

The Daily Worker

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Web site: www.holsworthybeekeepers.org.uk



Looking back

Weather

Well what a year, seems hard to believe now that back in March the environment agency were shouting drought, failing grain harvest and possible standpipes. I work in an animal feed mill and the quality of this year wheat being delivered is very poor with average bushel wheat of 60 and with moisture content of 18%, last year it would have been rejected as unfit. It's all due to the dismal summer. I wonder how commercial beekeepers will survive this year. Thank goodness beekeeping is only a hobby for most of us and not the main source of income

Spring Convention

In **February** our Spring Convention was, as always, well attended and a great success. Thanks to all members who helped organise the event.

Roy Houghton, the convention chairman, organised a feed-back system which elicited the best (and worst) comments from attendees. The worst comment was that there wasn't enough cake!

Roy has now had to stand down as convention chairman due to ill health and we send him our heartfelt thanks for all his hard work in putting the Holsworthy convention at the top of beekeepers 'must go to' list.

Next year's spring convention, dare I say it, will be even better. Have you reserved your ticket? Details in this newsletter and on our web site <http://www.holsworthybeekeepers.org.uk>



Showing

Devon County show, once again Holsworthy branch proudly walked away with the Stevenson trophy for the best exhibit of the Devon branches with LIFE IN THE FRAME and the cup for the

branch for gaining the highest number of points in the honey classes as individuals. The bees and honey tent also won the best exhibit in the show for the third year in a row. Wow.

The Holsworthy show was a great triumph for the branch, winning the best stand in the food and drink tent. There was a lot of interest from the general public. Thanks to all which helped.

Committee

Finely two valuable committee members have stepped down for next year and another would like to if a replacement can be found. The branch needs your help; if you would like to join the committee let me know it can be very rewarding and as they say many hands makes light work.

New committee members are Ian Kent and Willa Bailey.

Andrew Sluggett and Eunice Godwin



Winter Programme

We started the Winter programme well last **December** with a talk by Derek Gow on beavers & water voles. This was so well received that Linda Davis, our speaker and social secretary, organised a visit to his farm later in the year.

In **January** we held the re-scheduled Honey Show and the **Beginners Course** commenced. This year there were 12 beginners ably tutored by Anne Binns, Graham Jones and Reg Godwin.

Anne Binns and Andy Sluggett gave us Part 1 of 'Queen Rearing' at our monthly meeting and in **March** Aleisha Norman fascinated us with all the things we can do with bees wax.

April saw the start of the Apiary meetings.

In **May** the visit to Derek Gow's beaver sanctuary took place and was enthusiastically supported. **September** saw the start of the Winter Programme and Alan Vevers gave us a highly informative talk on recognising bee

diseases, bringing with him some gruesome examples.

In **October** we were treated to a talk on butterflies and how to recognise them by Hilary Marshall from Nature Conservancy



Nosema

We held two Nosema days during the year and examined an awful lot of frozen bees. There has been some discussion on whether to continue holding these days, now that there is no available treatment for Nosema, but the committee believe that it is useful for members to know whether they have an infestation and if so, how heavy.



Dunsland Apiary

As we all know, it has been a dreadful year for bees and consequently for beekeepers as well. This year we were without an apiary manager and relied on conscientious and willing members to keep an eye on our club bees, but with the pressure on keeping our own bees healthy, sometimes it reached crisis point at Dunsland.

We must particularly thank Anne and Andy for riding to the rescue and feeding our starving bees early in the year.

Kicking off with a working party to try and bring order to the building at Dunsland. We limewashed walls and tidied up, but still found it difficult to organise the kit to the point where we knew what we had and what we'd run out of. This made the practical sessions for Beginners somewhat chaotic and not exactly demonstrating best practice

The one thing that was done to an exemplary standard was the ground maintenance – thanks to the efforts of John Duncan and Dennis Vanstone. Even the National Trust agent commented on how good the site looked.

We have come a long way in making the Coach House at Dunsland a fit place to have our apiary. An enthusiastic Working Party in October succeeded in laying an impressive floor, ready for the next stage of fitting out the clubhouse and workshop.

