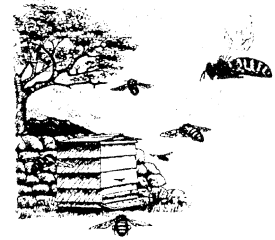




# The Daily Worker

• Edition 15 April 2012

Web site: [www.holsworthybeekeepers.org.uk](http://www.holsworthybeekeepers.org.uk)



## Beekeeping Course 2012

Our 2012 beekeeping course is nearing the end of the ten theory sessions. These have been well attended by the twelve course candidates who are demonstrating lots of enthusiasm and eagerness to learn. The group have got to know each other and the sessions have become relaxed and friendly over the weeks, which help everyone feel comfortable and not afraid to ask questions.

The tutors will soon be able to give a sigh of relief that the formal sessions are over as each one involves a lot of organisation and planning. I would like to thank Reg and Graham for all their work.

The practical apiary sessions are being agreed as we speak. Candidates will shortly receive a letter identifying the dates. They will take place at Dunsland at 2.30 PM on Sundays that are not a regular branch apiary meeting. This is so tutors can concentrate on delivering the basic syllabus and candidates will feel comfortable being with fellow students that they already know.

Protective jackets with hoods can be loaned from the branch. Overalls and wellingtons boots will need to be worn.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the first practical. The start of part two of the course and hopefully the most exciting now all the hard academic work has been done.

Anne Binns  
Education Officer



## Devon County Show

Work is now underway for the club's entry for the Devon County Honey Show - Stevenson Trophy exhibit...the exhibit will be a large interactive display called Life in the Frame, various stages of egg development....Andy Slugget will design, John to do electrics, Chris will label. Some of the parts have already been made. Looks like another winner!!!!



## Arts & Craft Festival June 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>.

At Coome Trenchard, near Lewdown

Includes a series of talks. Ken Basterfield is giving a talk on his 40 years of beekeeping.

Full details on [www.coombetrenchard.co.uk](http://www.coombetrenchard.co.uk)



## Nosema Diagnosis Day – 10-12.30 14th April 2012

This is an opportunity for branch members to have a sample of their bees tested for Nosema. The first 6 samples are free, after that the charge is £1 for each sample. All costs are waived if the member comes along on the day to help – plenty of instruction and guidance given. This is an ideal opportunity to learn about Nosema testing.

The instructions on how to collect the sample of bees can be downloaded from the website [Nosema sample instructions](#)

We always appreciate help on Nosema days. You do not need to have any experience. You will however leave with the skills and knowledge to diagnose Nosema in your own bees.



## Basic Assessment 2012

If there is anyone who is considering taking their basic assessment this summer please can you let me know early on in the summer so that I can arrange an assessor. To be eligible to take this assessment you need to have attended a recognised course and have kept bees for over a year. If you have many years' experience but have not attended a course you are still eligible so this is the opportunity for all you experienced people to get your knowledge recognised.

Anne Binns  
Education Officer



## Honey Buckets

Linda has organised the purchase of 10, 15 and 20 litre strong white buckets with lids ( seen at the Spring Convention) costs are between £2 and £3 each. Email Linda if you want to buy some. [info@west-lake.co.uk](mailto:info@west-lake.co.uk)



## DBKA DRONE-LAYING QUEEN SURVEY 2012

If you find a Drone laying queen this season .....  
Don't destroy her!  
Contact Reg Godwin  
on 01288 381379

The Devon Drone Laying Queen Survey in 2012 is being carried out with the support of DARG and professional scientists from St David's Vets at Lympstone; and Abbey Vet Services, Newton Abbot. We are also receiving advice from Dr James Cresswell, of Exeter University and Dr Declan Schroeder, of MBA Plymouth.

The intention is to examine the spermathecae from Drone laying queens under one year old, from those over one year old and queens laying normally but are redundant and being replaced.

Queens can be offered in any of these categories and a brief history of these queens will be needed. They will be collected live and caged with a few attendant workers by a volunteer, experienced beekeeper wherever they are in Devon.

This study, whatever the outcome, should provide valuable information about what appears to be an increasing problem.

**Please don't destroy a drone laying queen this season. She could be a useful contribution to this DBKA investigation.**



## Spring Convention 2013

Please note in your diaries that the date for Next Year's Holsworthy Spring Convention is Saturday 23rd February 2013

Our confirmed speakers include:

**Norman Carreck** NDB (Scientific Director),  
International Bee Research Association, Department of Biological and Environmental Science, University of Sussex.

**Dr James Cresswell** Exeter University

**Dr Giles Budge** National Bee Unit

**Dr Margaret Couvillon** (Postdoctoral Researcher),  
Laboratory of Apiculture and Social Insects (LASI),  
University of Sussex

"**Representatives from the team**" reporting on  
The Devon Research Project into Drone Laying Queens.



## Beaver Watching

Following Derek Gow's very educational talk in December, a follow up visit has been arranged to see the Beavers in their natural habitat. This will be on April 14th cost £7 each.

Gather at 6:30pm...directions will be given to those signing up. There will also be an opportunity to see the Water Vole project run by Derek at his farm just in the area of Roadford Lake. There are 25 places...forward your name to Linda if you want to join in. [info@west-lake.co.uk](mailto:info@west-lake.co.uk)



## Apiary meetings

**Sundays 15<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> April, 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> May**

The regular fortnightly meeting at the branch apiary, Dunsland House.

Please bring your bee suits and veils but note that the branch has adopted a policy 'clean gloves'. This means that all members should wear clean gloves and therefore leather gloves (unless they are new and reserved for the branch apiary) will not be allowed. Disposable gloves will be provided. For further details contact the apiary manager

[apiary@holsworthybeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:apiary@holsworthybeekeepers.org.uk)



## Award Winners from Holsworthy Branch

At the DBKA Annual General Meeting and Presidents Day on 17<sup>th</sup> March.

**Reg Godwin** collected his certificate of proficiency in microscopy,

**Andrew Sluggett** collected his certificate for General Beekeeping Husbandry

**Anne Binns** collected certificates for Module 7 Honeybee breeding and General Beekeeping Husbandry.

Photo taken by Ken Basterfield.

