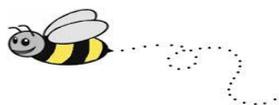


The Tivvy Buzzette

Newsletter of the Tiverton Beekeepers – April 2015



OUR NEXT BRANCH MEETINGS

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 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 21st – Saturday 23rd 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

Please support your branch at our meetings. We look forward to seeing you.

Beginners' Apiary meetings

Roliphants Farm, Crazelowman, EX16 7DF
Saturdays at 2.30pm

11 th April	First look & spring inspection
9 th May	Queen finding & marking
6 th June	Making increase
11 th July	Uniting bees
8 th August	Extracting in the kitchen
September	date tbc, Preparing for winter

2015 Branch Committee members and roles

Chairman	Malcolm Jenkins
Vice Chairman & Programme Secretary	Malcolm Crook
Secretary	Tony Lindsell
Treasurer & Membership Secretary	William Lines
Education Secretary	Colin Wellard
Minutes Secretary	Margaret 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

Branch Apiary Rules

Attached to this mailing is your copy of the Branch Apiary Rules. Please bear in mind they are intended to provide broad guidance on the basics of the Apiary and will be a live document that can be adjusted as circumstances change. As Beekeepers we may not all agree with every point in the document but hopefully agree that it sets the right tone for the Apiary. Please ensure that you read them prior to visiting the apiary. Tony Lindsell

Nosema Testing Evening

Wednesday 15th April

“Why should I bother to kill 30 of my bees for Nosema testing?”

A few facts:

- Infected bees show no outward sign of the disease
- Infected bees live only half as long as healthy bees in colonies in spring and summer
- Infected bees do not fully develop the glands that normally produce food for larvae
- 15% of eggs in badly infected colonies fail to mature
- Infected bees cease rearing brood
- Infected colonies have a reduced honey yield
- To get an accurate assessment, all your colonies should be tested

Now that I have your attention, can I invite you to an evening of many funny stories from other members on how they tried to catch their 30 bees per hive, and even more funny stories of how the bees escaped again?

There also will be useful advice on combating the Nosema disease by methods such as comb sterilisation, comb replacement, either by the shock swarm method or by a Bailey comb change, and even by the use of a simple wooden or plastic wedge! A clean apiary is a healthy one.

The usual coffees and teas will be there along with the company of some light refreshments!!

If you could bring with you a pestle and mortar to help prepare your bees for examination by Barbara and her team, that would be much appreciated.

A microscope with a camera attached will be available on the evening for members to really examine their bees. If you thought that you knew what a bee looked like, prepare to be surprised!!!!

Malcolm Crook

Tiverton Beekeepers Meeting Report March 2015

The March meeting of the Tiverton & District Beekeepers took place on Wednesday the 18th at Uplowman Village Hall. Our Chairman Malcolm Jenkins introduced the 30 members and 3 guests present to our speaker for the evening, Chris Park, who had travelled down from his home in Oxon to speak to the group on Skep beekeeping.

Chris was a Skep maker for a number of years before deciding to take up Skep beekeeping and has been keeping bees in Skeps for eight years.

The talk was very interesting and accompanied by a power point presentation. Skeps have been around for thousands of years and the word Skeppa is Anglo Saxon for a container. Although not documented it is thought that beekeepers have been using them for almost as long. An upturned well-made straw Skep will bear the weight of a person, and if kept dry will last for 150 years.

Chris dispelled the myth that to extract the honey the beekeeper has to destroy the colony, and demonstrated that the bees can be kept in a healthy sustainable manner with little interference from the beekeeper. After a Q&A session the chairman thanked Chris for his interesting and informative talk.

Club business was then dealt with and the Chairman welcomed a new member to the group and informed us that we also had a new junior member: our members now total 105.

Derek Evans, the club bulk buying co-ordinator, reported that the initial 2015 scheme had been well supported and all members had received their wax foundation, and paid in full. He added that his next scheme would be for Varroa treatment product and, although there was no initial take up at the meeting, it is hoped members would support this scheme later in the season. If anyone has any suggestions of other items that may benefit members by bulk buying then please let Derek know; he can be contacted via the branch website.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the members to thank Malcolm Crook for putting together a programme of meetings throughout the winter, which have proved to be of a very high quality, and I know he is already working on next year's programme to secure us more quality speakers to talk on varied subjects.

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/>