



## Plymouth Branch Newsletter

November 2015

### PLYMOUTH BEEKEEPERS' Apiary Programme 2015/16

#### NOVEMBER

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> Branch AGM (Elburton Village Hall - starting at 7.30 pm)

#### DECEMBER

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> Branch Christmas Lunch at Boringdon Golf Club  
(sit down for 12.30 - £5 deposit)

#### JANUARY 2016

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> Branch Honey Show - Elburton Village Hall- starting at 7.30 pm.  
Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> Winter Study Group (Kathy Lovegrove) TBC

#### FEBRUARY 2016

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> Branch Meeting:  
David Corney-Walker: 'The Chemistry of Beekeeping'  
(Elburton Village Hall - starting at 7.30 pm)  
Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> Winter Study Group (Kathy Lovegrove)

**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.

## Chairman's Blog



Image from BBC website

The AGM is coming up on 19<sup>th</sup> November and full details are in this issue. Your committee had a very constructive meeting recently and we will be asking members to agree to the proposals that have been agreed at committee level. This will involve expenditure of your money, so if you cannot attend, please don't complain afterwards! Furthermore, the new DBKA constitution is in place, so there are some new rules to which we must comply. Last, but not least, it will be the ideal time to pay your subscriptions to Bernie for 2016. **Please make every effort to attend.**

The autumn has been kind to the bees again this year. Unless you have hive entrances that are mouse proof, it would be wise to put on mouse guards, if you haven't done so already. Mice can get in through the smallest of spaces and, if they do, they can create havoc by chewing through the stores on the outer combs.

As I write this, the hives in my home apiary are very busy with the bees collecting nectar and pollen from a number of sources, but especially the ivy. In fact, it is very similar to a flow at the height of summer! Cold weather will come this winter; how cold is open to debate, with forecasters making all sorts of conflicting arguments. The swan that arrived early at Slimbridge, which is supposed to herald a cold winter, is misleading. I would have thought that the creature was escaping an area which will be cold? As the old saying goes, "Is it me?"

Last, but not least, the Christmas Lunch is coming up on 13<sup>th</sup> December. I do hope that many of you will come along to this seasonal get together. We have asked for a £5 deposit, as last year many members indicated that they would attend, but a much lower number turned up on the day. It was not fair on the restaurant at their busiest time of the year to have empty tables. Fortunately, we were not charged for the no shows.

**David**

# Branch Notices

## **2015 AGM And COMMITTEE POSTS**

Plymouth Beekeepers AGM will be held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2015 at Elburton Village Hall, starting at 7.30 pm prompt.

All Committee members and Officers have confirmed they are willing to stand again in their respective posts however, if you feel you would like to become part of the Committee or are interested in any of the positions, please speak to our Chairman or a Committee member.

Nominations for any of the positions on the Committee or any items you wish included on the AGM Agenda should be advised to the Branch Secretary no later than 14 days before the AGM.

Office	
Chairman	David Milford
Vice-Chairman	Terry McAuliffe
Secretary	Jean French
Treasurer	Bernie Talling
Apiary Manager	Patrick Mansfield
Apiary Manager Assistants	Neil Downing-Waite, Allen Blight, Peter Black & Mike Lawrence
Librarian	Liz Wallis (taking over from Kairen Carter)
Editor	Dawn Clarke
Assistant Editor	VACANT
Education Team	Kathy Lovegrove, Jean French, Steve Arthur, Neil Downing-Waite, Patrick Mansfield, Terry McAuliffe, David Milford, Mark Ovenden, Claude Pool
Social & Honey Show Secretaries	Jean & Steve Russell
Microscopists	Kathy Lovegrove Beverley Bailey
Spray Liaison Officer	VACANT

**Jean French**  
**Branch Secretary, on behalf of the Committee**

## BRANCH SPRAY LIAISON OFFICER REQUIRED

At a recent Executive Council Meeting, a request was made to each of the Devon branches to provide a Spray Liaison Officer. From what was discussed, all that would be required would be to relay any local 'spraying' activity to their membership received via the Devon Spray Liaison Officer.

