

# The Tivvy Buzzette



The newsletter of the Tiverton Beekeepers ~ April 2016

Tiverton Beekeepers are a branch of The Devon Beekeepers Association. Registered Charity No 270675.

## Branch Meetings

3<sup>rd</sup> April Branch Apiary inspection (*hive building indoors if inclement weather*) 10:00 am. Weekly inspections will be held at the Apiary every Sunday thereafter throughout the season. Please read Apiary rules on the website.

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 18:30. Bees under the microscope, including \*Nosema testing.  
Venue– Uplowman Village Hall.

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

## Beginners Meetings with Keith Owers at Roliphants Farm, Crazelowman. EX16 7DF 2:30pm

Sat Apr 9<sup>th</sup>. First look & Spring inspection.

Sat May 7<sup>th</sup>. Queen finding & marking.

Sat June 4<sup>th</sup>. Making increase.

Sat July 9<sup>th</sup>. Uniting.

Sat August 6<sup>th</sup> Extracting in the kitchen. (*More details nearer the time*).

Sept TBC. Preparing for winter.

**\*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>

## March 2016 Tiverton Beekeepers Meeting Report.

Thirty members of the Tiverton Beekeepers gathered for the final monthly meeting of the season at Uplowman Village hall on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> of March.

The meeting opened at 7:30 and after club business and announcements had been dealt with our Chairman Malcolm Jenkins welcomed the speaker for the evening Dave Maslan.

The theme for Dave's talk was "Queen Not Seen", in which he told the members on different ways of finding the queen when she is not visible amongst the colony. As the talk progressed it was apparent that Dave is a somewhat unorthodox beekeeper, and some of his ideas and practices gave members old and new food for thought! All in all the talk was entertaining and whether or not you agreed with his ideas he made the talk interesting and amusing, aided by numerous props and handouts.

Dave was thanked by the Chairman on behalf of the members who then broke for refreshments, the meeting closed at around 10pm.

For full program of meetings or to find out more about Tiverton Beekeepers then please go to our website

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

### **Congratulations**

To TBK member Brian Taylor, who was the joint highest points scorer, for the 2015 Basic Assessment and was presented with a Skep, by the DBKA President, at the President's Day last Saturday. Well done Brian!

### **A Letter From Our Chairman – Malcolm Jenkins.**

Hello to all Club Members and a warm welcome to all our recent new members.

Spring, is slowly arriving, we have just had the last of the monthly, out of season, club meetings, last week, which was very entertaining, also, the beginner's have completed the final theory session, of their course.

Whilst, the talks have completed, we have arranged for a session, on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April, starting at 18.00 hours, called Bees Under The Microscope, Barbara Brannam has kindly offered her expertise, along with support from Keith Owers and Malcolm Crook. William Lines, has been able to obtain a microscope, which will relay the view Barbara has, during her inspection, to be displayed on a screen, for all to see.

Members, who wish to have their bees, inspected, will need to bring along 30 dead bees, indicating which hive they are from, if you have more than one sample.

Those who do not, at present have bees of their own are welcome to attend, as this is a vital part of demonstrating the health of bees within the colony. We will arrange for some spare samples, from the club apiary, for anyone wishing to take part.

Keith will be available, to offer advice, to anyone, who feel they need some support or remedies, in order to improve the condition of their bees.

Light refreshments, will be available, free of charge, during the session.

As the busy season approaches, this year all club members, have the opportunity, to visit the Club apiary, at Knightshayes, so they can gain "hands on" experience and/or increase confidence, in handling bees, some may wish to improve on their knowledge and understanding, of the hobby. After many years of searching and planning, we now have our own apiary site, for this purpose, whilst it is in the early stages of development and expansion, it is a valuable asset, which all members are invited to visit.

Baruch Livneh, our apiary manager has agreed to attend the apiary, every Sunday morning at 10.00 hours, to carry out weekly inspections and other tasks required, depending on the requirements, of the season at that time.

Any members or guest, who wish to attend, but, do not have any protective equipment, are still welcome, as we have a selection available at the apiary.

It is hoped that in our future plans we will be able to operate a system whereby, members will be able to purchase bees raised at our apiary at a very advantageous price, to enable members to get started, at a reduced cost. Also, members who have the misfortune, to lose their bees, would be able replace them as well, at a reduced cost.

As well as the apiary, there are a number of members, who have a range of experience, who are willing to assist other members, who are unsure or experiencing difficulties. Please check in the County Members Year Book, on the web page, to find a member near you, if you require some support.

We also, at times have requests, from land owners, who wish to have bees, on their land, but not willing to have their own. If you are interested, please make contact with our Secretary Tony, for more details.

The wood yard, which we use as a car park, has reverted, back to the Trust, however, we have a verbal agreement, to continue using the yard, as our car park, thus saving the Trust car park fees!

Whilst we are still awaiting Spring and our A.G.M. Is a long way ahead, there are some issues coming up that require your consideration.

We will be looking for a volunteer, to fill the post of Club Secretary, as Tony will be heavily involved at County level. Tony is doing a remarkable job for us in this role and works tirelessly, for the benefit of our club.

Also, William, has indicated he wishes to stand down from his twin roles of Club Treasurer and the Club Membership Secretary this year, William also puts a lot of effort, into the smooth running of the club. So again we are looking for one or two volunteers to replace William, in his roles.

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These Officer roles are open to to all club members, please contact Tony or myself, if you wish to register an interest, or require further details.

As some of you are aware, in recent years William and Sarah, have brilliantly, planned and organized, our Christmas Meal, sadly, they have found they are unable to continue this service for us this year, so yet again we need a volunteer or volunteers to help us arrange this for our members.

All club members should now be in receipt of the BBKA News at national level, The Beekeeper magazine at county level and of course The Buzzette at club level.

Another publication, the County Yearbook, which gives members details within the County, has ceased to be published in a booklet format, it is now available on the DBKA web page, to gain access, you will need the user name, which is still the one published in previous Beekeeper Magazines, it is no longer provided, in current or future editions, the password you will require is mouseguard5. This password will be valid to the end of the calender year. I would respectfully ask you not to disclose the password, to non members. If any members, wish to change any of their details, please email William and the changes will be effective within seven days.

Many thanks and a happy beekeeping year,

Malcolm,  
Chairman.

### **Equipment For Sale**

Due to giving up Beekeeping TBC member Terry Weatherfield has the following equipment for sale:-

3 hives quality built by David Pearce, each with open mesh floor and varroa witness board, brood box with used frames, 2 supers with used frames and sturdy custom made wooden stand (my manufacture). £100 each

1 David Pearce clearer board £10

9 DN4 frames by David Pearce, new unassembled £10

1 stainless steel double strainer (as in Thorne's) £10

1 Honey tub with honey valve £12

2 rapid feeders £2 each

1 ladies, medium size, white bee-suit £30

Interested? Then please call Terry on 01884 840677.

If you have any interesting articles relating to Bees & Beekeeping, please do not hesitate to forward them to me by email to [jon.gubb@voddens.co.uk](mailto:jon.gubb@voddens.co.uk) by the 27<sup>th</sup> of the month for inclusion in the next months edition of the Buzzette.