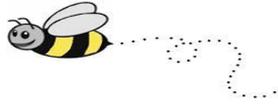


The Tivvy Buzzette

Newsletter of the Tiverton Beekeepers – August 2014

OUR NEXT BRANCH MEETINGS



Thursday 7th August

Honiton Show – Branch Stand. Entries of honey and bee products can be made on the morning of the show please see our fantastic new web site for forms and information <http://tivertonbeekeepers.org.uk/>

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 at our meetings.

Bee-ginners meetings

Saturday 9th August Extracting in the kitchen
2 Upper Putson Cottages
Uplowman Road
Tiverton EX16 4QT
any time between 10.00 and 12.00 or 14.00 and 16.00

Saturday 6th September Preparing for winter

Hive Alive

Did any of you see these 2 programmes on BBC 2 in July?

If not they are being repeated from Wednesday 6th August. Even if you have heard it all before the filming is excellent and in episode 2 the Drone Congregation Area and Queen mating is something to see.

Thank you to Jane Simmonds for reminding us to watch it.

End of Season Branch Barbeque & Honey Fest

Sunday 7th September from 2.30 pm at Uplowman village hall.

All members and families welcome.

Bring a jar of your honey so we can compare the different types of honey our bees are producing in Mid Devon. It's not a competition so any jar will do and just a plain label so you can identify it as yours. We will have scones available so we can taste it as well.

Last year's BBQ was lots of fun even in the rain.

For catering purposes please let me know if you are likely to come. Tony Lindsay

TBKA at Mid Devon Show

The weather was good, the crowds were plentiful and the show was once again up to its usual high standard with plenty to see and do for people of all ages, and the Tiverton Branch of Devon Beekeepers were again on hand with their exhibition stand, the theme of which this year was the Swarm. Visitors to the stand were full of admiration for the evident time and effort which had been put into the preparation and setting up of the exhibit, and the branch is indebted to Tracy Lindsell and her team of helpers who painstakingly made literally hundreds of model bees which made the exhibition work. In recognition of their hard work the stand won a red rosette for 2nd prize in the up to 7 metre frontage class, and it was commented by the judges how attractive and colourful it looked!

For those of you who have not seen the stand, it covers the events from the swarming through to the collection and ultimately the hiving. The hiving part is a sight to behold, it consists of a mechanical motorised belt of model bees entering the hive, you have got to see it to believe it and my description would not do it justice!! So thanks Tracy, all her helpers, Tony, Keith, Malcolm and all those who helped in setting up, attending and taking down because with your help it has made the stand the great success that it has been at both the Devon County & Mid Devon Shows. Keith was on hand with his owl like wisdom and advice which is always well received as was the honey that he was selling. A proportion of the revenue from the honey sales goes straight to the club funds and for this we are again indebted to Keith, so on behalf of all of the members a big thank you Keith.

Special thanks is also extended by the committee to the following Ailsa Robbins, Alison Augstburger, Barbara Brannam and Janet Franklin for helping on the stand.

Shows like the Devon County, Mid Devon & Honiton are real opportunities for Beekeepers to showcase their art and to encourage people to take an interest in the craft, whether it be from planting bee friendly plants through to the ultimate goal taking up the craft for themselves. Judging by the interest shown this goal will be achieved, as during my short 2 hour stint on the stand I handed out 5 member application forms. I know that the other stand attendees also handed out forms and enthused about our craft to other interested people, and although these people won't all take up the craft there is a good chance some will, and if we only get one person to take up the craft that's one more than we would have had, had we not made the effort! For more photos and to read this report online please go to our new website www.tivertonbeekeepers.org.uk Jon Gubb (TBKA webmaster /press officer)



SO WHERE'S THE PROBLEM?

Unfortunately bees don't always behave and swarms have been found in chimneys, roof spaces and barns. They are not always easy to extract and sometimes are completely impossible which is quite upsetting as they have to be destroyed (and we thought they were intelligent creatures).

One of the more interesting locations for a swarm was found when a gentleman living on the new housing estate in Willand phoned to say bees were flying in and out of his neighbour's meter box. As the house was approached, the neighbour said 'no, not there, THERE!', pointing to the cover of the outside stopcock in the pavement outside the house.

The bees had been there for six days which was long enough to build the honeycombs hanging from the cover. Luckily they were very easy to extract and after a few days were relocated to a hive belonging to an elderly woman. One of our members was prepared to work with the hive in order for the elderly woman to continue her interest in bees without having to look after them.

A good result for the bees and the beekeepers!
Malcolm Crook



Swarm collection caution

There have been a couple of sad incidents that the committee would like to draw your attention to:

1. In North Devon a beekeeper died after an accident involving a ladder and a swarm collection.
2. Elsewhere in the country a fire was lit to smoke a swarm out of a chimney. The wax caught fire and the house burnt down.

Please take care.

Branch Apiary Update.

Over the last couple of years the committee have been discussing the possibility of setting up a permanent branch/teaching apiary. After much discussion a sub committee was set up in the autumn of 2013 consisting of 4 members of the committee; their aim was to secure a permanent apiary site which was in a location that would be central and within a reasonable distance for members to attend. After a few false starts and many visits and meetings a site has now been found at Knightshayes Court at Bolham just on the outskirts of Tiverton, which has been kindly offered to us by the National Trust which owns Knightshayes. The site will be subject to a formal agreement with the Trust which is a standard procedure that all their tenants enter into. The Trust have agreed to allow us to put a container on the site for storage of equipment connected with the apiary and another bonus is no rent to pay!

There are various grants available and the sub committee are looking into applying for a grant from Viridor which offer grants to local organisations through the landfill tax credit scheme. It is hoped that we can raise a large percentage of the set up cost in this way along with using some of the branch funds that we have in the bank, saved for such a purpose.

The branch apiary will only be a success if it is well supported by the members of the branch, and the committee would be interested to hear from anyone who could help (possibly on a rota basis) to make the branch apiary a success. The best scenario would be if anyone in the club would like to volunteer to be the apiary manager to keep an eye on the apiary, keep records and who could co-ordinate volunteer members to do inspections etc on a rota basis during the busy seasons of spring, summer and autumn. This position would be overseen by the sub committee.

It is envisaged that the apiary will be used as training apiary for members new to beekeeping, but the key to this is that the apiary is well run and looked after.

Another idea being put forward is for an apiary co-ordinator who could organise members to look after the apiary and organise a rota for members to carry out inspections etc on a weekly basis as above.

The committee would be very interested to hear from members who could help out with either of the above positions or would be interested in putting themselves forward as a volunteer to carry inspections as above on a rota basis. Reasonable expenses would be paid to anyone who would be interested in becoming the apiary manager.

We hope that members can help out with this exciting opportunity for the club and make the apiary a success. If you think you can help in any way please email Tony Lindsell.

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://tivertonbeekeepers.org.uk>