

BEE BRIEF

PLYMOUTH BRANCH NEWSLETTER

December 2011

VOL. 1 ISSUE 5

Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year

To all Plymouth Branch.
From- The Chairman and all your
Committee.



Another book review by Kathy.

Could be a stocking filler.

“The Bee Manual” by Claire & Adrian Waring

The Complete Step-by-step Guide to Keeping Bees

Published by Haynes in 2011, RRP £19.99

Yes, the publisher is Haynes of the famous car manuals! If you are familiar with them you will know that this is a practical book, logically

written and well laid out without being as patronizing as the “Idiot’s Guide to ...” series. The writers are renowned beekeepers and have decades of experience behind them. Adrian Waring holds the NDB and has been a lecturer and county bee-keeping instructor. His teaching skills are evident in this book – the style is friendly, telling you what you need to know, when you need to know it. Claire Waring is the editor of Bee Craft magazine and has brought her presentation skills to bear in creating an excellent colour format. The book has stunning photos and clear diagrams that take you through complex procedures with ease.

There are many beekeeping books for beginners available now but I would rate this as one of the best. Just beware of a publishing error: when giving the mnemonic for queen marking colours the years’ end numbers are wrong. Just remember this year’s queens are white and start the sequence with 1 not 0.

Don’t be put off by the price – I have seen it advertised for £5 less from more than one bookseller. You will certainly be getting value for money and it would be a nice colourful gift for Christmas.

Kathy Lovegrove

Next Meeting

Christmas Lunch.

See page 3.

DBKA PLYMOUTH BRANCH – APIARY PROGRAMME FOR 2012

MARCH

Saturday 3rd March All Members Meeting Bill Finnemore
Sunday 4th March All Members Meeting Apiary Manager
Sunday 11th March Novice (1) Introduction & Film Mike Hogan
Sunday 18th March Improvers (1) David Milford
Sunday 25th March Novice (2) Mike Hogan
Saturday 31st March All Members Meeting Bill Finnemore

APRIL

Sunday 1st April All Members Meeting (Nosema Day*) Apiary Manager
Sunday 15th April Novice (3) Mike Hogan
Sunday 22nd April Improvers (2) David Milford
Sunday 29th April Novice (4) Mike Hogan
* to be confirmed

MAY

Saturday 5th May All Members Meeting Bill Finnemore
Sunday 6th May All Members Meeting Apiary Manager
Sunday 13th May Novice (5) Mike Hogan
Sunday 20th May Improvers (3) David Milford
Sunday 27th May Novice (6) Mike Hogan

JUNE

Saturday 2nd June All Members Meeting Bill Finnemore
Sunday 3rd June All Members Meeting Apiary Manager
Sunday 10th June Novice (7) Mike Hogan
Sunday 17th June Improvers (4) David Milford
Sunday 24th June Novice (8) Mike Hogan
Saturday 30th June All Members Meeting Bill Finnemore

JULY

Sunday 1st July All Members Meeting Apiary Manager
Sunday 8th July Novice (9) Mike Hogan
Sunday 15th July Improvers (5) David Milford
Sunday 22nd July Novice (10) Mike Hogan
Sunday 29th July All Members Meeting Apiary Manager

AUGUST

Saturday 4th August All Members Meeting Bill Finnemore
Sunday 5th August All Members Meeting Apiary Manager
Sunday 12th August Novice (11) Mike Hogan
Sunday 19th August Improvers (6) David Milford
Sunday 26th August Novice (12) end of course Mike Hogan

Reviving old wax

This is a snippet From Steve Murphy.

He has called it, INK-LING. Translated, I Never Knew– Learning - Information- News and Gossip.

Whilst in Thornes at Windsor in the summer. I was chatting to the boss. I told him that I had never had any joy getting the bees to draw out section comb in the box section super (for cut comb honey). This was the case even if they had nothing else to draw out! I wanted to buy some foundation but they were out of stock. The chap at Thornes said a really good trick is to soak the old foundation for 24 hours in a 50/50 mix of malt vinegar and water. Let it dry for a couple of days and then pop it in. He claims it will work a treat. I'm certainly going to try it next year.

Apiary Site wanted

Danny Spence is looking for an apiary site. If anyone can help him, please contact him on danspence@live.co.uk or Plymouth 704709

2012 Membership Subscriptions - further to my recent email, this is a 'gentle' reminder to those who have not yet renewed their subscription for 2012.

It would be much appreciated if you could send your membership form/cheque to Bernie Talling by end of December 2011.

For those members without an email address, you will find a membership form enclosed with your Bee Brief. If you have any queries whatsoever, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Jean French - Branch Secretary

Beekeeping Quarterly Magazine 2012

A final reminder to those members wishing to subscribe to this publication and who have not advised me.

Jean French - Branch Secretary

Xmas Lunch

For this year's lunch we will be returning to the popular golf club restaurant for their Festive Carvery.

Meet 12:00 to sit down at 12:30

£8.95 for one course, £12.95 for 2, £16.95 for 3 courses.

No Deposited required----Please pay on the day.

Calling all IT experts

The branch has two very nice microscopes one high power and one low power. and both can be fitted with cameras. The cameras are interchangeable, but the high power can be fitted with the DCM 130 digital camera for microscopes. This linked to a laptop the specimens viewed can be seen on the screen, or through a projector.

The problem is the camera has had very little use so it cannot be damaged, but when the software is activated, and attempts are made to connect camera to laptop, the laptop freezes.

The question is have any members any contacts with a PC savvy who could help. I have tried to contact the suppliers Brunel Microscopes Bristol five times phone and email, but the person who can answer the question will never make contact. Has any member the software PhotoShop, that we could make a copy this is also the software that can be used to operate the camera.

Freddy Poole "Good morning all,

At the AGM an offer was made to send me a copy of Photo Shop, to use as the software for the digital camera that connects to our high power microscope.

From the front of the hall I could not see who it was.

I am sending this mail to say it has not arrived, I do not know if it has been lost in the post or, if it is just a slip of the memory.

Could the member who made the offer please make contact with me.

Freddy Poole"

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