

Plymouth Branch Newsletter

January 2016

IMPORTANT NOTICE – VENUE CHANGE

BRANCH HONEY SHOW

Thursday 7th January, 2016

Starting at 7.30 pm

**Please note that due to unforeseen circumstances,
the venue has been moved to:**

Shaugh Prior Village Hall
Shaugh Prior
Plymouth
PL7 5HA

There is a small car park but there's plenty of on road parking plus the use of the pub car park should you wish to have a swift half at the beginning/end of the evening!

The village hall has a website where a map can be viewed.

Apologies for any inconvenience that may have been caused with this venue change at such short notice.

JEAN FRENCH
Branch Secretary

PLYMOUTH BEEKEEPERS' Apiary Programme 2016

JANUARY			
Thursday 7 th	Branch Honey Show	Shaugh Prior Village Hall	7.30 pm
Thursday 21 st	Winter Study Group: Varroa - Kathy Lovegrove	Colebrook Community Centre, Peacock Meadow, Plympton	7.30 pm
FEBRUARY			
Thursday 11 th	Branch Meeting: Martin Hann talking about "Bee Viruses"	Elburton Village Hall	7.30 pm
Thursday 25 th	Winter Study Group: General Husbandry Certificate - Kathy Lovegrove	Colebrook Community Centre, Peacock Meadow, Plympton	7.30 pm
MARCH Easter: Good Friday 25th March / Easter Sunday 27th March			
Sunday 6 th (Mothers Day)	General Meeting: topical items – all members welcome		10 am
Thursday 10 th	Honey Fest	Elburton Village Hall	7.30 pm
Sunday 13 th	Novice Meeting (1) – Introduction + Film		10 am
Saturday 19 th	DBKA AGM	ISCA Centre, Whipton, Exeter EX4 8NT	
Sunday 20 th	Improvers Meeting		10 am
Sunday 27 th (Easter Sunday)	No Meeting		
APRIL			
Sunday 3 rd	General Meeting: topical items – all members welcome		10 am
Sunday 10 th	Novice Meeting (2)		10 am
Sunday 17 th	Improvers Meeting		10 am
Sunday 24 th	Novice Meeting (3)		10 am
Saturday 9 th	Joint Nosema Day with Totnes & Kingsbridge	to be confirmed	

MAY (Bank Holidays Mon 2nd + Mon 30th)		
Sunday 1 st	General Meeting: discussion on topical items – all members welcome	10 am
Sunday 8 th	Novice Meeting (4)	10 am
Sunday 15 th	Improvers Meeting	10 am
Sunday 22 nd	Novice Meeting (5)	10 am
Sunday 29 th (Bank Holiday Weekend)	No Meeting	
JUNE		
Sunday 5 th	General Meeting: discussion on topical items – all members welcome	10 am
Sunday 12 th	Novice Meeting (6)	10 am
Sunday 19 th (Father's Day)	Improvers Meeting	10 am
Sunday 26 th	Novice Meeting (7)	10 am
JULY		
Sunday 3 rd	General Meeting: discussion on topical items – all members welcome	10 am
Sunday 10 th	Novice Meeting (8)	10 am
Sunday 17 th	Improvers Meeting	10 am
Sunday 24 th	Novice Meeting (9)	10 am
Sunday 31 st	Novice Meeting (10)	10 am

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

I hope that you had a nice Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.



It was not a good start to 2016 for me, as many of you know. However, I will tell all at the meeting on Thursday, which is the Honey Show. I hope that we will have a good number of entries and Jack Mummery, the judge, knows his stuff and was extremely complimentary about all the exhibits the last time he judged our show.

Don't forget that the sales are on at this time of the year and bargains can be had. Many firms waive the carriage fee if your order is more than £100, so if you do not spend this much, team up with another beekeeper or two to beat the limit.

