bee Disease & Husbandry day at the club apiary, which was an excellent and very informative day, we were informed about Sentinel Apiaries (S. A.). There are apiaries in 'at risk' areas, eg around ports; that are monitored by voluntary beekeepers, the National Bee Unit and its inspectors, to maximise the likelihood of detecting exotic pests; namely Small Hive Beetle (SHB), Tropilaelaps and the Asian Hornet.

This is part of the Exotic Pest Surveillance program that has been carried out since 2003. At the meeting, Martin Hann, a Seasonal Bee Inspector, asked if I would be willing to have my apiary (at May + Fry's Allotments, Saltash Rd) as an S.A if required by the NBU; which I was happy to do.

A day later, Martin contacted me and my apiary become an SA just like that! He said that he would visit my apiary in a week's time to carry out an inspection, so he asked me to insert inspector's trays below the 3 hives at the apiary. The purpose of this was to allow Martin to take a sample of hive debris for analysis.

As shown in the photos (on the next page), Martin carried out his inspection of the hives and in the process a corrupted hive floor insert was placed in one hive, and 2 beetle traps the others. These will be checked by myself whilst carrying out hive inspections. Martin will carry out 3 inspections per season, each time taking hive debris samples and inspecting the beetle traps (containing vegetable oil placed between frames) and corrupted hive floor insert.

The hive debris sample from this first inspection was sent off for analysis to the NBU and one week later I received the results; negative for SHB and Tropilaelaps, but positive for Varroa - surprise, surprise! As a note, Martin and I did struggle to see any Varroa in the sample, obviously low numbers present, which was good news as far as I was concerned; new/clean foundation, plus Hive Clean ~ a good combination.

Watch this space to see if I've had any bad news in the future, hopefully not!

Neil Downing-Waite

**Setting up a
Sentinel Hive at
May & Fry's
Allotments
with
Martin Hann,
Seasonal Bee**



You are probably not aware that *Bee Craft* is approaching its 100 year anniversary. A major achievement for our publication. We would like to involve all our subscribers in some way to join in our celebrations. I have been tasked to come up with ideas - no mean feat! So, I thought what better way to involve you than to ask what you think. So how would you like to be involved? How can we recognise you all? Maybe it would be free gifts, competitions, a series of articles, special offers or ?????

Our 100 years isn't until 2019 but I need to get a plan in place and start working on it now, so please email me your thoughts/wish list to help me out!

The **National Honey Show** plans are well under way and just to remind you it is in a new venue - Sandown Park Racecourse and runs from **Thursday, 27th October to Saturday, 29th October**. They have a great selection of lectures throughout the three days, but in addition we have our own *Bee Craft* sponsored Research Lectures taking place on the Friday - no fee to attend. So when you plan which you want to attend, don't forget ours! Full details of our lectures can be found [here](#) and, of course, we will have the *Bee Craft* stand in the trade hall throughout the event for you to browse copies of our magazines and *Bee Craft* published books, renew your subscription or just pop along for a chat.

Wendy and the *Bee Craft* team

wendy@bee-craft.com

www.bee-craft.com

BIBBA Conference 2016 **20-22 September, Isle of Man**

Three full days of international speakers on many aspects of beekeeping:

Disease occurrence and future threats to bees are high profile; now is the time to focus on breeding from the best, locally, robust stocks of honey bees. Where better than a conference with like-minded beekeepers?

Speaker profiles, lecture content summaries and booking are all now available online, link below.

Find out more: <http://bibba.com/conference/>

Trisha Marlow, Publicity Officer, BIBBA

Charity Bee Awareness Day



BEE Fayre

Enys House & Gardens

Penryn, Cornwall TR10 9LB

**Saturday 20th and
Sunday 21st August 2016**

11am to 5pm

A family day out

- Bee Creativity & Games Area
- Be a Beekeeper • Virtual Hive
- Skep making demonstrations • Raffle
- Screech Owls • Garden Café • Music
- Celebrity Beekeepers' Showcase
- Honey, Mead & Candles For Sale
- Plants for Bees • Trade Stands

Fascinating short talks throughout the day

f/bjsherriff www.bjsherriff.com

Admission

**Adult £5 Child 6-16 £2
Senior £4 Student £2
Child under 5 Free**
Regret Credit Cards not accepted

**Organised by
BJ SHERRIFF**

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Facilities
WC. Parking.
Dogs on lead
welcome



