

If anyone would like to join together to order candle making supplies and share the postage costs can they please contact Amanda Trafford 01626 369821.
Postage for orders under £80 is £9.45 from www.kemble-bees.com.
Amanda would like to place an order in the next few weeks.

We have had another very successful Honey Show . Huge thanks go to Amanda Trafford and Barbara Paul for their hard work throughout the year to put together such an enjoyable show. Barbara and Amanda realise it would not have been possible without the help received through the year and on the day and with special thanks to the volunteers that kindly gave their time to run the stands and offer refreshments on the day. Many thanks to our judges Jack Mummary, Sheila Ashford and Vivienne Thorn. Finally, of course, the exhibitors who produced 102 entries. 100 + entries allow the B.B.K.A. to present Newton Abbot Beekeepers with **The Blue Ribban award** for the best overall entry in the Honey and Wax categories. This was **won by Simon Hopwood** for his pair or matched Beeswax Candles.

Buzzy Bee's joint winners were Eleanor Wickens and Max Hopwood.

Miniature garden joint winners were Max Hopwood and Toby Hopwood.

Well Done!

The Henry Luxton Trophy and The Walker Challenge Cup—Ian Jameson.

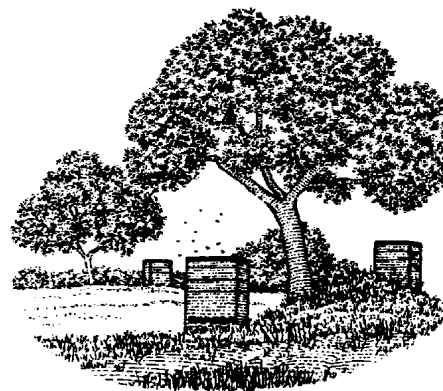
The Perpetual Wax Trophy – Simon Hopwood.

The Devon Moors Cup Joint Winners were Amanda Trafford and Christine Osborne.

Please look to the website for a more detailed resume of the show and its results

N.A.B.K.A Contact Members

President	Jenny Buckle	Acting Chairman	Jane Ducker
Secretary	Ruth Mountford	Treasurer	Ray Ford
Librarian	Vivienne Thorn	Microscopist	Colin Turner
Swarm Liaison	Mick Megee	Programme Secretary	Christine Osborne
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Webmaster	Nigel Lawrance	'webmaster@newtonabbotbees.org.uk'	
Honey Show Coordinators	Barbara Paul and Amanda Trafford		
Club House Manager	Christine Osborne		
Branch Website	www.newtonabbotbees.org.uk		



Devon

Beekeepers'

Association

Newton Abbot

Branch

Registered Charity No: 270674

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NEWTON ABBOT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday 4th November

7.30

At the Teignbridge District Scout HQ

We need a new

CHAIRMAN

IS ANYONE ABLE TO DO IT ?

OUR FIRST WINTER MEETING

About thirty people gathered to hear Bill Finnemore's tips on preparing bees for the winter. He began his talk by emphasising the importance of ventilation not just through the winter, but throughout the year. He extolled the virtues of mesh floors, describing how the advantages far outweigh any perceived disadvantages. They should be left on through the winter to allow for good ventilation, and an entrance block with a narrow opening (*No dimensions were given, but looked like about 2 1/2" x 3/8"*) put in place of a mouseguard. Bill prefers to keep the narrow entrance in place right through the summer too, since the mesh floor provides plenty of ventilation and there is sufficient space for the traffic of bees but a smaller entrance for them to defend. Mesh floors are also helpful to reduce swarming, Bill claimed, as they keep down the humidity in the hive. If a colony has become very large later in the summer, he suggested ventilating heavily by adding a screen in place of a crown board and placing 1" blocks between the screen and the roof. The increased ventilation should reduce the incentive to swarm until the last super can be filled, so "buying time", and honey, for the beekeeper.

Autumn feeding, Bill shared, is not an exact science. It used to be said that only cane sugar should be used to feed bees, but when the opportunity of a free source of Demarara sugar came his way, Bill seized the opportunity and used it to feed his bees for about four years with no ill effect. Other members of the Plymouth branch used the surplus icing sugar that had "fallen off the production line" in the Wrigley's Chewing Gum factory and this too, seems to have been quite successful! Again the exact concentration of the sugar concentration is not critical, but for autumn feeding we should aim for a 62% solution, achieved by using a 2:1 ratio (*lb:pt or kg:l presumably*). It is better to use an Ashforth or Miller -type feeder rather than the contact type as the whole feed can be administered in a single visit, meaning less work for the beekeeper and less disruption to the bees. Feed in the evening to minimise robbing. Don't consider the idea of "communal feeding" which causes mayhem, nor the "dry sugar" method. Regarding the amount to feed, Bill recommended 2 gallons (or 12 lb sugar) per hive. Hives should be hefted to get an idea of how much feed they may need. If hefting makes you grunt, they have enough, apparently! If the hives are hefted, or inspected, before feeding and it is found that they have sufficient stores, it is still worth feeding because this "flow" stimulates the queen to lay, which means that there will be more young bees to enter the winter. At least a gallon of syrup is needed to induce this stimulation, and it should be fed by the beginning of September, to obtain young bees by the end of the month. October is too late.

Following on from this, Bill looked at the timescale of events for maximum benefit to the bees. He advises honey removal mid to end of August, giving time to return wet supers to hives for licking out, feeding by early September, and treat for Varroa before tucking up for winter.

Bill is currently using Apivar for Varroa control and is finding it very effective. He is not happy about using Oxalic acid in the depths of winter, and finds Apiguard ineffective because of the colder weather in the autumn. It can be improved by closing up the hives almost completely, including a solid floor, until the evaporation has completed. On the subject of pest control, one of Bill's most useful tips was for a very effective wasp trap. You buy a carton of cheap orange juice, snip the corner off the box and drink most of it, then you put the rest, in the box, near the hives and wait for the wasps to crawl inside! Easy! Thank you Bill!

Helen bond,

Future events

Seasonal Social and Quiz

Friday December 2nd 7.30 pm at Teignbridge District Scout HQ.

2012

Brood and Adult Bee Diseases David Packham

Seasonal Bee Inspector. Exeter Branch January 2nd 7.30 pm at the Scout HQ.

Make your own Skep with Mick Male.

Over 2 days 14th Jan. and 18th Feb. at the clubhouse. Tea and coffee available, bring a packed lunch. Price £30 (includes materials). Pay Mick on Sat. 14th Jan.

To book a place contact Christine Osborne 01626 351983. Email osborne_p3@sky.com

How to use a microscope and identifying Pollens with Leila Goss.

Friday March 9th 7.30 pm at the Scout HQ.

2012 Subscriptions are due by the end of February.

Forms are available and Subscriptions may be paid at the AGM. Contact Ray Ford

For further information on payment

Email ray@rjford.plus.com

Phone 01626 778157.

Alternatively save on costs and pay online. Visit www.newtonabbotbees.org.uk and follow the link

Full Member £33 Country Member £21 Partner Member £15.20 Associate Member £8.00

CONGRATULATIONS

Helen Drinkall, Ruth Mountford, Simon Hopwood, Adam Howarth, Amanda Trafford, Phillip Allway, Anke Ellis, Anne Liebermann
on passing your Basic Bee Assessment

John Harler of Buckfast.

Your local Beekeeping

Equipment and Appliance dealer

Phone 01364 642517

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