

# The Tivvy Buzzette

Newsletter of the Tiverton Beekeepers – April 2014

## OUR NEXT BRANCH MEETINGS



### **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2pm**

Spring Inspection for members at Malcolm Crooks, Moor Cottage, Uffculme Road, Willand, EX15 2SA

- from Cullompton pass through Willand to the roundabout, turn right to Uffculme and Moor Cottage is 150yds on right
- from Tiverton from J27 (M5) take A38 to Wellington Cross roundabout, turn right to Willand, pass the Half Way House, at the roundabout turn left to Uffculme and Moor Cottage is 150yds on right

### **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 6-9pm**

Nosema Testing – Uplowman Village Hall

### **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May**

Branch Apiary Meeting

### **22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> May**

Devon County Show – Branch Stand

### **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June**

Branch Apiary Meeting

July – Bulk Buying Apiguard Orders

### **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> July**

Mid Devon Show – Branch Stand

### **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> August**

Honiton Show – Branch Stand

Please come out and support your branch. Events our display is attending throughout the summer are listed below.

## **Nosema Testing – Change of date**

Our Branch Nosema testing will be on the evening of

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April from 6 until 9 pm at Uplowman Village Hall.**

Bring along your samples from your hives (details further on in newsletter) – Help prepare the slides  
Look at the samples and bee anatomy under the microscope

Learn how to deal with Nosema

Hot drinks and snack food will be provided.

Please let me know if you are thinking of coming  
Tony Lindsay

## **DBKA Celebrity Lecture**

Tuesday April 8th. Hannah's at Seale Hayne.  
6.30pm reception; Lecture at 7.30.

This year our visitor is Dr Jay Evans of United States Dept of Agriculture with special responsibility for the problems of bee health. Details are on the DBKA website and in Beekeeping magazine.

Early notice of attendance is needed so anyone intending to go to the lecture should apply by email to Kathy Lovegrove as soon as possible.

[anemone1975@talktalk.net](mailto:anemone1975@talktalk.net)

## *Tiverton Beekeepers Competition Time*

We would like members to design a 'logo' for the 'Tiverton Beekeepers' to go on a club sports shirt/ sweatshirt/ beesuit, as a machine embroidered badge.

All entries ( on paper please) to reach Jackie Crook by 1<sup>st</sup> June 2014

Competition to be judged by the Committee

## **2014 Branch Show Display Programme.**

The theme of our stand this year is The Swarm and many of our members are already busy making bees!

These are the events we are intending to visit:

- Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May                      Uffculme Green Day at Magelake, Uffculme
- Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May Devon County Show at Westpoint
- Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June                      Cullompton Town Fayre at Cullompton Rugby Club
- Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> July                      Mid Devon Show at Showground, Tiverton
- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> August                      Honiton Show

We always need help on the stand from members just to come and talk to the public about keeping bees; you don't need to be an expert.

If you can help at any of the above events please let me know.

Tony

## **Report on the March Branch meeting**

After club business the well-attended March monthly meeting of Tiverton Bee keepers welcomed the return of Dave Packham the seasonal bee inspector whose authoritative and well-presented presentations have been of great interest over the years and this month proved to be no exception.

His subject for the talk consisted of two halves, the first titled "Improving your Bee keeping", and led us through the Bee keeping year starting with tips on what to look for when opening up the hive for the first spring inspection, it was interesting to learn that one of the many pests that plagues Hives and comb - the Wax Moth is tolerated by the bees in wild colonies because the Wax Moth actually plays a part in colony health by consuming diseased comb, however in the confines of the hive we should not encourage it, and should regularly change comb to aid hive health. Clean equipment is key to stop the spread of disease between apiaries and colonies, and only allow visits by other Bee keepers who will adhere to a strict hygiene regime (clean boots, Bee suits etc.).

After a break for tea, coffee and biscuits, the meeting took the form of a question and answer session, and many questions were posed by members to Dave who answered all with his vast knowledgeable authority. Dave was thanked for the talk by club chairman Malcolm Jenkins.

Members were reminded that the Club will be holding a Nosema testing evening on 23<sup>rd</sup> of March at 18:00 hrs in Uplowman village hall and all members were invited to bring along 30 bees from each hive to have tested by the club microscopist. The next meeting will be an apiary meeting at Malcolm Crook's apiary at Willand on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April at 14:00 hrs all members are welcome please bring clean Bee suits and boots.

Jon Gubb TBKA press officer.

**Nosema testing – why to do it and how to collect your bee specimens** (reproduced from an article by Barbara Brannam)

Nosema apis and Nosema ceranae are microsporidia (closely related to fungi), single cell parasites, which invade the cells of the gut wall. Since they take energy from these cells they affect the bees' energy levels and also cause dysentery. Infection is spread, particularly in the winter, when the bees may defecate on the frames and then other bees clean up and so ingest the parasite. The colony can usually survive low infection rates but heavy infection will lead to a slow build up in the spring and possible collapse of the colony. There is more known about N.apis than N.ceranae. Scientists are still working on the life cycle and effect the latter has on a bee colony.

If a heavy infection is found one solution is to provide new foundation in a clean brood box.

Older bees are required for the sample of 30 bees to be tested, so flying bees collected from the entrance. If you have to take them from inside the hive, take bees from the outer frames away from the brood area (make sure you do not take the queen !)

How to collect the sample, 2 suggestions ;

- 1) You can block the entrance and scoop up the foragers that accumulate after a few minutes.
- 2) Cut the top and bottom from a rectangular drink carton to make a tube. Put a plastic bag over one end, secured with a rubber band, and place the other end against the hive entrance. Rattle it around and the bees will come out to see what is happening and fly up the dark tube towards the light- straight into the plastic bag! Not always easy to count 30 bees, may be easier to collect 2 samples of 15 and then unite.

Label the sample with colony identification and your name, extract as much air as possible from the bag and then place in the freezer overnight.

**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/>