



The Daily Worker

• Edition 3 July 2009



Fund Raising

The big news is that, as a result of an application by our Chairman, Christopher Smith, the Branch has been awarded a grant of £1300, (Yes - £1300!) from the Balsdon Trust, based here in Holsworthy. We are very grateful to them for their support, especially at this time when so many institutions are facing financial hardships.

The grant is for the specific purpose of developing our teaching apiary at Hollacombe. There are lots of plans in the pipeline and we aim to keep you all informed. So watch this space.....

This spring has also seen some very special fundraising efforts by individual members. Back in April, Anne Binns and family organised a carnivorous grill and beekeeping quiz. A great evening was had by all, including many who had spent the day dismantling a certain building at Tamar Lake, and the sum of nearly £60 was made for branch funds.

Not to be outdone, Rhonda and Steve Fry (and friends) organised a cream tea and plant sale in May. This event was supported by a large number of people, many of whom are not beekeepers, and their support is appreciated. A tremendous total of £161 was raised.

Mention should also be made of those members who offer their time to give talks and presentations to community groups. Good use is made of the Branch virtual hive to support the knowledge and experience of the individual beekeepers. A number of these groups (especially the Women's Institute) have made a donation to support the work of the Branch. Such support is very much appreciated.

And finally, Anne Binns (again!) and Andrew Sluggett have recently completed the Ruby Run to raise more funds. They must have been mad, but very well done. The total amount raised is yet to be finalised, as sponsorship is still coming in.

All this money is being put to good use to develop the work of the Branch. Some has already been spent on protective clothing for the increasing number of visitors to the Branch Apiary, and as mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, money has been spent on equipment for our new 'clean tool' policy.



Hive Site

Ron and Irene Oldale have a two-acre garden near Northlew. This includes a large orchard, fruit and vegetable garden and many flower and shrub borders. They are keen to promote bees in their garden but are not brave enough to keep their own. They wonder if any Holsworthy branch beekeepers may wish to place a hive there.

Replies to heather@trelay.org or phone 07923536908



Apiary Development (1)

You may recall reading in the February issue of this newsletter a brief outline of the plans to redeveloping the Branch apiary. This work falls into three separate categories: a bigger and better meeting house, workshop/training facilities, and a green loo!

A huge step has been taken towards achieving the first objective. Over the weekend of 4th and 5th April, a band of willing workers dismantled a sectional building at Tamar Lakes and transported it to our Branch Apiary. Photographs are available on our website www.holsworthybeekeepers.org.uk In due course this will provide a vastly improved venue for apiary meetings and perhaps other uses.....

A big thank you to all those volunteers and to our Vice Chairman and Apiary Manager Andrew Sluggett for coordinating the weekend.

Apiary Development (2)

Many of you will be aware that a key strand of the DEFRA (as it was) Bee Health Strategy is improvements in bee husbandry. With this in mind, our Apiary Manager Andrew Sluggett has proposed the introduction of a 'clean tool' policy for the branch apiary.

What this will mean is the total ban on hive tools and other manipulation equipment coming into or leaving the apiary, and a strict tool cleaning programme. With this in mind, new equipment and toolboxes are being purchased, and will be added to as the need arises.

And it's good to note that the full cost is being met from the proceeds of fund raising – see elsewhere in this newsletter.



For Sale

Extractor - Stainless steel, 9 frame, on legs.
Electrically powered with forward and reverse
speed control. Very good condition. £550 ovno.
WBC hives (no bees). Price negotiable.
Contact Fred Vanstone 01409 253257.

Wanted

Bulk honey. Fred Vanstone would like to purchase
bulk honey. Please contact Fred to agree price and
quantity.



Devon County Show 2009

Holsworthy Branch again had a very successful outing
to Devon County Show. With no less than seven
members winning prizes, it was perhaps our most
successful show for individuals so far.

Those stalwarts of the show scene, Andrew Sluggett
and Pete McCabe again enjoyed success. Andrew was
awarded the Basil Salter Testimonial Trophy for the
most points in extracted honey classes, and in addition
to a first for his dark honey, he also gained a first for
his bee equipment entry. Peter won the open light
honey class and for the second year running was
therefore awarded the Croyde Cup.

Rob and Anne Bentham had another good year too.
Rob's photographic skills continue to attract success,
gaining two first places. He also demonstrated a
certain flair for cooking, with places for his chutney,
bread, and fudge. Not to be outdone by Rob, Anne
won a first for her depiction of a spring bank, a first for
her wax object, and a place for her beeswax candles.

Our chairman, Christopher Smith and his wife, Elaine,
entered the show for the first time this year and
enjoyed a degree of success. Chris won the DBKA
light honey class and gained a first for his pair of bees
wax candles. Elaine won the honey bread class and
was awarded second places for her honey fudge and
her bees wax hand rub.

Ruth Neal gained a first for the DBKA medium honey
class. This, added to Chris and Andrew's success in
the DBKA classes led to their joint award of the
Barnstable Bowl.

Ruth was also interviewed by BBC Radio Devon, an
interview that was broadcast live on the Friday
afternoon of the show. This was after she had been
introduced to HRH Prince Edward and HRH Sophie,
Countess of Wessex! Ruth's husband, Barry, also a
branch member, took on the mammoth task of co-

ordinating the DBKA show stewards. And a very good
job he made of it!

After last year's triumph in wining the Stevenson
trophy, we had great hopes for our model bee
measuring over three feet long. But it was not to be
this year; the judge had other ideas.....However, the
public loved it, especially the removable panels
allowing a glimpse inside at a honeybee's anatomy.
Their interest was reflected in the fact we actually ran
out of entry forms for our quiz based upon the model.

As a matter of interest the prize for the quiz, a book
token, was won by a youngster, Alfie Budd, from
North Tawton.

So here's to next year and, perhaps, even greater
success. Well done to all those who participated in any
way.



Your Branch needs you (and your honey)!

Holsworthy and Woolsery Shows

Our Branch has again been invited to take part in the
Holsworthy and Stratton Agricultural Show, this year
on Thursday 27th August. We have been allocated
eight show passes for the day and these will be used to
ensure our stand is properly stewarded.

As a steward, you will spend part of the day candle
rolling, selling honey, or just engaging with the public.
You will of course have the rest of the day free to
enjoy the show.

There is also the opportunity for you to sell honey or
beeswax products through the Branch stand. This year
the price is £4.50 for run honey, with a 10%
commission for Branch funds.

There is a further chance to be a show steward, this
time at Woolsery Show on Monday 27th July.

For further information on any of these matters, please
contact Anne Binns on tel. 01409 261381.



Quotation of the Month

"Tart words make no friends: A spoonful of **honey**
will catch more flies than a gallon of vinegar.

Benjamin Franklin 1777