During the year a number of meetings have been held with the NT agent and we have been promised an improved access, an overhaul of the roof and a water supply, although that's not actually at the building. We have great plans and lots of ideas for the apiary. We would like to hold an Open Day there to show the public what bee keeping is about; we would like to have a variety of hives to compare methods and performance; we would like to hold Improvers sessions to develop our skills.

We would like to have a Branch Picnic!

We have ideas, we have funds and we have the ability to make our Apiary a centre of excellence. What we need is more members to get involved, especially the newer beekeepers who can tell us what they want and contribute ideas of their own.

Eunice Godwin

From this;



To this!



Golden Anniversary

There is actually an exciting year coming up as 2013 is our Golden Anniversary year, so we'll have to pull something special out of the hat to mark that event!

For the first time as well as our brilliant February Convention, we will be hosting a Celebrity Lecture in the Autumn. Linda has again worked her magic and secured Professor Robert Packham to speak to us. This lecture will be open to all members of DBKA and we have been given funding to hold the event.

Eunice Godwin



Website & Newsletter

During the year Graham Jones has kept members notified of upcoming events by way of colourful emails and the branch website. This is a time consuming task and he has undertaken it with gusto, as well as being our membership secretary, taking entries for the honey show and keeping the records for Nosema days. We would be lost without him and his technical wizardry. David Arney has put in sterling work on producing and distributing the Daily Worker, which has also kept us informed and amused at the branch goings on.

Eunice Godwin



Holsworthy Branch Honey Show – A Celebration of Beekeeping

This year's Honey Show marked a welcome return to the public arena after its absence in 2011. The show took place on Saturday, 13th October, once again being held in the Holsworthy's Methodist Church Hall in Bodmin Street. Whilst formally opening the event, Councillor John Allen of Holsworthy Town Council impressed those gathered with his knowledge of the craft, he was also enthusiastic about the potential for an even bigger celebration of beekeeping and honey in the future.

This event was jointly organised by our members Graham Jones and Christopher Smith. Both said it was rewarding to see so many new members participating in this event. Overall, the level of entries was very good especially when one considers the challenging(!)

beekeeping season due in the main to extremely poor weather. As one visitor said, it was a very impressive exhibition. There were displays of honey in all its forms, honey cookery, some very imaginative wax modelling and a fine display of bees wax candles celebrated this particular aspect of beekeeping. All this was complimented by an excellent range of bee related photographs and artwork.

Members were also able to share a taste of honey with visitors who were surprised to find that such a varied range of honeys are produced in the Holsworthy area. For the very brave, there was the opportunity to try a 'Thunder and Lightning' which, for the uninitiated, is a scone topped with clotted cream, the 'thunder', and drizzled with honey, the 'lightning'.

In addition, we also offered an opportunity to buy local honey, make candles, and view the Branch's award winning display of 'life in the frame', which on a giant scale sought to portray a snap shot of the bees' life inside a hive. This display had won first prize at this year's Devon County Show and this was an ideal opportunity to demonstrate our hard work to the show's visitors.

A number of the entries in the show classes were the subject of very favourable comments from the show judge, Jack Mummery from West Buckland, Barnstaple. He was particularly impressed by the quality and quantity of frames for extraction.

Jack awarded our Chairman, Andrew Sluggett, the accolade of 'Best in Show' (no bias of course....) for his wax craft, which also won him the Stanley Rowland Cup. And Mellisa Richards won the Thorne Perpetual novice cup in her very first year of exhibiting in a honey show.

Yet again, local schools supported the children's art classes. Youngsters were invited to draw a picture of beekeeping interest. This class was won by Ross Millman from Bradworthy Primary School.

Perhaps reflecting the growing importance of this event in the local calendar, the Portreeve of Holsworthy, Mr Phil Cole, presented the show's awards.