This is an important role and an excellent opportunity to become involved in the running of your Branch.

If anyone is interested, please contact Jean French – Branch Secretary on Plymouth 338279 or email: [JeanFrench1957@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:JeanFrench1957@yahoo.co.uk)

## A REMINDER - 2016 MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Please note your membership subscription for 2016 will soon be due and should be renewed by end of December 2015. (Membership runs from January to December). As per last year, payment can be made electronically, by cheque or cash.

The 2016 membership form will be sent out by email shortly but for those members unable to print a copy, we will have paper copies available at the AGM (19.11.15)

Thanking you.

**Jean French** – Branch Secretary

## BEE CRAFT MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS 2016

Members wishing to subscribe to Bee Craft magazine, **please let me know by Friday 27th November very latest** (the publishers require names/addresses by Tuesday 1st December).

The subscription charges are as follows:

Hard Copy + Free Digital Copy:	£25.20
Digital Copy:	£16.60

Payment to be made with your 2016 membership subscription

**Jean French** – Branch Secretary

**Tel :** Plymouth (01752) 338279

**Email:** [JeanFrench1957@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:JeanFrench1957@yahoo.co.uk)

**PS.** For those of you wishing to subscribe to Beekeeping Quarterly there will be a 'tick box' on the 2016 membership form - Devon Beekeepers will be co-ordinating the subscription of this magazine from now on.

## PLYMOUTH BRANCH CHRISTMAS LUNCH



The Christmas lunch has been booked  
At the Boringdon Golf Club  
Sunday 13th December  
for a 12.30pm sit down

<b>Prices are:</b>	One course	£9.95
	Two courses	£14.90
	Three Courses	£18.85
	Under 12's are half price	

Please advise us at the AGM / by telephone or email  
so we may collate names/numbers wishing to attend.

**Please note a £5 deposit per person will be required this year.**

**JEAN & STEVE RUSSELL**

**Social Secretaries**

**Tel : Plymouth 215827**

**Email: [sr018a8549@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:sr018a8549@blueyonder.co.uk)**



# The British Beekeepers Association

## BBKA in the coming years

Over the last twelve years the BBKA has grown significantly. In 2003 there were 60 Area Associations and 8,463 members. Today there are 69 Area Associations and around 25,500 members. Twelve years ago members were mostly interested in producing honey but British beekeeping has changed much over the last 12 years. Today's membership's interests are wide and varied. Like many organisations that have grown rapidly, our structure and ways of working need to adapt. So the time has come to ask ourselves some questions starting with the following:

1. What roles should the BBKA be playing?
2. What sort of organisation structure would be best to fulfil these roles?
3. What sort of constitutional structure would ensure good governance?

## The Survey

A survey has been developed to get input which will allow us to start the process of answering those questions. The Survey is being sent electronically to all Area Association Members and their Branches and/or Divisions. I am also asking all members as individuals to complete the survey to get as wide a response as possible. Three months has been allowed for consultation and discussion locally. **The survey will be open from the beginning of October to the end of December.** To help in the analysis of the data it should be completed online via the link available at [http://www.bbka.org.uk/members/bbka\\_survey\\_october\\_to\\_december\\_2015](http://www.bbka.org.uk/members/bbka_survey_october_to_december_2015)

Some of the questions posed in the survey are, of necessity, controversial but they have all been suggested to me by members and member association officers. This is an opportunity to see if they have a wider relevance.

## The BBKA is your organisation

This survey is the first step in ensuring that it is the organisation you want it to be whatever your interest in the keeping of bees. Please help by supporting this survey and please be reassured that all responses will be treated in the strictest of confidence, with no one member or Association identified by their responses.

If you have any questions or problems completing the survey then please contact the office on [2015survey@BBKA.org.uk](mailto:2015survey@BBKA.org.uk)

If you do not feel able to answer any question there is, in most cases, a Don't Know option. There are also opportunities to add comments for all questions where appropriate.

