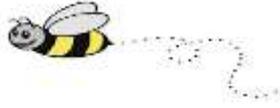


The Tivvy Buzzette

Newsletter of the Tiverton Beekeepers – June 2014

OUR NEXT BRANCH MEETINGS



Saturday 21st June – please note change of location

Branch Apiary Meeting – with Sarah and William Lines at Galleons Lap, Plymtree, EX15 2LQ

from *Cullompton* take the A373 for Honiton, after 3.3 miles from the M5 junction you will come to a small crossroads just as you leave the village of Dulford. Turn Right following the brown signpost towards Talaton (4 miles).

3. Follow this narrow road for 1.8 miles until you reach a crossroads. Turn Left towards Payhembury. Galleons Lap is 150m along on the left side with a large oak tree by the gateway.

July – Bulk Buying Apiguard Orders

Saturday 26th July

Mid Devon Show – Branch Stand

Thursday 7th August

Honiton Show – Branch Stand

Sunday 7th September

Branch BBQ & Honey show

Wednesday 17th September

Members meeting

Wednesday 15th October

Members meeting

Wednesday 19th November

Branch AGM

Wednesday 10th December

Branch Christmas Dinner

Please come out and support your branch.

Events our display is attending throughout the summer are listed below.

2014 Branch Show Display Programme.

The theme of our stand this year is *The Swarm* .

These are the events we are intending to visit:

- Sunday 29th June Cullompton Town Fayre at Cullompton Rugby Club
- Saturday 28th July Mid Devon Show at Showground, Tiverton
- Thursday 7th 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 Lindsell

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 1st August 2014. The deadline has been extended as we realise we had no contact included for Jackie which is via post to her address as listed in the DBKA Yearbook.

Competition to be judged by the Committee

Bulk Buy - Apiguard!!!

Well – we had some clever Beekeepers earlier this year who saved a bob or two (£208 overall) on their Wax Foundation and although it is not yet time to be putting Apiguard on our colonies to do battle with the Varroa Mite – it is certainly time to start the planning process! I have been in contact with the manufacturers to get the best possible price and am seeking orders for Apiguard from our Branch Members the price for this year is **£1.61 per tray** – a MASSIVE saving of £1.09 per tray against the Thorne prices – and even then you have to purchase 10 trays!.

Our Local Bee Inspector, David Packham, advises that Apiguard should first be put on, following the honey harvest, in the first week in August! Don't forget you will need two applications, the second two weeks after the first! So start doing you sums and work out how much you need – you will make a considerable saving and let's see if we can get a bumper order together. Please return your orders to me asap – but not later than the 1000 hours - 17th July!

Robert Fyfe – Bulk Buy Coordinator

On behalf of all the club members may I offer our sincere thanks to all our members and friends who supported us at the recent Uffculme and Devon County Shows in which were held in very difficult conditions, due the adverse weather conditions.

I would like to express a special thank you to :-

All our Tiverton branch ladies who made Fimo clay honey bees.

Dave Wright who tested our electrical equipment and issued the correct certificates free of charge.

William Lines for his Electro Mechanical skills in setting up the bee conveyer system.

Tony Lindsell who has transported the various displays to and from the shows expertly.

Trish Mallinson who has provided us with some incredible needlework skills for our display again this year.

Tracey Lindsell our Creative Director who has again worked tirelessly in putting together yet another outstanding display for the County show and future shows later this summer.

Once again thank you to everyone involved.

Malcolm Jenkins.

Bee Disease Insurance (BDI)

With so many swarms being collected, please remember that for your BDI to be valid for any of your colonies all of them must be insured. Your BDI certificate (emailed directly to all those who have email, and posted to the others) shows how many colonies you are insured for. If you need to increase the insurance, please contact me and I will arrange this.

Many thanks

William Lines

Treasurer and Membership Secretary

Message to our Chairman Malcolm:

Please will you let your team know how much everyone admired your Branch entry into the Stevenson Trophy. It was absolutely charming and ingenious and there were a few envious eyes cast your way when the conveyor belt was switched on!!

The judges go round together to mark the branch entries and both were highly complementary about all of them. Please don't be downhearted about 3rd place. The points were all so close; it was really difficult to split you.

I hope you will be able to use your display this summer as I think it is a brilliant way to explain to the public exactly how we deal with swarms.

Is it too early to ask if your clever team will put their heads together and come up with an equally eye-catching entry for next year?

I hope you all have a lovely summer and huge productivity in your apiaries.

With best wishes

Ruth Neal

DARG Seminar 2014

Overwintering, Bee Nutrition and Viruses

Speakers include

Ben Jones, Phd student NBU

Dr. Declan Schroder, Plymouth University

Workshops on feeding and pollen

Sunday 13th July 2014

Kenton Memorial Hall

9.30. a.m. to 4.30. p.m.

Further information and 'E tickets' - £10.00. Payable on the day,
to include tea, coffee and light lunch from
Richard Ball - buzzybeebeeball@yahoo.co.uk

Swarm List

The following members of the Tiverton Branch are registered with the BBKA as Swarm collectors.

Colin Wellard, Sarah Lines, Bob Ogden, Malcolm Crook, Dave Stone (Halberton), Jon Gubb and me.

With our warm early spring weather many bees are now swarming and our collectors are already getting calls from the public. Where we can, the Branch is committed to providing these swarms to our new members and existing members who have lost colonies. If you are interested in having a swarm please let me know and I can put you on a list which I will share with the other swarm collectors.

Tony Lindsell – Branch Secretary

May Apiary Visit

About nineteen of us gathered at Bishops Farm Kentisbeare on a beautiful sunny afternoon.

We chatted about the number of swarms there have been recently and Keith said it wasn't surprising as a good number of colonies got through the winter.

Even before we had moved as far as the hives someone was stung on the head. We all dressed up then and were soon heading towards the apiary.

The first hive Keith inspected contained an unclipped queen, so Keith clipped her while holding her in a gloved hand. A frame was passed around so that we could see eggs in some of the cells.

Keith explained that one of the colonies had been showing signs of swarming. Instead of making a new hive he had made an artificial swarm in a nuc box which he put on top of the hive with a queen excluder in between. This could stay until the end of the season.

He inspected another hive, but was unable to find the queen. He pointed out that if she had her tail in a cell, laying, she would be difficult to recognise. As there were eggs and brood and the bees seemed "happy" the queen must be there.

During the afternoon we were able to see eggs, unsealed brood, sealed worker and drone brood as well as a queen cup and sealed honey.

The theory I learnt during the winter is making more sense. The more I learn about bees the more fascinating and clever I find them!

The afternoon was rounded off with fruit juice and delicious cakes.

Lesley Passey

Editors note – many thanks to Lesley as we all ways appreciate new contributors to the Buzzette

If any members details are incorrect in the yearbook and wish to have them amended could they please send the correct details to Tony Lindsell to be included as an amendment on a separate sheet.

Beginners' Apiary Meeting Dates

Saturdays 7th June
 12th July
 9th or 16th August

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/>