



## Plymouth Branch Newsletter

May 2015

### PLYMOUTH BEEKEEPERS' APIARY PROGRAMME 2015

<b>MAY</b>			
	(Bank Holidays Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> + Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> )		
Sunday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	10 am	General Meeting: discussion on topical items – all members welcome
Sunday	10 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	Novice Meeting (5)
Sunday	17 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	Improvers Meeting
Sunday	24 <sup>th</sup>		No Meeting (Bank Holiday Weekend)
Sunday	31 <sup>st</sup>	10 am	Novice Meeting (6)
<b>JUNE</b>			
Sunday	7 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	General Meeting: discussion on topical items – all members welcome
Sunday	14 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	Novice Meeting (7)
Sunday	21 <sup>st</sup>	10 am	Improvers Meeting (JEF)
Sunday	28 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	Novice Meeting (8)
<b>JULY</b>			
Sunday	5 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	General Meeting: discussion on topical items – all members welcome
Sunday	12 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	Novice Meeting (9)
Sunday	19 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	Improvers Meeting
Sunday	26 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	Novice Meeting (10)
<b>AUGUST</b>			
	(Bank Holiday: Mon.31 <sup>st</sup> )		
Sunday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	10 am	General Meeting: discussion on topical items – all members welcome
Sunday	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	Novice Meeting (11)
Sunday	16 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	Improvers Meeting
Sunday	23 <sup>rd</sup>	10 am	Novice Meeting (12) – End of Course
Sunday	30 <sup>th</sup>		No Meeting (Bank Holiday Weekend)
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>			
Sunday	6 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	General Meeting - Apiary Maintenance – all members
<b>OCTOBER</b>			
Thursday	8 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Winter Meeting (* Elburton Village Hall)

## NOVEMBER

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> 7.30 pm Branch AGM (\* Elburton Village Hall)  
(OK with Bernie)

## DECEMBER

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> Branch Christmas Lunch (tbc)

(\* Booked)

**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 and 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 and you will see the portacabin on your right.



**The Beekeeping Photography Community - Just one of the many beekeeping pages on Facebook.....**

**Ctrl + Click for the Beekeeping Photography Community on Facebook**

**You probably have to be a user of Facebook – not sure on that one – let me know how you get on if you aren't!**

## Chairman's Blog



Image from BBC website

April began quite well for the bees, with plenty of warm weather, almost too warm at times, but in the last week or so of April it was much cooler. Windy at times and rain forecast for the first few days of May. Let's hope warmer weather will return in the not too distant future.

Swarming has started! I was only checking a few colonies on 30<sup>th</sup> April at 11ish in the morning and one was quite active. That activity got busier and a swarm was emerging! Unfortunately I did not have my skep etc. with me, but equipment was available to do an artificial swarm. By chance the queen landed on the roof of the hive next to the one which swarmed, so I was able to catch her. Useful tip for newer beekeepers; always have a queen cage in your pocket! This made life much easier, so a frame of sealed brood with no eggs or young brood was placed in the middle of the box on the original site and the remainder filled with some empty combs and foundation. All the flying bees will return to that hive. The queen was reintroduced and once some workers had inspected her, they let her in.

The workers that swarmed had landed on a nearby, small apple tree, not hanging from a branch but clinging to the trunk. I brushed as many as possible into a bucket and tipped them into the top of the hive. The rest will fly back once they realise that the queen is not there. Thereafter I went through the hive with the queen cells in it to leave a nice large one in place and all being well I should have a nice new queen in place in the not too distant future. What was supposed to be a quick inspection lasted over an hour, but I did manage to get home in time for lunch - just!

Whilst the poor weather continues and the bees are confined to barracks, they may well feel overcrowded and decide to draw out some queen cells before swarming, so be prepared!

Keep buzzing!

**David Milford**

## **DON'T SELL ALL YOUR HONEY YET!**

Devon County Show honey sales needs your honey and other hive products to sell at this years County Show.

Jars of Honey always sell well. Containers of cut comb usually sell out rapidly. Honey fudge, Candles, Wax bars, Wax polish and other hive products all sell at the show. So get making and use this opportunity to promote your products.

Our customers usually purchase honey from the area where they come from, so take the opportunity to promote your honey by donating some jars for the Taste of Honey Stall; sampling your honey is the best way to sell it!

The County retains 20% of the selling price as commission.

