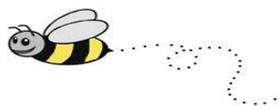


The Tivvy Buzzette

Newsletter of the Tiverton Beekeepers – May 2015



OUR NEXT BRANCH MEETINGS

Saturday 16th May, 2.30pm

Apiary Inspection at the Branch Apiary Site at Knightshayes Court, Bolham, Tiverton. Please use the main Car Park and follow the finger post signs up the lane marked private to the Apiary site, which is situated in the wood opposite the walled garden. All members welcome.

Thursday 21st – Saturday 23rd May

Devon County Show

Saturday 20th June, 2.30pm

Apiary Inspection at Branch Apiary, Knightshayes.

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

9th May Queen finding & marking

6th June Making increase

11th July Uniting bees

8th 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

Tiverton Branch Apiary at Knightshayes notices:

Baruch is going to perform weekly maintenance inspections, on Sundays at 11.00 a.m. The assistance of other branch members will be appreciated.

However, when there is a Branch Apiary meeting on the Saturday and members visit, there will not be a Sunday inspection.

Nosema Testing Evening

Wednesday 15th April

A good turn out of members resulted in 35 samples of bees being examined for Nosema. 32 of those samples showed no sign of Nosema but 3 indicated a medium rate of infection. (A similar result to last year). There was plenty of information available to assist those beekeepers to deal with the infection and Malcolm Crook had a hive on hand to explain a Bailey Comb change. The beekeepers who brought along samples were able to prepare their own slides and, thanks to William Lines, we were able to see the results from under the microscope on 'a big screen'. The nosema spores appear like grains of rice and, once spotted, are easily identified.

It was encouraging to see a number of new members at the event and their enthusiasm to be involved.

Thanks go to Barbara Brannam and Keith Owers for their microscopy skills and to all those who attended.

Branch Display at County Show

Once again the Branch is entering a stand for the Stephenson Trophy in the Bee & Honey Marquee at the Devon County Show. The show starts on Thursday 21st May until Saturday 23rd. We are looking for volunteers to represent the Branch on the stand talking to members of the public about beekeeping. There are two shifts each day from about 8.30 until 1 and the other from 1 until 5.30. 2 members are required for each shift, the Branch will provide your ticket to the show. If you are interesting in helping and available please contact me as soon as possible.

Swarming Season

It may well be by the time you read this that the bees will have started to swarm. A number of our more experienced beekeepers are nominated as Branch Swarm collectors and respond to calls from the general public. If you are a new beekeeper in need of a colony of bees or an established beekeeper wishing to expand your apiary then please contact me and I will add you to our list. Priority is normally given to new beekeepers.

If you would like to assist in the collection of a swarm please provide me with your details and we will try to involve you. Timing is obviously crucial so your mobile phone number will be useful.

Thanks

Tony

Tony Lindsell Branch Secretary
tony.lindsell@btinternet.com

First Branch Apiary meeting success

Well it seems like an age ago when the idea of having our own branch apiary was first suggested, and after a few false starts, many discussions and several meetings of the sub-committee at the Merriemeade it has all come together!!

On Tuesday 21st of April the local bee inspector Dave Packham visited and inspected the bees at the donor apiary near Uffculme and gave them a clean bill of health, which meant that the 2 nucleus colonies could be moved to the new apiary.

The inspected nuclei arrived in their nuc' boxes at 08:30 on Saturday 25th at our new branch apiary site at Knightshayes Court, where they were placed on the newly erected hive stands, the box entrances were opened and the bees were allowed to fly out into their new surroundings. They were a bit reluctant at first due to the cooler temperature at that time of day so we just left them to orientate themselves until we came back for the meeting later that day.

When the 17 members arrived for the meeting at 2:30 in the afternoon it was clear to see the bees had settled and were busy bringing pollen into the boxes. The time had come for the bees 2nd move of the day – from the cramped nuc' boxes to the spacious full hives which will become their new home.

The members, many of which were beginners helped branch apiary co-ordinator Baruch transfer the bees frame by frame to the new hives, many questions were asked during the operation and all ably answered by Baruch and other beekeepers present. The queen was found in the first box on the 3rd of the 5 frames and was caught and marked with an identification marker. To indicate she was a 2014 queen the colour of the mark was green.

As the second box was opened up to repeat the above procedure, it was noted that this colony were not so quiet as the first colony, the queen was again found on the 3rd frame and duly caught and marked green as before.

Both hives were then reassembled with an extra couple of brood frames in each and the bees allowed to go about their business in and out of their spacious new hives.

Baruch then showed us around his apiary which is close by to ours and talked to us about the pollen he is collecting off the bees as they enter 3 of the hives by the means of special pollen traps, the pollen is gathered every 3 weeks and separated into it's different colours then recorded and the results uploaded to the researchers to categorise and record what kind of pollen the bees favour at a given date. More details can be found at <http://www.ibra.org.uk/articles/CSI-Pollen>.

All in all I think everyone who attended this first inaugural meeting at our new branch apiary would agree it was a great success and we should all be grateful to our forward thinking Chairman and his committee for making this happen. Also many thanks to Baruch for taking on the role of apiary co-ordinator and for the informative way in which he presented the meeting.

For further details please go to our website www.tivertonbeekeepers.org.uk

Jonathan 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/>