

# The Tivvy Buzzette



The newsletter of the Tiverton Beekeepers ~ July 2016

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

## Branch Meetings.

**Branch Apiary** meetings continue every Sunday 10am at Knightshayes.

**Mid Devon Show July 23<sup>rd</sup> Knightshayes.**

**New.....Apiary awareness days** throughout the summer. To enable members & friends who find it difficult to attend on Sundays.

Dates:- 16<sup>th</sup> July, August 13<sup>th</sup>.

Start times 2:00pm. Refreshments provided.

Bring your clean protective clothing if you wish to inspect the hives.

Free parking for members in the wood yard on the day.

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

Next Meeting:-

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.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Apiary Awareness Meeting

The weather was not ideal for the Branch's first Members Apiary Awareness day on the 16th June and the numbers of members attending reflected the weather. However those that did make it, managed to inspect several hives before the rain became too heavy. That was a perfect excuse to move under the cover of our marquee in order to enjoy a fine selection of cakes, tea and coffee. Of course there was plenty of chat about bees and beekeeping.

Hopefully the weather will be better for our next Apiary Awareness event on Saturday 16th July at 2.00 pm and that will encourage more members to come along to see the exciting Apiary that Baruch and his team are creating for the Branch.

If you can't join us on the 16th then make sure you visit our stand at the [MID DEVON SHOW](#) on Saturday 23rd at their new Knightshayes site.



## NBU Starvation Alert

Beekeepers may wish to monitor their colony food levels closely over the next month as many colonies, particularly those which are strong and had their spring honey crop removed, will be at risk of starving. In some parts of the UK, the weather is still cold and foraging opportunities for large colonies are few and far between. It is important to check and monitor all your colonies feed levels, if you do not wish to open them up because of poor weather, lift below the floor, in turn, on both sides of the hive to see how much it weighs. Where the hive is light, liquid feed should be applied directly above the bees. Feed can be prepared from refined white sugar and water mixed at a 2:1 ratio or one of the proprietary ready mixed syrups available from Beekeeping equipment suppliers. More information about mixing up sugar can be found in the Best Practice Guidelines no. 7 <http://www.nationalbeeunit.com/index.cfm?pageid=167>

Large starving colonies of bees will take 1 gallon (approx. 5 Litres) of syrup very quickly while smaller colonies will take half a gallon (approx. 2.5 Litres). After feeding, heft the hives again and check the weight and if in doubt feed some more in a few days.

## HONITON SHOW August 4<sup>th</sup> 2016.

The [Honiton Show](#) is a very friendly event and the Bees and Honey Section is hoping to exceed last year's competition entries.

We are keen to welcome more DBKA branch members to join us this year with both competition entries and honey sales. There are lots of new beekeepers in all the Devon branches who have not yet exhibited. So novices are particularly welcome.

Please look through the new Competition Schedule as there should be at least one class for you to enter - there's also a class specifically for children. The Honiton Show always has a competition class reserved for novices (competitors who have not previously won a prize at any Honey Show) - see Section C.

For the last seven years we have been able to award the prestigious BBKA Blue Ribbon Award to the best competition entry (because we have had more than 100 overall competition entries), we are keen to award it again this year and increase the number of entries and competitors - new beekeepers, novice exhibitors and their families are especially welcome, along with the 'old hands'

Join us at the Honiton Show on Thursday 4th August for a great day out. We have candle rolling, honey tasting, observation hives, lots of information bee friendly plants, your chance to have a try competing in a class that appeals to you and lots more.

Please check the DBKA or contact Richard Crowther on 01404 811 049 or [rich\\_crow@hotmail.com](mailto:rich_crow@hotmail.com)

See you there.

Bring your family.

Full details are also on our website <http://tivotonbeekeepers.org.uk/club-notice>

## Moving House –

I thought I lived in a quiet part of Tiverton but this all changed in June. Prior to cutting the grass I noticed how happy my bees sounded & told them so. Having cut the grass I thought my bees are definitely are happy today, they are buzzing louder now than earlier. Wow, how active they are. Oh b---er! They're swarming. The mower was forgotten as I raced to the side of the bungalow to watch their direction of flight. Thankfully they had only hopped over the wall to the neighbours rambling rose, an easy retrieval.

Referendum day, excitement mounting & yet another swarm, bees flying all over the neighbouring Cul de Sac. I raced back to my bees but all was quiet. I knocked on doors to warn the residence of flying bees & set off to vote. On my return the bees had settled on to a fence, another easy retrieval. When I called in to warn the neighbour there may be a few bees left in his fence, I was told two more swarms had landed in a Laburnum tree but only one group had stayed snuggled safely high in the top branches.

Having read the book 'Life of Pi' I decided to watch the film. During a break I looked out of the window at the beautiful blue sky. No, it couldn't be. Yes it was, another swarm hanging down from the arch in front of the door. Again, b---er! Positive thinking 'they will be gone by morning'. But of course they were still there. Again an easy collection now housed at the Knightshayes apiary.

But what about the Laburnum tree? Bravely Chairman Malcolm climbed an unsteady ladder (until I stood on the bottom) making four attempts to shake the Queen down. But she was having none of it so after being shaken & definitely stirred she flew off with her entourage into the far distance. Is that the end of the excitement or will I be moving? *Many thanks to Janet Franklin for this amusing contribution.*

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.