On Wednesday 13th January there will be a bee forum at the South Park Community Centre, Buckfast - see this month's Beekeeping - and Bill Finnemore will be on the panel. The subject will be the importation of honeybees. It should be a lively debate! I will do my best to be there!

Now something from the magazine where the author ought to have known better. A swarm is collected from a post box - Beekeeping page 16. Whenever a swarm is collected, especially if it is from your own hive and you wish to house it in the same apiary, it is always wise to put a piece of queen excluder over the entrance if housing them in a nuc box or, if it goes straight into a hive, put a QX between the bottom of the brood box and the floor. Remove it when the queen has started laying. If a virgin queen has headed the swarm, then you still have to take a chance unless you have a spare queen cell or mated queen with which you can replace the virgin.

My only wish for the New Year is for less rainfall! Warm, wet and windy weather is not good for the bees in winter. Above all, check their stores by hefting the hives, and if they feel light, feed with candy or the like, but not syrup. Mind you, I remember being told many years ago that rainfall averages work out in the end, so let's hope that having the rain now will lead to a glorious, warm summer and a bumper honey crop!

Finally, my heartfelt thanks to all of those members who contacted me after my recent predicament, offering to assist. What a great membership we have!

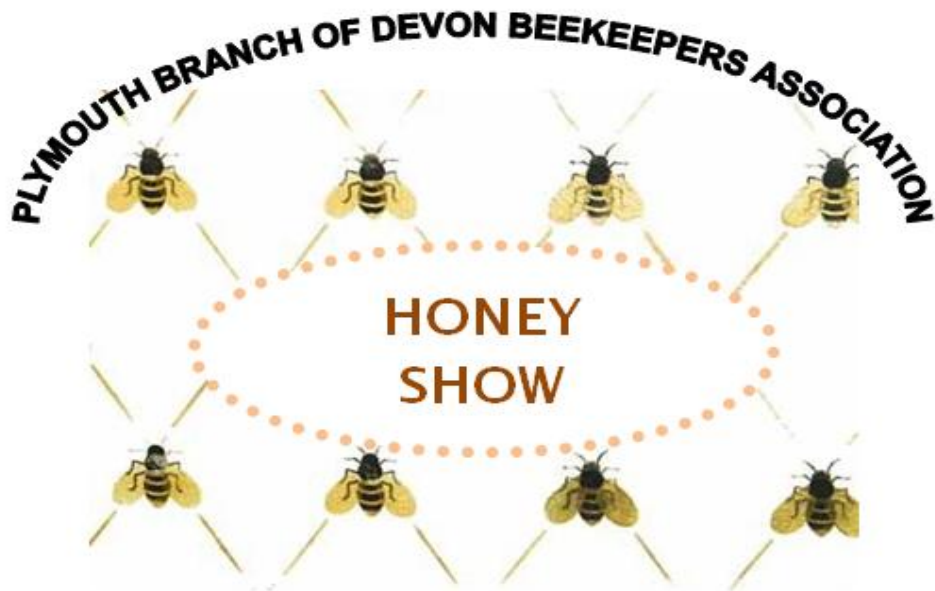
David

Read more about the vandalism of David's hives at these links:

[Ctrl + Click for BBC Spotlight coverage](#)

[Ctrl + Click for the Plymouth Herald coverage](#)

