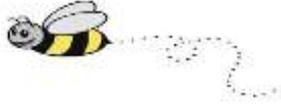


The Tivvy Buzzette

Newsletter of the Tiverton Beekeepers – February 2014

OUR NEXT BRANCH MEETINGS



Wednesday 19th February
Bee Behaviour – Basterfields

Wednesday 19th March
Better Beekeeping – Dave Packham

Saturday 12th April
Spring Inspection

Saturday 17th May
Branch Apiary Meeting

22nd – 24th May
Devon County Show – Branch Stand

See 2014 Year Planner in this Buzzette.
Please come out and support your branch at our meetings at Uplowman Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Improvers Course

We still have a few places if you are interested in joining the group this year, starting on Tuesday 11th February at Uplowman Village hall 7.30 to 9.30pm.

The object of the course is to help improve your knowledge of beekeeping. If you have struggled to over winter your bees or they have flown away then we can probably help.

Please let me know if you would like come, either by phone or by e-mail by the 8th February.

Keith Owers

Mentoring!!!!

We all know the feeling when we lift the lid on a Hive in the early days, are confronted by a cloud of active Bees and try to recall what we have been taught and to carry that out when there are a dozen questions spinning in our head. It seems that what appeared so simple, calm and logical when observing our experts on a practical day, has now become a confusion of contradictory actions. Oh how I wish I had taken more notes! It is in the early days of beekeeping that one builds the confidence that will lead to successful beekeeping for the future and if there are questions and uncertainty that can lead to either the development of bad habits or even worse a short career!

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Mentoring continued...

It is clear that after all the effort that you have gone to and the unstinting efforts of our instructors, that any shortfall in support at this stage risks a lot of wasted effort. Well that is the problem – but how do we address it? Well, within the Branch we have been anxious to introduce a mentoring scheme for our newer Beekeepers to assist them in their early days and overcome this. A number of branches use this as a way of bolstering confidence and also to provide a local support network that is of benefit to both the mentor and the new Beekeeper. What was quite apparent when we looked at this was that the geography of the Branch area presented certain difficulties as we are quite widely dispersed, and that it is important that support is provided on a local level and must be convenient for both the mentor and the new Beekeeper. Not only must it be convenient but also it is desirable for a relationship to be built up that will help with developing a support network for both parties. You are going away on holiday and want someone to check on your bees during your absence – with the confidence that the mentor has built up in the new Beekeeper they will then be able to ask them to check their bees in their absence or assist in some hive manipulation! Payback time! To this end it was decided, after a couple of false starts, that the best way of approaching this is to allow new beekeepers to self-select a mentor based upon their location. Using the Annual Yearbook it will be possible to look at the locations of the Branch Members and to approach them direct for some support when it is required. This was the reason why the adoption of a Mentoring Scheme for the Branch was raised formally and voted on at our AGM to ensure that we had support from the whole branch and as such the proposal was formerly adopted by the Tiverton branch.

So what happens next – could it be you phoning a local beekeeper asking for some assistance or possibly the phone will ring and it will be a Branch member looking for support from you – and if so what can you expect? Firstly, gratitude from the new Beekeeper that someone is willing and prepared to assist and secondly what will the mentor do? Malcolm Crook has been providing mentoring support to a couple of our members during last year and his approach is, in my view, the model to be adopted. When he was asked what he was going to do he replied “nothing – you are!”, and proceeded to ask the new Beekeeper what they were thinking about and what they were intending to do, he prompted them when they had forgotten something, and assisted them when they needed it. In this way he was able to steer the new beekeeper, whilst building their confidence. The new Beekeeper was satisfied that they were doing nothing wrong, but also had someone there to raise queries with.

What else will a mentoring network do – well we are hoping that not only will it assist in developing the confidence of our new Beekeepers but also act as a reminder as to our branch meetings and the topics discussed. All designed to be both interesting and informative – helping us with the year ahead!

New Beekeeper – need some support - Mentoring – give it a go!