**In aid of Bumblebee Conservation Trust, Bees for Development,
Bees Abroad, Cornwall Wildlife Trust - Bee Kind Appeal & Enys Gardens**

BEE Fayre 2016 - Talk Timetable

Saturday 20th August

- 12pm Polyhives and the hierarchy of bees**
Wendy Dale, Bee Craft
- 12.45pm Bees as a career**
Margaret Ginman, Bee Farmers' Association
- 1.15pm Working for bees on farmland, reserves and the wider landscape**
Stuart Coleman, Cornwall Wildlife Trust
- 2pm The craft of skep making**
Martin Buckle
- 3pm The Plight of the Bumblebee**
Melanie Anne Camp, Bumblebee Conservation Trust
- 3.45pm How honey varieties influence the taste of mead**
Carole Allen, Nine Maidens
- 4.15pm Breeding Cornish native black bees**
Rodger Dewhurst, Enys Gardens/Gwenen Apiaries



Sunday 21st August

- 11.15am Bees as a career**
Margaret Ginman, Bee Farmers' Association
- 11.45am Polyhives and the hierarchy of bees**
Wendy Dale, Bee Craft
- 12.30pm Working for bees on farmland, reserves and the wider landscape**
Stuart Coleman, Cornwall Wildlife Trust
- 1.15pm BEEHAVE: Using simulations to help with bee colony survival**
Matthias A Becher, University of Exeter
- 2pm The history of beekeeping**
Martin Buckle
- 3pm Honey varieties and the taste of mead**
Carole Allen, Nine Maidens
- 3.30pm The Plight of the Bumblebee**
Melanie Anne Camp, Bumblebee Conservation Trust
- 4.15pm Breeding Cornish native black bees**
Rodger Dewhurst, Enys Gardens/Gwenen Apiaries



Join the Bee Safari starting at the Bumblebee Conservation Trust stall throughout the day.
Talks could be subject to change. Further workshops and events all weekend.

The annual charity BEE Fayre is back and buzzier than ever!

BJ Sherriff presents 2 days of activities, talks and fun in aid of the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, Cornwall Wildlife Trust – Bee Kind Appeal, Bees Abroad and Bees for Development. The annual charity BEE Fayre will take place on Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st August 2016, from 11am to 5pm.

The two-day event will be held at Enys Gardens, Penryn TR10 9LB and will be a fun day out for all the family. The BEE Fayre will be held primarily in the Enys House and admission will also give you the chance to explore all of the lovely gardens.

At BJ Sherriff we are becoming increasingly concerned about the lack of bees and it would seem that amongst the general public globally the concerns are the same and with this in mind we have organised our charity bee awareness day. With the help of knowledgeable beekeepers, who have volunteered to assist on the day, we are hopeful that many of the public's questions can be discussed and answered as well as introducing people to the world of bees.

Stands and activities

Over the course of the weekend there is a busy line-up of events planned including talks, demonstrations and workshops all about bees and beekeeping from experts in the field. The Bee Farmers' Association will discuss beekeeping as a career, the University of Exeter will be talking about studying bee colony survival, the Bumblebee Conservation Trust will highlight the plight of the bumblebee and the Cornwall Wildlife Trust will show the work being done through Cornwall to preserve bee habitat. There will also be traditional skep making demonstrations by Martin Buckle showing you how to craft a basket beehive.

You will also have a unique opportunity to take a close look inside of a virtual beehive, kindly lent to us by the Cornwall Beekeepers Association and Carole Allen.

Stands at the BEE Fayre include BJ Sherriff Beekeeping Clothing and Equipment, Beegifts.com, Cornishbees.com, Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Bumblebee Conservation Trust, Falmouth University BeeSoc, Bee Craft, Northern Bee Books, Nine Maidens Honey and Mead, Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Neal's Yard with Honey Cosmetics range, Plant stall run by Anne Pengelly, Bees Abroad (of which Brian Sherriff is Patron). With more stalls being added all the time. Outside of the manor house you'll be able to pick up some bee-friendly plants and bulbs for your garden.

Annie's Kitchen Garden Café will also be open throughout the event for tea, sandwiches and cake from 11am to 5pm and we'll even see if we can get some Enys Honey cake on the menu!

Children's Activity Area

On Sunday from midday, the Screech Owl Sanctuary will host an awe-inspiring demonstration of birds of prey. Over the weekend there will be a creativity area for children to spot the BEE Fayre bee, as well as make a candle to take home and dress up as a beekeeper activity. Come along and see our Celebrity Beekeepers Showcase, past and present. Also, there will be the Bee Safari leaving from the Bumblebee Conservation Trust stall throughout the day so plenty for budding young beekeepers to see.

