

# BEE BRIEF

## PLYMOUTH BRANCH NEWSLETTER

October 2013

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### VISIT TO THE PORTREATH BEE CENTRE

St. Minver, Wadebridge,

Sunday 3rd November,  
2013 @ 2 pm.

If you are interested in  
going along, please advise  
Jean/Steve Russell, our  
Social

[www.plymouthbeekeepers.btik.com](http://www.plymouthbeekeepers.btik.com)

### PLYMOUTH BEEKEEPERS CALENDAR OCTOBER 2013

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> Branch Meeting - Elburton  
Village Hall, starting 7.30 pm.  
Talk by Emily Simcock from The Bee Vet on  
Predatory Mites & the  
trial results

### NOVEMBER 2013

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> 2 pm. Visit to Portreath Bee  
Supplies  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> Branch AGM

### DECEMBER 2013

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> Branch Christmas Lunch –  
Boringdon Golf & Country Club  
12 for 12.30 pm.

### JANUARY 2014

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> Branch Honey Show + Talk on  
Wax/Q&A Session by Alicia Norman  
Judge: Jim Mogridge

### FEBURARY 2014

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> Branch Meeting/Talk – Talk by  
Dr. George Graham (subject tbc)

## **Chairman's Blog – October 2013**

Well, I am just back from a few days in Oxfordshire. Whilst there, we visited the Botanical Gardens, which was very worthwhile. The honeybees were feasting on the autumn flowering plants, the names of which I will never remember. Whoever they belonged to is a fortunate beekeeper, having such a variety of forage throughout the year. The previous Saturday was the DBKA EC meeting, which went quite well. I raised the issue of the VAT proposal and this will be chased up. I hope that my comment about it being exceptionally rude of the BBKA not to have responded by now will be minuted. Terry put a lot of work into a paper that everyone I know thinks is a very good idea and a response is the least that we should expect. By the way, they are looking for a new treasurer to take over from Richard Howes next March. If any of you would like to know more about the role, have a chat with me as I did it for ten years before Richard took over. We had a presentation at the meeting from a Torbay member about the “Cornish Black Bee” at Paignton Zoo. As you may have read, some Cornish beekeepers think they have discovered their native bee. I was very sceptical about this, but as Ken Basterfield NDB is far more knowledgeable about bees and their pedigree than me, I left it to him to take the poor chap to task! In a couple of minutes, Ken clarified that it was highly unlikely that this is a pure bred bee and is far more likely to be a mongrel, like all of the bees in this part of the world, even if it is a very good bee. Indeed, mating was discussed and unless artificial insemination is used, the chances of virgin queens mating with “pure bred” drones is nigh on impossible.

Anyway, enough of my ramblings. I hope that you have all finished feeding your colonies, but it is not too late if you have light hives that require more food. The ivy has not started here on the edge of Dartmoor, but I have no doubt that it has in the tropical areas like Newton Ferrers and Wembury! The pollen is very good, but the nectar does go rock hard and the bees have difficulty eating it in the early spring. The less of the latter in the hive, the better!

The next meeting is on 10th October and I would urge as many of you as possible to come along and hear what the BeeVet has to say, especially about the control of varroa. New members are particularly welcome. Also, don't forget to let Jean know if you want to visit Portreath Bee Centre on November 3rd. That will be a good day out.

David

## **VISIT TO THE PORTREATH BEE CENTRE**

St. Minver, Wadebridge,  
Cornwall PL27 6RA

([www.portreathbeecentre.co.uk](http://www.portreathbeecentre.co.uk))

Sunday 3rd November, 2013 @ 2 pm.

What will we do and see there?

See a modern commercial honey processing plant and a beeswax recovery system.

Visit the beekeeping museum and view many historical objects.

An opportunity to talk to two commercial beekeepers.

Browse around a well-stocked shop.

Purchase beekeeping equipment for next season or a winter project.

There is a Tea Room within the Bee Centre where you can enjoy a Cream Tea or a cup of tea and slice of home-made cake.

All these attractions are under-cover so will not be affected by the weather and there's plenty of parking.

This will be a great day out for you and the family (children are welcome).

We shall meet up in the car park at the Portreath Bee Centre at 2 pm.

If you are interested in going along, please advise Jean/Steve Russell, our Social

### **Plymouth Branch Christmas Lunch**

The Christmas lunch has been booked at the Boringdon Golf club for Sunday 15th December for 12.30pm.

#### **THE PRICES ARE**

One course £8.95

Two courses £12.95

Three Courses £16.85

Under twelve's are half price

Please advise Jean French by email or phone so she may collate numbers wishing to attend.

## HELP

Received this email via the Plymouth Beekeepers Website.  
Can anyone help this lady?

Dear Jean,

I'm a third year BA Fine Art student at Plymouth uni and I have an unusual request:

For my final year I am going to create an installation art piece about bees... I'm interested in the ongoing problem of the decline in bees and the controversial issues surrounding this topic. To make my research/interests into a visual piece I'd like to collect as many dead bees as possible.

Might you be able to suggest groups/bee keepers/places to advertise this from where I could collect them on a larger scale than I currently am please? I am happy to pay for postage of the dead bees if they are not in an area that is local to me. I am based in Devon.

I hope you don't mind me contacting you - I found your details on the DBKA website.

Many thanks!

Kelly Soper

Email: [kellysoper@live.com](mailto:kellysoper@live.com)



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