



Plymouth Branch Newsletter

August 2015

PLYMOUTH BEEKEEPERS' APIARY PROGRAMME 2015

AUGUST (Bank Holiday: Mon 31st)

Sunday	2 nd	10 am	General Meeting: discussion on topical items – all members welcome
Sunday	9 th	10 am	Novice Meeting (11)
Sunday	16 th	10 am	Improvers Meeting
Sunday	23 rd	10 am	Novice Meeting (12) – End of Course
Sunday	30 th		No Meeting (Bank Holiday Weekend)

SEPTEMBER

Sunday	6 th	10 am	General Meeting - Apiary Maintenance – all members
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OCTOBER

Thursday	8 th	7.30pm	Winter Meeting (* Elburton Village Hall)
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NOVEMBER

Thursday	19 th	7.30 pm	Branch AGM (* Elburton Village Hall) (OK with Bernie)
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DECEMBER

Sunday	13 th		Branch Christmas Lunch (tbc) (* Booked)
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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 main flow appears to have finished and I hope that you have a nice crop of honey to extract. I guess that it will be an average year, especially as the July weather was rather mixed.

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.

Last, but not least, don't forget your wasp traps. They are at it already and I find that some cheap strawberry jam in a little water does the trick. Fill a jar about a quarter full, put on the lid with a hole in it and place it near your hives. You will find that the bees will not be attracted to it.

Enjoy the rest of the summer.

David

GARLIC FONDANT / SYRUP

Back in April, Totnes & Kingsbridge branch invited Plymouth members to a social evening/forum. Various subjects were discussed, one of which was sugar syrup feeds. Clare Densely mentioned she added garlic to her feeds to help stop mould etc. This created a lot of interest and I was asked to contact Clare for her recipes. Should any member experiment with these, I am sure our membership would be interested in some feedback.

Jean French
Branch Secretary

Fondant Recipe (for bees)

Ingredients

Icing sugar- 1kg

Water- 100 ml

Garlic powder (optional) 1tsp

Honey or invert sugar (ambrosia) - a dash

Method

Empty the icing sugar into a clean washing up bowl and add the garlic powder and honey or ambrosia. Add the water and mix with your hands until you are able to knead the mixture like dough.

Put into a greaseproof wrapping or a plastic bag so that it doesn't dry out.

Place over the feed hole on the crown board of the hive.

Garlic Syrup

Make up 2:1 sugar syrup (or use Ambrosia)

2 heaped teaspoon of pure garlic powder (not garlic salt) should be placed in a large mixing jug.

Add a tiny bit of syrup so that you can mix it to a paste (as you would cocoa or custard powder).

Then dilute this mixture with a little more syrup.

Stir thoroughly so that it all amalgamates.

Do this again.

Continue this process until the mixture is liquid enough to pour freely.

When you get to this point you can add more syrup until you have 5 litres in all.

Mix thoroughly and pour the solution into bottles or a canister.

HONITON SHOW

August 7th 2015

Contact Colin Osborne

Email: col3xg@gmail.com

Tel: 077863 14210

Ctrl + Click for East Devon Beekeepers

Ctrl + Click for Devon Beekeepers



Cornwall's Beekeeping Convention - A Bit of a Do - at Truro School

12th September 2015

Contact Mark or Sue Hoult

Tel: 01566 774618

Ctrl + Click for West Cornwall BKA - A Bit of a Do



South Devon Beekeepers Convention - Practical, Positive and Profitable Beekeeping

Saturday 17 October 2015

Ctrl + Click for South Devon BKA

Programme attached to your Bee Brief mail out as separate document



Dorset Beekeepers Convention 2015

Sunday October 18th 2015

Contact Ben Benjamin

Email: chrisbenbenjamin@googlemail.com



Member News

My son, Nik who is home from Australia took this photo. Note the winter doors to protect the skeps, doors have a small cut out for flying bees.

From Roger Round



Hi Guys,

Think I might have found an alternative to clipping the queen's wings.....
Cover her wings in half a tin of Dulux white high gloss.

On a serious note marking her on the hottest day of the year in hindsight probably wasn't the best idea as the marking fluid was all but free flowing!!!

Can you spot her?!? Not quite as hard as "Where's Wally".

Hope you are all well.

Best regards

Neill





The Buzz – Bees in the news

31/7/15

Stunning discovery: Queen bees vaccinate their young

The findings appear today in the PLOS (Public Library of Science) Pathogens journal article **“Transfer of Immunity from Mother to Offspring Is Mediated via Egg-Yolk Protein Vitellogenin”**

[Ctrl + Click to READ MORE on the PLOS website.....](#)

[Ctrl + Click to READ MORE on the Techie News website.....](#)



3/8/15

Rebecca Marshall: Meet the world's first apprentice bee farmer



Rebecca is the world’s first apprentice bee farmer, according to the commercial Bee Farmers Association (BFA), which set up the scheme to help arrest a decline in the industry.

[Ctrl + Click to read about Rebecca on the Independent website](#)



6/7/15

The internet of things could save the honeybee from extinction

Gemalto's M2M unit is developing an ambitious project with agricultural science firm Eltopia and the University of Minnesota. The objective: to save the honeybee from extinction. Working alongside Spivak and Eltopia, Gemalto has assisted in the design and deployment of MiteNot, a smart beehive frame specifically designed to monitor and manage the internal temperature of the hive in which it is installed.

[Ctrl + Click to read more on the Computer Weekly website](#)



24/7/15

UK suspends ban on pesticides linked to serious harm in bees



[Ctrl + Click to read more on the Guardian website](#)

**Worth
Watching**



Biology of the Honey Bee

A lecture given by Jamie Ellis at the 2014 National Honey Show entitled "**Biology of the Honey Bee**". (50 minutes)

[Ctrl + Click for the video on You Tube](#)



Antique Queen Cages - Beekeeping Museum, Radovljica, Slovenia





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. The next one is taking place in a fortnight.

2015

19th August Discussion about Apimondia and what it is

16th September Removal of supers/treatment

14th October Configuration of winter hives

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 18th, June 15th, July 13th, Aug 17th, Sept 14th, Oct 12th, Nov 16th, Dec 14th

Bee Craft's annual editorial meeting will be taking place in September. This is when we discuss and plan what articles to include in the magazine the following year. This time we have decided to ask for your input.

We would be pleased to receive suggestions from you and your members on what you would like us to cover, with contact details of potential authors, enabling us to tap in to the wealth of knowledge that exists within county and local associations.

Having passed mid-summer's day it seems as though the weather is warming up at last - long may it continue!

Best regards

Wendy and the *Bee Craft* team

Email me at wendy@bee-craft.com

Ctrl+ Click for the July Hangout

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

£100 each

Patrick Mansfield

Apiary Manager

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

Nucs for sale
Queens from local matings with
Ligustica (Italian) Queen
All on 6 to 8 frames £80
Contact: Roger Round 01752 701945
Email: roger.round@hotmail.co.uk



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

Provisional 2015 price list

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
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