Speakers

We have a jam-packed line up of exciting guest speakers on a range of topics from 'Bees as a career' to 'Polyhives and the hierarchy of bees'.

If you would like to volunteer on the day to help with the BEE Fayre, please get in touch with Charlotte – bjsherriff.marketing@gmail.com.

Admission is Adult £5, Child 6-16 £3, Senior £4, Student £2, Children under five go free. Facilities include parking on site, dogs on leads are welcome.

This event has been organised by BJ Sherriff and is in aid of Bumblebee Conservation Trust, Bees Abroad, Cornwall Wildlife Trust – Bee Kind Appeal and Bees for Development.

Beekeeping Conference – Lublin, Poland

Richard Coates contacted PBKA recently with news about a conference planned for a long weekend in April 2017 (date to be confirmed).

Richard said in his email,

“The conference is starting to take shape. A full information pack will be available shortly. There will be a small entry price to cover the cost of the venue and the travel expenses of the guest speakers. There will be a trade fayre and bee keeping equipment/accessories will be available at competitive prices. If you are looking for anything in particular then please let me know.

Additional site visits / day trips will be optional for those attending.

We hope that as many as 400 people will attend and we are block booking hotels in Lublin to make sure accommodation is available at competitive prices. Group bookings can be taken if several people want to travel together or individual bookings are absolutely fine. At the moment it is an open invitation to anyone interested.

For those wishing to stay in Lublin (or even Poland) a little longer, please ask and we will be happy to help any way that we can with all your travel arrangements. If you have any special requests, then please do not hesitate to ask.

We have several industry experts available to present, so please let me know if there are any topics you would like to see addressed. Again, the details will be confirmed shortly.

The conference is likely to be of interest to bee keepers from novices to experts, and all suggestions are welcome.

I will supply more information as it becomes available, in the meantime do not hesitate to contact me with any questions that you may have.”

**Richard can be contacted on 07920 116482 or by email:
coatesrd@yahoo.co.uk**



The Buzz – Beekeeping in the news



17 May 2016

The sculpture controlled by bees: Wolfgang Buttress's Hive.

The vibrations of honeybees in a hive at Kew control this sculpture made of a latticework of 170,000 pieces of aluminium.



Read more:

Photograph: Jeff Eden/RBG Kew

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/jun/17/sculpture-controlled-by-bees-wolfgang-buttress-hive>



3 August 2016



Mella - The Intelligent hive that aims to boost honeybee population

An intelligent beehive, designed by Ellie MacLeod for her final-year project at Loughborough University, may make beekeeping simpler. A self-monitoring hive aimed at novices, which Ellie hopes will inspire people to take up beekeeping and boost honey bee numbers.

Ellie wanted to create an urban beehive that makes beekeeping more accessible, taking on board the challenges her own family had faced in keeping bees.

"I've been keeping bees at home for around five years now, with my dad being the main beekeeper.



Read more on the
Engineering & Technology Magazine website:

<http://eandt.theiet.org/explore/students/2016/mella-beehive.cfm>

3 August 2016

Leading insecticide cuts bee sperm by almost 40%, study shows

New research, led by Lars Straub at the University of Bern in Switzerland, has discovered a possible explanation for increasing deaths of honeybees in recent years.

The world's most widely used insecticide is an inadvertent contraceptive for bees, cutting live sperm in males by almost 40%, according to the research. The study also shows that neonicotinoid pesticides cut the lifespan of drones by a third. Drones reach sexual maturity at 14 days, but the researchers found 32% of the exposed drones were dead by then, and therefore unable to mate, compared to 17% of the unexposed controls.

Scientists say the discovery provides one possible explanation for increasing deaths of honeybees as well as for the general decline of wild insect pollinators throughout the northern hemisphere.

Read more: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/jul/27/leading-insecticide-cuts-bee-sperm-by-almost-40-per-cent-study-shows>



3 August 2016

Slovenia's abuzz with bee tourism

In honey-mad Slovenia a new tour takes visitors around bee hives and Api-wellness centres – with stops for deliciously sticky bread and cakes!

Editor's Note:

I am happy to try this out for PBKA



Read more:

<https://www.theguardian.com/travel/2016/aug/07/slovenia-honey-tourism-beekeeping-ble-maribor>



Api days ... a mobile beehive apiary on the back of a vintage truck in Slovenia. Photograph: Alamy

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