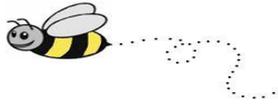


The Tivvy Buzzette

Newsletter of the Tiverton Beekeepers – October 2014

OUR NEXT BRANCH MEETINGS



Wednesday 15th October, 7.30 Uplowman Village Hall

Roof Top Hives - Jason Wallis

Wednesday 19th November, 7.30pm.

Branch AGM & film

Wednesday 10th December, 7 for 7.30pm

Branch Christmas Dinner – see attached notice

Please come out and support your branch at our meetings.

Please keep an eye on our web site as regular updates and notices for members from the County and BBKA are placed there.

Branch Christmas Dinner

Please see the attached menu for the dinner at The Tiverton Hotel on Wednesday 10 December. Many thanks to those who have said they will come, and those who have paid. I need to confirm our booking, indicate menu choices and pay a £5 deposit per person to the hotel asap, so please will anyone who has not contacted me do so as soon as they can by post, phone, email or at the branch meeting on 15 October.

William Lines

Galleons Lap, Plymtree, Cullompton
EX15 2LQ



Found by Keith:

‘The only difference between a beginner and an expert is that the expert has made more mistakes; but the beginner should not worry, because they will soon catch up’

Dave Maslen

Devon Beekeepers Association - Tiverton Branch. Official Notice

The 2014 Annual General Meeting will take place at Uplowman Village Hall
7.30 pm on Wednesday 19th November 2014

Any matter that members wish to propose for discussion should be with the Branch Secretary by the 5th November at the latest so that it may be placed on the Agenda.

The meeting will be followed by a screening of the film 'More Than Honey'.

All roles of the officers and committee members are subject to an annual election but this year we know the following will be vacant:

Show Display Coordinator - someone to take over from Tracy Lindsell to organise and produce the Branch stand for the County and other shows. It is not essential that this officer is on the committee.

Programme Secretary - the role involves producing a programme of speakers for the winter months and organising the Apiary Inspections in the summer. It is not essential that this post is filled by a committee member.

Bulk Buying Officer - to build on the work of Robert Fyfe in obtaining discount for members when purchasing beekeeping equipment in bulk. Robert has indicated that he is willing to assist any new officer that takes on this role. Again it is not essential for this officer to be a committee member.

Minute Secretary - someone to take the minutes of every committee meeting in a concise and accurate manner. Must be prepared to attend the committee meetings!

The Branch is rapidly increasing in size and offering more and more opportunities to members, if you are able to take on any of the above roles please put your name forward. Whatever the role you will receive a lot of support from the committee and other members.

Thanks and kind regards

Tony

Branch BBQ and Honey Fest

If it is true as the old saying goes, that the sun shines on the righteous then we Tiverton Bee Keepers must be a righteous lot, as those members and guests who attended the branch BBQ at Uplowman Village Hall on Sunday the 7th September can testify!

As well as the glorious sunshine attendees were treated to some lovely barbecued sausages, scones topped with clotted cream and honey, and a chance to compare 14 types of honey from 14 different apiaries.

I wouldn't have believed that there could be so much variation in the taste of honey; 14 different types of honey with 14 distinctly different tastes. My own apiary is about 750 metres across the valley (as the bee flies) from the apiary of fellow members Tony and Tracy Lindsell, but the taste between the two types of honey was totally different! It would be wrong for me to say which one was the tastier, but theirs was OK I suppose!

Members also had a chance to buy some used equipment which was being offered on behalf of the wife of a former chairman and president, who is not enjoying the best of health at the moment. Our thanks to Malcolm Jenkins, Robert Fyfe & Tony Lindsell for sorting, collecting, transporting the equipment to site, and then organising the sale.

Thanks to Jacky & Spike for organising the honey tasting and making sure everyone had a full cup of tea, to Malcolm Jenkins and his wife and their daughter-in-law for the loan of the BBQ and the lovely cakes and scones, Tracy & Tony Lindsell for setting up and the cooking and to all the members who helped to make the afternoon such a great success.

Jon Gubb

Tiverton Bee Keepers branch meeting 17th of September

After the club business, member Keith Owers gave his monthly advice on what to look for and jobs that need to be done in the Apiary during September/October, this included feeding advice, safe guarding against robbing by other colonies by reducing the entrance size to 3 bees wide and general husbandry tasks like making sure the grass around the hives is cut and that the hives are in good condition to ensure the health of our bees over the coming months.

The 21 members present were then treated to an interesting talk on Plants For Bees by our speaker for the evening Paul Fonnereau of Cove Nursery. Paul told us that insect pollination of crops was worth £230m to the UK economy and without them the cost of pollinating the same crops by hand or mechanical means would cost £1.3b which would probably not be that successful or sustainable in the long term, - a sobering fact there for all!

Whilst the use of pesticides is frowned upon by us Bee Keepers, we know that their inevitable use is a fact of modern agricultural and horticultural life, however Paul advised that if they are used, they should be applied as late at night as possible, to minimise the effect that they will have on non-target species, such as pollinators etc.

The main part of the Paul's talk was a season by season guide to which plants would best benefit Honey Bees in the garden, of which the UK has over 1 million hectares from the well-known such as Crocuses, to the lesser known such as Brooms, Majoram, Mint, all of which are a rich source of Nectar and Pollen for all pollinators. A full list of plants for pollinators is available on the RHS Website.

After the talk Paul was thanked by the club for his interesting and informative talk. Members then broke for refreshments after which some bought plants, bulbs, and shrubs from the stock that Paul had brought with him from the Cove Nursery.

Jon Gubb

Note from your Buzzette Editor

Many thanks for your contributions. If you would like to send in an article please send it to arrive before the last Thursday of the preceding month as text and photos to:

Post Galleons Lap,
Plymtree,
Cullompton,
EX15 2LQ

Or pass on a note at the meetings.

Sarah Lines

<http://tivertonbeekeepers.org.uk/>