

# The Daily Worker

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



## Holsworthy Beekeepers AGM and auction followed by bring and share supper

**The Annual General Meeting of the Holsworthy Branch will take place on Monday 10 November 2014 at our usual winter meeting place, The Stables, Chilsworthy Methodist Chapel, EX22 7BH**

The AGM gives all members an opportunity to hear about and comment on the activities of the previous year. As always the meeting will consider and approve the minutes of the previous AGM. In an attempt to reduce the amount of paperwork but still ensure that they are read, the minutes from the 2013 AGM are available from the branch website at [www.holsworthybeekeepers.org.uk/downloads/Minutes AGM 2013.pdf](http://www.holsworthybeekeepers.org.uk/downloads/Minutes%20AGM%202013.pdf) At the 2013 AGM the minutes from 2012 were not available and so they are also on the branch website at [www.holsworthybeekeepers.org.uk/downloads/Minutes AGM 2012.pdf](http://www.holsworthybeekeepers.org.uk/downloads/Minutes%20AGM%202012.pdf)

The election of the branch committee and officers will also take place, it is your opportunity to have a say. So why not stand for election to the committee.

***'Your branch needs you!'***

After the AGM (it won't take long!) there will be a bring & share supper followed by an auction of beekeeping equipment. This year we already have a number of interesting and desirable entries for the auction but there is always room for more – so look through your equipment and bring along anything that is surplus.

All are welcome, don't forget to bring something for the supper



### Apiary Sites

There were some offers of apiary sites while we were at Holsworthy Show.

1. 32 acre orchard at Littleham
2. A wild meadow on a farm in Shebbear
3. A site at Chapman's Well
4. A 2acre field in Broadwoodwidge

If you are interested please contact Deirdre Conniss on 01237440165

[deirdre.c@which.net](mailto:deirdre.c@which.net)



## **Holsworthy and Buckland Brewer Fairs – bee products needed**

The branch will be running stalls at two local fairs in the next few weeks with the intention of selling branch and members' bee products. Anything bee, honey or wax related is welcome. The fairs are Holsworthy Craft Fair on Saturday 8 November, from 10.00am to 4.00pm and Buckland Brewer Christmas Fair on Saturday 6 December, from 11.00am to 4.00pm.

If we sell your goods, 10% of the purchase price goes to the branch, the rest is yours. Both events have around 30 stalls booked and are established annual events so business should be good. If you are interested in selling goods or would like to help on a stall please contact Deirdre Conniss on 01237 440165 or email: [deirdre.c@which.net](mailto:deirdre.c@which.net)



## **Membership renewals for 2015**

Membership subscriptions for 2015 for DBKA and the Holsworthy branch are now due. Partially completed renewal forms for all existing members (and those who have expressed an interest in joining in 2015) will be produced later this week.

All members with an email address should receive their own renewal form with an email in the next few days; this will have their personal details already completed. All you will need to do is check them, complete the category of membership required and

then either bring the form to the AGM or send it (plus a cheque for the subscription) to the Membership Secretary – instructions are on the form.

Any member who does not have an email address should be receiving their form in the post before 8 November.

In all cases it would be very useful if members could use the renewal forms and bring them, together with a cheque, along to the AGM.

Don't forget that the membership year runs from 1 January to 31 December and so all subscriptions must be paid by 1 January 2015 in order for you to continue to receive DBKA benefits.



## **Coming Events**

**Monday 8th December.** Suzy Perkins – Senior National Judge is coming to shake us up with a rare presentation ‘What a Judge is looking for’.. This is truly a special guest and special visit from Suzy who will be travelling from Glastonbury to help raise the confidence we need to put that jar of honey in January’s Honey Show.

Please put this date in your diary and bring your jar of honey from this year’s crop.....the jar will be numbered. Fact and fun will follow. Blind tasting and blind judging.... Prizes for entering, Then the all important Christmas Buffet and drinks will follow. Bring a friend if you want – lets have a great turn out for the only nationally qualified honey show judge in the South West.



**5th January Beginners Basic Beekeeping course starts.** 10 x once weekly meetings that follow the BBKA set curriculum. Venue The Stables. 7:30 start. Interested students please write to the Education Officer Linda Davis [info@west-lake.co.uk](mailto:info@west-lake.co.uk) The course is £90 and includes a £22 membership and follow up practicals in the Spring.



**10th January : Beekeeping under the Microscope.** This is a day's study from 10:30 to 3:30 providing an introduction to compound and dissecting microscopes and how they can be used to help maintain the health of the honeybee. Objectives: to understand the optical principals and practical steps to set up a microscope and apply to the examination of the honeybee anatomy, disease diagnosis and pollen analysis. The long term objective is to encourage branch members to develop the skills necessary to support the branch Nosema Day and become Certificated. Venue to be confirmed. *Cost: Free to Holsworthy members only.*

This day's study is being funded by the **Houghton Education Fund** kindly set up by Ann Houghton for the continuing education of the Holsworthy Members. This is an annual grant so more study days in store. Please email the Education Officer at [info@west-lake.co.uk](mailto:info@west-lake.co.uk) to register a place.

**INVITE** to join an **Improvers Study Group:** Students of the microscopy day can continue the study of Microscopy by completing the tasks set down by the BBKA Microscopy Correspondence Course, which will provide structure to the whole study group. You do not have to have completed the Course set out on the 10th January to join this group. Although the exam is November 2015 I hope many will attempt it but its not compulsory to take the exam.

**Dr Harry Riches Memorial Trophy**  
This is the new trophy organised by Penny Riches Mills and her brother John and presented to the winner of the Mead Section at the National Honey Show last week. The winner of the section and receiving the cup was Jack Mummery. So the cup is coming home to Devon.



## **Holsworthy Beekeepers Spring Convention 2015**

**What?** Branch Spring Convention 2015

**When?** Saturday 21st February 2015

**Where?** Holsworthy Memorial Hall

**Who?** Professor Robert Pickard,  
Professor Dave Goulson, David Charles,  
Ken Basterfield & Dan Basterfield

**Why?** To hear some of the finest and most knowledgeable researchers and speakers on bees and bumblebees anywhere in the country

**How?** More details and the booking form is on the branch website at

[www.holsworthybeekeepers.org.uk/spring\\_convention\\_2015.shtml](http://www.holsworthybeekeepers.org.uk/spring_convention_2015.shtml)

Or ring Graham Jones 01288 361147



### **Notes from the Branch Apiary.**

The year has been an interesting one: I started the year as Apiary Co-ordinator at the same time as preparing to move house (not the best bit of planning, but I seem to have just about managed!)

During the year we have tried to include a series of topics as a focus for teaching and sharing experience, which I hope has been worthwhile for those who have attended our meetings. I have certainly learnt quite a bit about co-ordinating these sessions.

Following all the shook swarms in the spring we have now completed the standardization of equipment. With the exception of a Top Bar hive (which is still a work in progress), all our colonies are now on standard National brood boxes with Hoffman frames, which should make management easier.

If there are any topics or demonstrations that members would like to see covered next year I would very much like to hear about them.

The apiary has managed to furnish a couple of our beginners with a nuc, and I hope to expand on this and offer the same again next year. I am considering exploring a means of rearing queens for the benefit of members in the future. This is uncharted territory for me, so I will have a lot of learning to do before this can happen, but would value any input from those with experience in this area.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Andy, Brian, David, and Tim for their advice, help and assistance with the management of the bees and the grass cutting.

I should also thank Eunice for the supply of cake that has nourished us all at the meetings. I don't make sponges quite as light as hers, but in her absence, have tried to keep up the cake tradition for the last few meetings.

Ian Kent.