Christopher Smith



Prize Winners

	First	Second
Light Run Honey	A Sluggett	A Binns
Medium Run Honey	A Sluggett	A Bentham
Dark Run Honey	A Sluggett	
Granulated Honey	A Sluggett	
Creamed Honey	D Woodward	
Comb for extracting	A Bentham	R Riggs
Wax made object	A Bentham	A Sluggett
Cake of Beeswax	A Sluggett	
Blocks of Beeswax	A Sluggett	C Smith
Craft item	A Binns	S Godwin
Honey Fudge	A Bentham	W Lee
Honey Cake	W Lee	A Bentham
Photograph	R Fry	R Godwin
Beekeeping Equipment	C Smith	D Woodward
Beeswax Candles	A Bentham	C Smith

Trophy Winners

The Stanley Rowland Perpetual Cup & Best in Show	Andrew Sluggett
The Thorne Perpetual Novice Cup	Melissa Richards
The Penfound Cup (Large)	Andrew Sluggett
The Penfound Cup (Small)	Andrew Sluggett
The Moss Cup	Anne Bentham



Membership renewals for 2013

Membership subscriptions for 2013 for DBKA and the Holsworthy branch are now due. We are repeating last year's system of producing partially completed renewal forms for all existing members (and those who have expressed an interest in joining in 2013). All members should have already received their personalised forms early in November, either by email or by post. All you will need to do is check them, complete the category of membership required, sign the form and return it, together with a cheque for the subscription to the Membership Secretary – instructions are on the form. If you have not yet received your form please contact Graham Jones (01288 361147) or at

info@holsworthybeekeepers.org.uk

If required blank forms are available on the website at

www.holsworthybeekeepers.org.uk/membership.htm

Note that DBKA will again be operating the rule that if the subscription is not paid by the end of February 2013 the membership and insurance will lapse.



Beginners' course 2013

The branch is hoping to run a 10 week course for those who are just starting beekeeping. It will start in January 2013 and full details can be found at

www.holsworthybeekeepers.org.uk/courses.htm

on the website or contact Graham Jones (01288 361147) or at

info@holsworthybeekeepers.org.uk

Please note that the course will only run if there are enough takers.



Social Diary 2013

January 14th 7:30 The Stables Chilsworthy Claire Densley from Buckfast Abbey will talk to us about 'Gentle Beekeeping' which will refocus our thinking on the needs of the bees rather than what type of hive is best for them.

February 11th 7:30 The Stables Chilsworthy NOT confirmed yet – I am waiting to hear back from Emily of the Bee Vets who wants to talk to beekeepers interested in joining a project using biological controls on Varroa. (Psuedoscorpions may be part of this approach) More later.

March 11th 7:30 possibly at the Holsworthy school – a Night of Hammering and Banging. Preparation of club frames and brood boxes etc. Lots of volunteers needed to get the club gear ready for the coming season.

April date to be confirmed... definitely a Sunday. **Apiary Picnic** to celebrate the opening of the Clubhouse. Apiary meeting dates also to be set.

September 9th 7:30 Chilsworthy Church The inaugural Winter Lecture funded by DBKA from Professor Robert Pickard speaking on The Wonderful World of Bees. This one you can't miss.

Have a wonderful new year everyone.

Linda Davis



Christmas Social - Monday 10 December 2012

Start celebrating Christmas with Holsworthy Beekeepers

For our Christmas social this year we have been invited by John Duncan to visit his offices where he has retained the bowling alley and other attractions that were in the building he bought for his company.

As well as bowling and air hockey there will be the usual magnificent refreshments including freshly made pizza and home-made pasties and salads plus yummy puddings. Great fun and an opportunity to socialise with all members, partners welcome.

Cost £4 each, includes bowling and refreshments. Bring a bottle to share and of course there will be some West Lake apple juice and ciders.

To help with catering etc. please let Linda Davis know if you would like to come along to the Christmas Social. Contact Linda on 01409 221991 or email:

social@holsworthybeekeepers.org.uk

To find your way

WGP Offices, West Street, Kilkhampton, EX23 9QW .West Street is off Kilkhampton Square, by the Spar shop. WGP is about 1/5th mile down on the left after the houses.



Spring Convention 2013

Saturday 23rd February 2013

Chilsworthy Village Hall

Speakers

Dr. Norman Carreck – the Hygienic Bee Behavior Project

Dr Giles Budge – National Bee Unit

Celia Davis – renowned author and lecturer on bees and bee-keeping

Dr. Margaret Couvillon – the waggle dance and foraging behavior

Glyn Davies and Reg Godwin – Drone laying queens

Hurry and book your tickets on the branch website at www.holsworthybeekeepers.org.uk



