

Dear Member,

Our next meeting is on **Thursday March 7th 7.30 pm at Kilmington Village Hall.**

Stephen Fleming is our speaker. He is joint editor of the Beecraft magazine. His talk is entitled ' From Orkney to the Isles of Scilly - the challenges and quirks of island beekeeping at the geographical extremes of the UK, even when varroa isn't present'. Stephen will also address the subject of the Asian Hornet - as it has become established in Europe and threatens to become endemic here, what have we learned and what can we expect??

We look forward to seeing you all.

BASIC assessment – If you have kept bees for at least a year and would like to take your **Basic** assessment then please register your interest with Richard Simpson (rsimpson48@aol.com). He will be delighted to hear from you and give you further details.

Gardening Team

Some very valued members in the branch are those on the gardening team. They subscribe to a rota which calls them to mow the apiary grass and strim and tidy.

WE HAVE TWO LAWN MOWERS AT THE BEESHED. This enables the Thursday bee maintenance team to do their weekly inspections safely and allows our beginners the same safe access. If you are on the team and haven't let Mary Hugill know that you are up to the challenge for 2024 please do so. **ANYONE WHO CAN SPARE SOME TIME TO JOIN THE TEAM AND ENJOY SOME MOWING TIME AMONGST OUR GENTLY BUZZING BEES THEN PLEASE CONTACT MARY FOR DETAILS. ITS NOT AN ONEROUS TASK BUT A MUCH APPRECIATED SERVICE AND WE DO NEED VOLUNTEERS. The more volunteers we have on the list the less times you are called, so it may be only once or twice a year you are required. Please consider helping us.**

Contact Mary at: mary-rathmore@hotmail.com

And now a message from Stan Wroe our swarm coordinator. READ ON:

Hello. I hope you're all well and prepared (or preparing) for the upcoming season. It will be on us before we know it! Are you interested in some hands on learning about bees rather than sitting in a hall listening to someone talk about bees? Then I may have just the thing for you.

If you've got a couple of years beekeeping under your belt, then have you ever thought about helping our Swarm Collecting Team?

We're 18 volunteers who respond to the public reporting swarms during April & May (although the bees don't read the books and are known to swarm either side of those months). However we do find ourselves getting spread rather thinly during the peak of swarms. That's where you come in. We will provide training in the form of allocating you to your nearest collector to accompany them on collections. The benefits for the collector is an extra pair of hands, for you the chance to learn by assisting and for the public access to 2 knowledgeable beekeepers who can answer the numerous questions posed by them during the collection process. Rather than go into great detail I'll leave it there.

If you would like to have a chat please feel free to contact me and I'll gladly answer any questions and provide a bit more background.

Mobile 07925 549443 or email stanwroe@aol.com.

I've attached a link to the Swarm Collectors' page on our website: https://www.eastdevonbk.co.uk/?page_id=146

N.B. An opportunity to speak with me in person about the above will be at the April monthly meeting when Mike Jones & I will be presenting a video & talk about a collection that we undertook from a shed in Plymtree. Apart from the usual beekeeping kit there were a number of other items not usually associated with beekeeping that were needed!

Stan Wroe.

Asian Hornet reminder:

Can we all remind ourselves of the increasing threat of this insect's invasion. 78 confirmed sightings were made during 2023 in the UK. It is here and remember it is a notifiable non native insect, which is not welcome!

Val 

Contacts:

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Treasurer: Keith Bone. charandale@gmail.com

Secretary: Val Bone. val.valbone@gmail.com