Robert Fyfe

Devon Beekeepers Association – Tiverton Branch

Year Planner 2014

January Tues 7 th Wed 15 th Wed 22 nd Sat 25 th	Branch Committee Meeting Members' Meeting Bee Anatomy Beginners' Course Executive Council Meeting	July Sat 12 th Sat 19 th Sat 26 th	Bulk Buying – Apiguard Orders Beginners' Apiary Meeting Executive Council Meeting Mid Devon Show
February Wed 5 th Tues 11 th Tues 18 th Wed 19 th Sat 22 nd Tues 25 th Wed 26 th	Bulk Buying –Foundation Orders Beginners' Course Improvers' Course Improvers' Course Members' Meeting Bee Behaviour Holsworthy Spring Convention Improvers' Course Beginners' Course	August Sat 9 or 16 Thursday 7 th	Beginners' Apiary Meeting Honiton Show
March Tues 4 th Tues 11 th Wed 12 th Sat 15 th Tues 18 th Wed 19 th Wed 26 th	Branch Committee Meeting Improvers' Course Beginners' Course Devon BKA Annual General Meeting followed by Executive Council Meeting Improvers' Course Members' Meeting Better Beekeeping Beginners' Course	September Sat 6 th Sun 7 th Tues 9 th Wed 17 th Sat 20 th	Beginners Apiary Meeting Branch BBQ/Honey Show Branch Committee Meeting Members' Meeting Executive Council Meeting
April 4 th – 6 th Sat 12 th Sat 12 th Sat 26 th	BBKA Spring Convention Beginners' Hand-on at Apiary Spring Inspection for Members Nosema Testing/ Microscopy Event (tbc) DBKA Celebrity Lecture	October Wed 15 th Wed 22 nd Tues 28 th 30/ Nov 1	Member's Meeting Beginners' Course (tbc) Branch Committee Meeting National Honey Show
May 6 th Sat 10 th Sat 10 th Sat 10 th Sat 17 th 22 nd – 24 th	Branch Committee Meeting Uffculme Green Day – Branch Stand Executive Council Meeting Beginners' Apiary Meeting Branch Apiary Meeting Devon County Show. Branch Stand	November Wed 5 th Wed 19 th Wed 26 th Sat 29 th	Beginners' Course(tbc) Branch AGM Beginners' Course(tbc) Executive Council Meeting
June Sat 7 th Sat 21 st	Beginners' Apiary Meeting Members' Apiary Meeting	December Wed 3 rd Wed 10 th Wed 17 th	Beginners Course(tbc) Branch Christmas Dinner Beginners' Course(tbc)

Apiary News

Branch Apiary

I'm sorry to say I don't have any positive news to report. Progress has slowed right down on our prospective site and it may be that we have to start our search again for a centrally located Branch Apiary. Please let me know if you have any likely suggestions.

Summer Branch Apiary Inspections

As I have indicated we won't have our own Apiary up and running to use it for our summer inspections this year. In the past we have relied on the generosity of our committee members to use their apiaries. This year we are asking you if you would be able to host an inspection. You would need to have at least 4 hives, somewhere nearby for parking and ideally somewhere we could provide refreshments (the Branch will cover the cost involved). The dates are in our yearly planner. So please come forward, contact me and volunteer your hives, we will work closely with you to ensure it all runs smoothly (subject, of course, to the bees doing their own thing!).

Out Hiving Your Bees.

We have recently been contacted by a number of local residents who have an area where they would be pleased to have someone keep bees. The locations are Westleigh; Uplowman Road, Tiverton and Cadeleigh . If you are interested in this opportunity please contact me and I'll put you in touch.

Happy Beekeeping

Tony Lindsell

PRE Alert - Bulk Buying – Foundation

Yet again we will be seeking to do a "Bulk Buy" of Foundation for our Members in the Tiverton Branch – please keep alert for an e-mail with the details and Order Form in February – Orders will need to be placed by the 1000 Hours on the 28th February! We are a bit earlier this year so thought it was worth giving you the "heads up" now. If you do not have e-mail access you can always phone me to place an order! We are currently receiving a 25% discount on Foundation orders.

Robert Fyfe

Bulk Buying Coordinator

Note from your Buzzette Editor

Many thanks for your contributions. If anyone would like to send me an article on 'My life with bees, and how it all started' or anything else you would like to share please send it in to:

Post Galleons Lap,
Plymtree,
Cullompton,
EX15 2LQ

Or pass on a note at the meetings.
Sarah Lines

<http://www.bbka.org.uk/local/tiverton/>