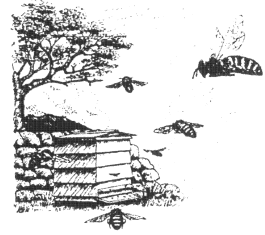




The Daily Worker

• Edition 5 January 2010



Spring Convention 2010 – Book Your Place Now!

Little did we know back in 2006 when we held our first Spring Convention that this was to become an annual event. And not only that, but to become the biggest annual beekeeping event in Devon, and amongst the best in the South West.

The 2010 event again promises a very varied programme, including Dr Declan Schroeder sharing the results of his work thus far on bee viruses, Phil 'The Barefoot Beekeeper' Chandler will again be challenging conventional beekeeping, this time with his thoughts on the top bar hive, and Brian Sherriff travels the journey from corsets to bee suits. And there's more: honey as a healing agent, novel approaches to swarm control..... So spend a good day with fellow beekeepers, enjoy a delightful lunch and stock up on beekeeping supplies at keen prices from our three trade stands: Bitz4Bees, Modern Beekeeping and Sherriff.

To book your place at the special Holsworthy Branch member price of £10, telephone our Chairman, Christopher Smith on 01409 254457 or email: christophersmith.270@gmail.com



Appeal for Cakes

It seems we ask a lot of our members, but last year when we asked for donations of cakes to compliment the Ploughman's Lunch at the Spring Convention, there was a marvellous response. There is no doubt that those who attend view the Convention's catering as a highlight of the day.

So can we do it again in 2010?

Any cake, but ideally a tray bake (it's easier for the 'Catering Team'!) would be most welcome.

If you can help, please contact Elaine Smith on tel. 01409 254457 or email elain smith.24@gmail.com



2010 Beginners' Course

The 2010 Beginners' Course starts on 18th January at our winter premises provided by Chilsworthy Chapel and marks another milestone in the development of the Branch. It seems remarkable that in only a handful of years, the Branch has moved from providing no formal training for new beekeepers to this latest enterprise.

Committee Members - 2010

Chairman	Christopher Smith
Vice Chairman	Andrew Sluggett
Apiary Manager	Andrew Sluggett
Secretary	Heather Smith
Membership Secretary	Ian Fraser
Treasurer	Diane Stevens
Web Master	Graham Jones
Swarm Liaison	Graham Jones
Education Officer	Anne Binns
Entertainment Secretary	Linda Davis
Events Secretary	Anne Bentham
Magazine Distributor	Jill White
DBKA Exec. Council Delegate	Ruth Neale
Committee Members:	Bob Bentham, Mark Hampton, Mark Harding.



Holsworthy Branch Honey Show

The Branch Honey Show took place on Saturday, 24th October and, for the first time, was held in the Methodist Church Hall in Bodmin Street, Holsworthy. Members put on a very impressive show of the craft of beekeeping. Also for the first time, visitors were able to share a taste of our honey along with a scone and other refreshments.

In addition to displays of honey in all its forms and honey cooking, there was some very imaginative wax modelling, particularly by Anne Bentham; this was complimented by a fine display of bees wax candles and an excellent range of bee related photographs. Of particular interest was the Branch's model bee measuring over three feet long. Shown for the first time at the 2009 Devon County Show, it again attracted a significant amount of interest from the public.

Another first for the show this year were the art classes, open to local primary school children. Youngsters were invited to draw a picture of beekeeping interest. Judging their work was Branch friend and local artist, Norma Brookhouse, who was impressed by the variety and standard of the entries.

A number of the entries in the show classes were the subject of very favourable comments from the show judge, Steve Ide from Exmouth. Steve awarded Christopher Smith 'Best in Show' for his light honey, which also won

him the Stanley Rowland Cup. Anne Bentham and Andrew Sluggett shared the Penfold Cup for their achievements in the craft and cookery classes.



DEVON COUNTY SHOW 2010 - STEVENSON TROPHY CLASS – HELP NEEDED

Holsworthy Branch entered the above class for the first time in 2008 with Andrew Sluggett's idea of the Honey Bee family and we won! We were not so lucky in 2009 with the Monster Honeybee although it was a **huge** hit with the public.

We are going to enter in 2010 and this is where you come in. We need help – any help. The working title is 'The History of Man and the Honeybee' – eventually perhaps someone can think of a more snappy title. It will be an interactive display. The judges will be looking for 'initiative, originality, interest value, education and overall impact'.

Initial thoughts are that we will try to illustrate the importance of the honeybee and its relationship with man through the major historical periods e.g. Pre-Historic, Egyptian, Greco-Roman, Middle Ages and more recent times using a mixture of illustration and interactive messages. This is a fairly ambitious project so we will need plenty of help from those with artistic, craft, and basic woodworking skills and any other help generally. Please get in touch if you can help in any way and we will sort out a date when we can all meet up. Anne Bentham Events Secretary. Tel 01409 261152 email pingle.bentham@virgin.net



Apiary Site

Those members who attended the AGM will be aware that there are concerns about the long term availability of our current club apiary site at Hollocombe. Various alternative sites, including Tamar Lakes, have been suggested and are still being considered. If you know of a suitable site please pass this on to our apiary manager, Andrew Sluggett.



Site for Hive of Bees.

Mrs. Julia West, Lequeffret, Staddon Road, Holsworthy, 01409 254285, would be happy to have a hive of bees in her garden from next spring.

Microscopes.

Linda has asked me to notify members that recently Lidl's have had Bresser microscopes available at about £50. An excellent price for a good quality piece of equipment. They can be connected up to your computer to give good visibility. May all be sold by now but worth looking out for in the future. Editor.

Forthcoming Events

Mon. 11th January. Methods of Swarm Control. 7. 30pm. The Stables, Chilsworthy.

Mon. 8th February. Honey Production Dr. Harry Riches, National Honey Judge and author of Honey Marketing will talk on the collection, extraction and sale of honey.

7. 30pm. The Stables, Chilsworthy.

Friday 12th March. Annual Dinner 7 for 7.30pm

Oak Tree Restaurant, Holsworthy Golf Club.

The excellent menu can be viewed on the website www.holsworthybeekeepers.org.uk or if you need to see a paper copy ring Linda.

Cost £18 per person, guests welcome.

Please notify names by 28 Feb 2010 to Entertainments Sec. Linda Davies, phone: 01409 221991 or email:

entertainments@holsworthybeekeepers.org.uk

On a Starry Night....

On Monday evening 14th December 42 members of the club braved a very cold but clear starry night to visit West Lake Orchards whose business depends entirely on the pollination of apple blossom by bees. George Travis gave a demonstration of apple juice production and everyone drank fresh apple juice straight from the press. Afterwards members congregated around Phil Draper's flaming brazier and warmed themselves with mince pies, baked potatoes, cakes and hot mulled cider and more apple juice. The Christmas cheer was shared by all. Two locals saw this event advertised on the club's website, came along and promptly joined as new members.

Editors note, Thank you Linda and George for a very good evening, plenty of drink, food and a nice warm fire. What a good job the weather was kind to us!



Quotation

A Roman writer, Lucius Lunius Moderatus Columelia AD4- AD70 On the beekeeper;

'Very great care must be taken by the man in charge, who feeds the bees, when he must handle the hives, that the day before he has abstained from sexual relations and does not approach them when drunk and only after washing himself, and that he abstains from all edibles which have a strong flavour especially onions and garlic.'

Quotation supplied by Anne Bentham.

Editors note; I hope the above does not result in a sudden exodus from beekeeping by our members.

New Year; A very Happy and Successful 2010 to all our Members.