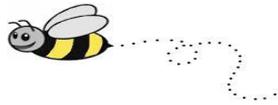


The Tivvy Buzzette

Newsletter of the Tiverton Beekeepers – February 2015



OUR NEXT BRANCH MEETINGS

Wednesday 18th February, 7.30pm, Uplowman Village Hall

Clare Densley from Buckfast Abbey will be talking about how things have changed since Br Adam's huge influence on beekeeping at the Abbey

Wednesday 18th March, 7.30pm, Uplowman Village Hall

Chris Park and his Skep Apiary.
Chris runs a skep apiary using traditional methods and equipment, along with modern measures such as mesh floors. He is Chairman of the British Beekeeping Heritage Society and a member of the Beekeeping History Trust

Wednesday 15th April, 6:00pm, Uplowman Village Hall

Nosema Testing evening. Bring along 25-30 dead bees from each hive in separate clearly marked containers. For tips on capturing and dispatching a sample amount for testing see: <http://tivertonbeekeepers.org.uk/upcoming-meetings-and-reports>

Saturday 25th April

Spring Apiary Inspection - venue to be decided, may be at the Branch Apiary

Saturday 16th May

Apiary Inspection

Thursday 21 – Saturday 23 May

Devon County Show

Saturday 20th June

Apiary Inspection

Saturday 25th July

Mid Devon Show at Knightshayes/Chettiscombe

Thursday 6th August

125th Honiton Show

Sunday 6th September, 2:00pm, Uplowman Village Hall

End of season Branch BBQ & Honey Fest

Beginners' meetings

11th Feb.	Pests and diseases.
25th Feb.	Bee plants and hive products.
11th Mar.	Getting started.

2015 Branch Committee members and roles

Chairman	Malcolm Jenkins
Secretary	Tony Lindsell
Treasurer & Membership Secretary	William Lines
Programme Secretary	Malcolm Crook
Education Secretary	Colin Wellard
Press Officer & Webmaster	Jon Gubb
Buzzette Editor	Sarah Lines
Librarian	Janet Franklin
Bulk Buying Coordinator	Derek Evans
Committee members	Keith Owers
	Bob Ogden
	Jackie Crook
	David Stone
	Janie Cook

Improvers' course

We still have a few spare places on the course starting on the 10th February. Details were in the January Buzzette. If you are interested please let me know by the 7th February.

Keith Owers on 01884 254977 or on e-mail keith@kaowers.eclipse.co.uk

Bulk Buying – Foundation

As a beneficiary over the last couple years of Robert's hard work I have volunteered to continue his initiative as Bulk Buying Coordinator. So here we go!

I am planning to place a bulk order for foundation **earlier than last year** because of an expected price increase towards the end of February.

If we get our order in on time, we are able to profit from a 25% discount on all orders of Foundation and get it at last year's prices.

Three alternative ways of ordering:

1. Use the Excel spreadsheet on the [Web Site](#)
2. Download the order form attached to this Buzzette, complete and e-mail/post it to me
3. Fill in and post the order form collected from our last Branch Meeting

Orders to be received by **Sunday 15th February (10pm)** Approx delivery 23rd February

Derek EVANS
Bulk Buying Coordinator
jender@talktalk.net



BIPCo would like to invite beekeepers to the 4th Annual Bee Improvement Day

A BIBBA-Southwest Event

A one-day event organised by the
Bee Improvement Programme for Cornwall (BIPCo)
To be held at Dobwalls Memorial Hall,
Higher Meadow, Dobwalls **PL14 6LS**
Saturday 7th February 2015
Commencing 9.00am (for 9.30) until 4.00pm

Guest Speaker: Harry Owens
from The Isle of Man
plus local speakers

A programme for all those interested in improving the quality of their bees through the assessment, selection and rearing of queens and drones.

Trade Stands in attendance.
Light lunches available. Tea/coffee provided

Tickets are £15 at the door or £10 at the door for those who register their interest before the day
by emailing info@bipco.org.uk or
post to BIPCo, 4 West Street, Millbrook, TORPOINT PL10 1AA
Register interest prior to event for discounted entrance. Pay on the day. Thank you

Message from our Chairman

May I wish all members a very happy new year.