I look forward to seeing the results of this survey which I am sure will give us all a lot to think about. Thank you in advance for your support.

**With Kind Regards**

**Doug Brown, BBKA Chairman**



David with guest speaker,  
Clare Densley at the Winter Meeting

Clare gave a very interesting talk about Drones.

Clare's website can be found at: <http://www.beesense.net/>



## The Buzz – Bees in the news



**15/10/15**

By Victoria Gill, Science reporter, BBC News

Caffeinated plants give bees a buzz

A morning caffeine dose is something that so many of us find irresistible, and according to research, foraging bees seek a similar buzz.

**Ctrl + Click to READ MORE on the BBC website.....**

**38 DEGREES**  
people. power. change.



**Don't forget to check in on the 38 Degrees campaigns to protect bees**

**Click below for**

**38 Degrees Bee Campaigns**



As promised, we have put together some offers for everyone to celebrate our success at Apimondia and also hope to help your readers solve the inevitable quandary on present buying, or what to add to your own Christmas list!

Bob Maurer's book, Practical Microscopy is part of one of the gift packs that Liz, our Shop Manager, has put together and which are available from now until 31 January 2016. They can all be viewed [here](#). Great ideas for beekeepers at all levels of experience and expertise.

Kind regards  
Wendy and the *Bee Craft* team

What's coming up and when?

Here are the topics of *Bee Craft*'s hangouts / webinars for the remainder of 2015 and the scheduled dates for 2016.

## 2015

18th November Winter projects DIY ideas

16th December Relax - Beekeeper to Beekeeper

## 2016

Jan 13th Beekeeping with Children

Feb 17th, Mar 16th, Apr 13th, May 19th, June 15th

July 13th, Aug 17th, Sept 14th, Oct 12th, Nov 16th, Dec 14th



## Contact Details – Plymouth Branch

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



## *The Bee-Boy's Song*

*Bees! Bees! Hark to your bees!  
'Hide from your neighbours as much as you please,  
But all that has happened, to us you must tell,  
Or else we will give you no honey to sell!'*

*A maiden in her glory,  
Upon her wedding-day,  
Must tell her Bees the story,  
Or else they'll fly away.  
Fly away – die away –  
Dwindle down and leave you!  
But if you don't deceive your Bees,  
Your Bees will not deceive you.*

*Marriage, birth or buryin',  
News across the seas,  
All you're sad or merry in,  
You must tell the Bees.  
Tell 'em coming in an' out,  
Where the Fanners fan,  
'Cause the Bees are just about  
As curious as a man!*

*Don't you wait where the trees are,  
When the lightnings play,  
Nor don't you hate where Bees are,  
Or else they'll pine away.  
Pine away – dwine away –  
Anything to leave you!  
But if you never grieve your Bees,  
Your Bees'll never grieve you.*

*Rudyard Kipling*



**FOR SALE**  
**Double Hive Stand**  
**Made out of 4" x 2" wood**  
**£10**  
**Contact: Bill Finnemore**  
**Tel: (01752) 404184**



City Bees

Apistan Pouches ( 10 strips per pouch)	£17.50
Apigaurd Trays (per 2 trays enough for a single application for one hive)	£4.20
Apigaurd Trays 10 ( 1 Box enough for 5 hives with a single application)	£21.00
ApiShield National Floor ( Hornet, Asian Hornet, Wasp and wax moth trap, replacement open mesh floor)	£45.00

Prices are kept as low as we can to help as many beekeepers to look after their bees well.  
 If you can collect your order it will save on postage and environmental costs.

If you would like to have it posted please call me and we will work out a total price for you.

If you are a member of a local association put in a combined order, ring me with your order and we can arrange for one person to collect or we may be able to deliver it to you free.

Sad to say there are no discounts for bulk orders as these prices are as low as we can go!

City Bees, are a not for profit organisation, providing free swarm rescue, bumblebee nest relocation and advice to individuals and organisations in and around Plymouth.

Tel 01752516619

[citybees@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:citybees@hotmail.co.uk)



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