Branch Notices



**The Honey Show will be held on
Thursday January 7th at 7.30pm
at Shaugh Prior Village Hall**

**Open to all members
New members especially welcome**

Doors open at 7pm ~ judging starts at 7.30

Honey Show recipes on p.8

**Please will all winners return their silverware
clean and polished on the night of the show.**

HONEY SHOW SCHEDULE

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 1 2 x 1lb Jars of light run honey
(in standard 1 lb jars with plastic or metal tops) | Slater Cup |
| 2 2 x 1lb Jars of medium run honey
(in standard 1 lb jars with plastic or metal tops) | Edwards Cup |
| 3 2 x 1lb Jars of dark run honey
(in standard 1 lb jars with plastic or metal tops) | Tucker Cup |
| 4 2 x 1lb Jars of crystallised honey
(in standard 1 lb jars with plastic or metal tops) | Winnicott Cup |
| 5 2 x 1lb Jars of creamed honey
(in standard 1 lb jars with plastic or metal tops) | Perpetual Trophy |
| 6 1 Pair of beeswax candles
(One pair of identical candles made from pure beeswax. One candle may be lit by the judge) | Prosser Tray |
| 7 1 Bottle of Mead (any type)
(all bottles to be clear punted with new flanged corks) | Mansfield Tray |
| 8 1 Frame of comb for extraction
(may be any type of shallow frame) | Eric Goss Tray |
| 9 1 Jar of honey labelled for sale
(Labelling to E.C. regulations. Honey may be of any variety.) | Interserve Tray |
| 10 6 x 1oz blocks of beeswax
(all blocks must be identical and may be from any shape mould) | Poole Tray |
| 11 Beeswax Open Class
(any wax item or product eg polish or wax block etc) | Bandvulc Tray |
| 12 1 Honey Sandwich (see recipe)
(white paper plates will be provided for display) | Ward Cup |
| 13 12 pieces of Honey fudge (see recipe)
(white paper plates will be provided for display) | Barton Cup |
| 14 Novice Class
(any category of beekeeping exhibit from classes 1 to 12 entered by a novice) See Show notes for further guidance. | Milford Cup |
| 15 Open Class eg photo, gadget etc
Open to all items of beekeeping interest not covered by classes 1 to 12) | Mayflower Marina Cup |

SHOW NOTES

- Honey Classes 1–5:** Keep everything clean and shiny, no odd bees, legs etc. A clean jar makes the honey look clear and bright.
- Class 6:** Candles may be displayed free-standing or in candlesticks. Do not overheat the wax as this makes the wax become darker and most judges prefer a bright amber colour. Use fine filters, if possible, to remove impurities which may come to the surface and spoil and otherwise fine exhibit. Polish the candle to get a good smooth shiny appearance.
- Class 7:** Mead. Again cleanliness is a must. The punt will show up any debris and any fermentation will show up at the bottle neck. A nice clear yellow always looks pleasing but the ultimate goal is the flavour. Use good quality honey for good quality mead.
- Class 8:** When choosing a frame make quite sure that it is not granulated or weeping honey. The capping must cover the surface to the edge. Cleanliness is desirable but not essential if it is an old well used frame.
- Class 9:** Make sure that you are up to date on all the E.C. regulations.
- Class 10:** Make sure that your blocks are 1 oz, some judges will weigh them. All six blocks should be identical in colour and shape so melt all the wax together first for uniformity.
- Classes 12,13:** Keep to the recipes provided
- Class 14:** Novices – choose your exhibits from any of the above classes. A novice is someone who has never won a prize in the category entered eg an option for beginners honey if you have not won a honey prize before.
- Class 15:** Open to all beekeepers, young and old, to show off photos, gadgets, poems etc.

SHOW SCHEDULE CLAUSES

- 1 This show is held in accordance with the show Rules (1994) of the British Beekeepers' Association and Exhibitors are bound by them.
- 2 Entries must be made on the form provided and filled in on the evening of the Show.
- 3 The entry fees are free!
- 4 Judging will commence at 7.30pm.
- 5 No exhibit or any part thereof shall be removed until after the prize giving.
- 6 The Show will be open to members and exhibitors at the close of judging.

Recipes



Class 12

Honey Sandwich

6oz Margarine

4oz Caster Sugar

1 tbsp Honey

3 Large Eggs

6oz Self Raising Flour

Pinch Salt

Cream margarine, sugar and honey until light and fluffy. Whisk eggs and beat into creamed mixture. Fold in sifted flour and salt. Divide into two prepared 7" sandwich tins and bake in moderate oven for about 30 mins. Turn onto a wire tray and when cold, sandwich together with honey filling.