The forthcoming year is shaping up to be quite exciting for the club and members. Our Secretary is at present putting together a year planner of events for the year.

Derek Evans has taken over the role of managing the bulk buying program. Derek has informed the committee that there is a price rise pending for the foundation, hence he would like to receive orders as soon as possible in order to ensure we get the greater bulk buying savings. There is an order form on the Web Page already and another here with the Buzzette.

Derek Evans and Janie Cook have both agreed to join the committee for the present year and we will welcome their input during our meetings.

Jon Gubb has been doing an outstanding job in developing our Web Site and I would recommend that members look at this, as Jon is updating information on a very regular basis.

This year, on 15th April, the club is running a Nosema testing session at Uplowman Village Hall. In the past the turnout for this event has been sparse. However, it is to members' benefit to have their bees tested so they can improve their own apiary hygiene. Whilst Nosema may not have a major impact on colonies, when there are other factors involved it can be devastating to the hive. Our microscopist, Barbara Brannam, will be able to give some indication to the degree of infection, if there is any, and our own bee expert, Keith Owers, has agreed to be present to give advice on the best course of action required to control any infection. Jon has put a method of catching your sample of thirty bees for testing on the Website. Also, Keith has kindly offered to give some practical advice on this matter at the March monthly meeting.

We are now very close to completing all the admin requirements with the National Trust regarding our training apiary at Knightshayes. In preparation the committee has sanctioned a large sum of money being made available for the purchase of new equipment and materials for the site. We have had a great deal of support from Raef Johnson, the Head Parkland Ranger, in dealing with this venture, and a number of committee members who have steered us through all the various hurdles. Again Jon has put some details about this venture on the Web Site and I am sure he will keep us up to date as things develop.

Keith Owers is at present offering places on an improvers' course, which will prepare members for the Basic Beekeeping Assessment. If interested please contact Keith for details.

Thank very much for your support to the club and may I wish you a very good beekeeping year in 2015.

Malcolm Jenkins

Tiverton Beekeepers Meeting Report January 2015

Jackie Crook showed members the new embroidered club logo which is now available on a range of clothing, or by itself to sew on your own clothing, which can be bought through the club.

Keith Owers gave some useful tips on what to look for in the apiary over the next few weeks, such as woodpecker damage to the hives, checking that all roofs are sound, and to remind members that there are still a couple of places left on the Bee keeping improvers' course which starts on February 10th. At the time of writing Keith has a couple of spare seats available in his car for anyone wishing to go to the Holsworthy spring convention on the 21st of February. For more details contact Keith. Members were also reminded that the County AGM is on the 15th of March at the Isca Centre, Exeter.

Tony Lindsell has kindly taken over as show co-ordinator and is looking for some volunteers to help him. Anyone who can help in any way should contact Tony direct or via the contacts page on the website.

Club business over we were then introduced by the chairman, Malcolm Jenkins, to Bill Summers and Dave Durrant, who had travelled up from Dorchester to talk to members about a unique hive that they have been developing.

The Zest (*Zero Energy SusTainable*) hive was developed as a cheaper alternative to a traditional wooden hive. It utilises materials such as thermal insulated mineral building materials, corrugated sheet metal and timber. Along with DIY skills, and using readily available everyday products, it can be constructed in minutes and at a fraction of the cost.

Initially developed to encourage Bee keeping in the poorer rural parts of the world, the hived colony of Bees expand horizontally rather than vertically (as with traditional hives) and uses a top multi-entrance system.

The frames are vastly different from conventional types, and do not use foundation. Instead they are basically 3 frames in one vertical construction, on which the bees make their own comb. The developers showed some examples of used comb in which the bees had put brood and stores in the top (highest) $\frac{2}{3}$ and stored honey in the bottom $\frac{1}{3}$ of the frame. To extract the stored honey the bee keeper simply cuts the comb out of the frame and extracts by pressing.

The speakers' claims that they were experiencing less disease were vigorously challenged in a lively question and answer session at the end of the talk.

Judging by members' comments and interest, the subject of the talk was well received and certainly gave everyone present some food for thought. There were some members who may even give the Zest hive concept a go in the coming season! Anyone wanting to learn more on the Zest hive can go to the website www.thezesthive.com

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/>