Please look at the DBKA website for a list of this year's prices, and offer form, or follow this link:

**[Ctrl + Click for Devon Beekeepers](#)**

**OR** contact Jack Mummery with your offers of produce.

**Jack Mummery**

(Devon County Show Honey Sales Coordinator),  
Jabeda Barton, West Buckland, EX32 0SG

**Tel:** 01598 760209

**Email:** [jackmummery@mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:jackmummery@mypostoffice.co.uk)

## Brood Boxes & Supers Thorne v Mann Lake

by Roger Round

If you are accustomed to buying budget flat packed brood boxes and supers as I am, you may be interested in my experiences. Each year I buy several boxes and build them myself. Over the years I have had as many as 40 brood boxes and supers from Thorne, because of the expense involved I have bought their special sale price seconds, this year they were about £18 for a brood and £13 for a super. The wood is said to be English Cedar, but includes knots, sometimes lots of knots; quality control is poor with knots just where you don't need them, most of the time you can work around these by drilling the odd knot to enable the nail to go through. Thorne's nails are of good quality. Overall the brood boxes and supers do the job well and are a financial saving; bees don't seem to mind even when a knot drops out, which can cause a problem if not spotted in time.

This year I checked the Mann Lake catalogue and found they had a standard range of flat packed National brood boxes at £16.98 and supers at £12.00, I bought 4 brood and 8 supers which were delivered the next day, they even told me the time of delivery and they arrived on time. The wood looked to be of good quality American Cedar with not a knot in sight; however the sides of the boxes were made up by joining two pieces of cedar together through a glued tongue and groove joint. The overall appearance was good. On assembly the pre cut joints needed a small amount of tidying. Regrettably the nails supplied were poor and to my mind not fit for purpose. I replaced these and used good quality screws.

Both Thorne & Mann Lake provide free delivery if the order exceeds £100.

Standing the Thorne and Mann Lake brood boxes together, the Mann Lake looked and felt a far superior box being warmer to the touch and pleasing to the eye.

My oldest Thorne boxes have fared well over the years despite the odd knotty problem. Mann Lake boxes are inexpensive and untested by time and weather but look good, I believe they are worth a try in anyone's apiary.



## The Buzz – Bees in the news



**1/5/15**

### **Devon honey is the bee's knees**

**By Plymouth Herald**

"Devon honey really is the bee's knees and demand is forever growing. Keeping a hive is easy, fun and hugely beneficial - it only takes a suit and a pinch of Dutch courage to give it a go. Emily Smith finds out what all the buzz is about."

**[Ctrl + CLICK to READ MORE on the Plymouth Herald website.....](#)**



**22/4/15**

### **Bees may get hooked on neonicotinoid pesticides**

Bees may be getting hooked on nectar laced with widely used nicotine-related chemicals in pesticides they cannot even taste, in the same way humans are addicted to cigarettes, new research has found.

Adding to evidence of potential harm from the chemicals, another field-scale study published on Wednesday also found that exposure to so-called neonicotinoids affects reproduction and colony growth in some bee species.

**[CLICK HERE to READ MORE on the CBC News Canadian website.....](#)**

**Both bee studies were published in the journal Nature and the CBC News website has links to these on their website if you want to read more.**

**[Ctrl + Click for more news on this story on BBC Science & Environment](#)**



**Thank you to Neill Thomas for the news updates**

## Member Adverts

**NEW**

### Downsizing!

Three hives complete with bees for sale

Queens laying well

£75 each

Tested Nosema free April 2015

**Contact Claire** on 07976 346 898  
Wembury

I have 2 colonies for sale on national frame.

Need to downsize as have to move.

**Cost at £80 each**

My bees are in Wembury, Plymouth

but I can transport them for you.

**Contact: Sarah Rochester 07917276595**

I have twelve colonies of bees in brood boxes for sale.

**£100 each**

Patrick Mansfield  
Apiary Manager

### **FOR SALE**

**Brand new 5 frame  
nuc box (wooden)  
with OMF & feeder**

**£40**

**Contact: Bill Finnemore  
Tel: (01752) 404184**

# Devon COUNTY SHOW

21, 22, 23 May 2015

Folks, the latest  
Devon County Show  
news is on the DBKA

[CLICK HERE for DBKA Devon County show information](#)



## Contact Details – Plymouth Branch

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**Email** fire221@btinternet.com

**Please Phone before  
you make a visit**



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**www.beekeeping.co.uk**



## **Beekeeping Supplies**

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**Or 01752 845783 / 01822 834881**

For prices, information, collection or delivery  
Wax exchange available

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

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**www.cornwallhoney.co.uk**

## Non Member Advert

### FOR SALE

Approx 70 complete frames, unmade, mix of SN1 & DN1

Approx 50 complete frames, used

1 Nuc box (wooden)

Castellated spacers (9 slots) 17 pairs

4 frame (super) extractor (manual)

Galvanised filter tower

Comb cutter

Antique wax purifier

1 WBC hive, complete

1 hive stand

Perforated Zinc sheet      1 x 36" x 10"

1 x 22" x 18"

**Prefer to sell as one lot but if you are interested in anything please contact David Keogh  
by email: [dmk123@btinternet.com](mailto:dmk123@btinternet.com)**