Filling

4oz Icing Sugar

1 Tablespoon Honey

2oz Butter

Blend together until smooth.



Class 13

12 Pieces Honey Fudge

1lb Granulated Sugar

¼ Pint Evaporated Milk

¼ Teaspoon Salt

2oz Butter

2 Tablespoons Honey



Boil sugar and milk for 5 mins. Add honey and boil until "soft ball stage" at 240°F (Thermometer is needed as the temperature is critical). Add butter. Beat until creamy, pour into buttered dish. When nearly set, mark into 12 squares. Use full amount for entry.

Plymouth BKA
members enjoying
Christmas lunch 2015



It's November 2015 and here is the news!!



IMYB 2017 will be held in England if BBKA members are in support.

What a chance for us to showcase beekeeping in England.

What a chance for young beekeepers to show how well they understand beekeeping here in England.

Yes, the BBKA Executive have agreed a proposal that, subject to it not being a drain on BBKA resources, the International Meeting of Young Beekeepers should be held here in England. We don't want it to be a drain on resources and will be looking to raise as much sponsorship as we can but we will also be asking you, the members of the BBKA to demonstrate your support through a small financial contribution. If every member makes a contribution of just £1 towards this prestigious and forward looking-event this will cover around one-third of the cost of hosting the event and we already have plans for raising the other two-thirds.

We hope that this will be discussed at the ADM in January and would like your support when we ask members to agree to a one off, one time levy of £1 for each member. With the expectation of media coverage, we hope that you will agree that this is a wonderful opportunity to make the public at large aware of the importance of beekeeping and, particularly, the importance of young people taking up our craft.

There will be much to do to make sure that we are ready the host best IMYB to date; as always it will be most successful if we all pull together. We are looking for volunteers to help; people with language skills will be particularly helpful as in addition to the three main languages for the event (English, German and Russian) there will be people who speak other languages present probably including Slovak, Slovenian, Czech, Polish, Hebrew, Arabic, Danish, to name but a few. Although we will hold the event at Marlborough College in Wiltshire, a well-established college location with all of the boarding facilities you would expect, if we have to pay for administrators to do the work the costs go up so we will be looking for volunteers to act as ambassadors and administrators too. And if you have special skills such as photography, graphic, design or can manufacture badges, medals or certificates there is a role for you too.

All contact whether comment or help to



**International Meeting
of Young Beekeepers**



Please contact us if you are able to help

Linguists, administrators and beekeeping referees will be needed

Other specialist skills will be welcome

More details will follow in the new year



**Let's make Team England
No.1**

Ian Homer

BBKA Trustee and IMYB coordinator for the BBKA

ian.homer@bbka.org.uk

November 2015

IMYB News – issue 3



The Buzz – Bees in the news



1/1/16

The honeyscribe's art of the hive

Hannah Finch joins artist Amy Shelton in her garden studio to chat about how she illuminates the secret life of the honeybee.

Artist Amy Shelton has been following the bees. She has been observing the movements of some of our most important pollinators, watching their ebb and their nectar flow, buzzing from flower to flower to find their favourite forage around her neighbourhood in Exeter, Devon.

Ctrl + Click to READ MORE on the Western Morning News website.....



Conservationists betting on bees to ease clash of humans and elephants

'Bee fence' idea has been buzzing since hives were deployed in Kenya and Botswana to reduce conflict – and now groups look to roll it out in Tanzania

Ed note: Not news to many of you but interesting to see this tactic being increasingly utilised

Ctrl + Click for this article on the Guardian website



Welsh honey 'as potent as Manuka' found in new drugs hunt

Cardiff University experts analysed the honey created by bees from 250 Welsh hives to find plants they had visited with high anti-microbial properties. They uncovered a honey in Gwynedd "as potent" as New Zealand's famed Manuka.

The team is now setting up an urban honey-making scheme to see if it can be brought to market.

Ctrl + Click for this news item on the BBC website



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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

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