



THE BUZZ

East Devon Beekeepers' Newsletter
www.eastdevonbk.co.uk

Reg Charity No
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February 2023

Dear Member,

Our February Meeting Thursday 2nd February 7.00pm is our annual meeting with West Dorset branch. *The meeting will be via ZOOM and hopefully you will have received my e mail (sent on 20th Jan) and acquired your link.* Professor David Evans will take us through one of the most important and interesting topics within the craft, "**Raising Your Own Queens**". While his "day job" is Emeritus Professor of Virology at St Andrews University, David will be known to many as the 2020 Resident Expert for BBKA News and is known to Google and the world as The Apiarist (<https://theapiarist.org>). He is one of the country's leading speakers and the Zoom talk from Scotland promises to be one of the highlights of our talks season.

And Into March: Thursday 2nd March Kilmington Village Hall 7.30pm David Robinson is our speaker. With a long-standing interest in the environment and natural world, David graduated from the UK's first Environmental Biology degree course at Liverpool University in 1976. In 2011, he joined Suttons Seeds as marketing director and in 2014 he and a colleague organised a management buyout from their French owners with David becoming Managing Director. They acquired a number of other gardening/wildlife and direct marketing related businesses, including National Bee Supplies and also ran the catalogue/online trading business of the Garden Organic charity of which he is now a trustee. Having sold Suttons, David is now able to concentrate on planting trees, digging ponds and converting 25 acres of 'improved' pasture to wildlife meadow, whilst switching National Bee Supplies to run as a carbon negative business and writing a monthly gardening article for Bee Craft magazine. **David's talk will draw on these experiences to discuss through 'how' we garden, we may impact bees, other insects and the wider world.** *If you have a 'gardening' friend or relation who may be interested then bring them along as a guest.*

Sugar Collection ***** [We are starting this list from scratch so make sure you are on the list.](#)

Rhiannon Hodson is now in charge of the sugar collection rota. We have amassed considerable stock over the past three months and with Spring feeding coming up now is the time to get your name on the list. This is reject sugar from Tesco stores (ie. broken bags and not suitable for human consumption but fine for bees). For those who are new to the scheme you bring your own container to the beeshed and empty out 10kg quantities into your own receptacles and leave empty buckets on the decking for our sugar collectors to then refill. **Only collect when you are notified** as we work down the list of names submitted. £2 per 10kgs of sugar, money to be placed in the nearby honesty box. Please let Rhiannon know how much you would like to order (rhiannonhodson1@gmail.com) so that she may begin the list over the coming weeks. Remember she will contact you when it's your turn to collect.

For those who missed Stephen Fleming's excellent talk on the Asian Hornet, John has written a report on our website concluding this was 'a very informative talk covering all aspects of this potentially devastating threat to our bees'.

DBKA passwords: The annual change of passwords for access to DBKA's website has taken place. Refer to your e mail of 9th Jan sent to you from Paul Greening entitled: *Devon Beekeepers' Association - Website security update.* If you are someone who didn't sign up for DBKA e mails on your membership form and require the passwords then contact me should you need them.

Mentoring We have a growing list of beginners signing up for the 2023 course which takes off this month. If you would like to help by putting all you have learned to good use and can assist with our mentoring support network this coming summer season, then please come forward.

Finally, a reminder to contact Richard for BASIC assessment or Improvers sessions.

Val Bone.

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