

# The Tivvy Buzzette



Newsletter of the Tiverton Beekeepers ~ November 2016

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

## Branch Meetings

**Wednesday 16 November at 7.30pm**  
**Branch AGM and Film** – *see below*  
Uplowman Village Hall

**Friday 2nd December 2016, at 7:00pm for a 7:30 pm start.**

**Skittles vs Taunton Beekeepers** at the Blue Ball pub, at Sampford Moor, Wellington.  
*More details below.*

**Wednesday 14 December at 7.30pm**  
**Branch Christmas Dinner at the Tiverton Hotel** – *see details below*

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

## Beginners' Meetings at Uplowman Village Hall

7.30 to 9.30pm

**Wed 9th November 2016** – The Hive and its components

**Wed 23rd November 2016** - The Beekeeping year

**Wed 7th December 2016** – The history & origins of bees & hives

**Wed 11th January 2017** – Swarms - their causes and prevention

## Devon Beekeepers' Association

Final notice

### Tiverton Branch Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 16th November at 7.30 pm

Uplowman Village Hall

Proposals and Nominations are to be with the Branch Secretary by the 2nd November.  
[tony.lindsell@btinternet.com](mailto:tony.lindsell@btinternet.com)

We are looking for a new Secretary and help on the committee. Volunteers are also needed at the Knightshayes Apiary.

The AGM will be followed by a film titled 'Fields of Gold' - a film produced as a guide for farmers and Beekeepers with regard to the oil seed rape crop. An insight into the processes and production of the plant and products.

At the **October Branch Meeting** we were given a fascinating talk by Eleanor Burgess, a Seasonal Bee Inspector from Somerset, who was one of those that went to Tetbury, Gloucestershire, in September to help locate the Asian Hornets' nest, following the identification of an Asian Hornet in Tetbury by a beekeeper. Eleanor's tale of the methods they used to try to locate the nest, the surprisingly excessive expectations on the distance the hornets might travel to find food, and the eventual discovery, extermination, recovery and scientific analysis of the nest had us all gripped. The lack of genetic diversity of the Asian Hornets in France, and the probable effect of the British summer weather on any colony are encouraging, but alert beekeepers will provide our best defence against this alien species.

## Annual Christmas Dinner

**Members and their partners are invited to the Tiverton Beekeepers' Annual Christmas Dinner on Wednesday 14th December 2016 at The Tiverton Hotel, Blundells Road, Tiverton.**

This is a three course Christmas meal with a vegetarian alternative – please see the *menu over the page*. Your meal selection can be made on the night, but **please book and pay in advance** as described below (please include all names of those wishing to attend).

To reserve a place at the dinner, members are asked to pay **£20 per person, as soon as possible**:

- by BACS to account number **06514553** sort code **60-21-27** using your name and XMAS as reference, e.g. “W Lines XMAS” and complete the attached form, returning it to **gavingscott@hotmail.com**
- by cheque, made payable to **DBKA Tiverton Branch** and post it along with the filled-out form to: Gavin Scott, East Great Moors, Kerswell, Cullompton, Devon EX15 2ES.

Tiverton Beekeepers' Annual Christmas Dinner 2016

IN THE GALLERY RESTAURANT, The Tiverton Hotel, Blundells Road, Tiverton

Wednesday 14th December 2016 7pm for 7.30pm

### Menu

Roasted Tomato and Red Pepper Soup

Brixham Mussels in a Coconut Broth

Chicken Liver Parfait with Red Onion Chutney and Melba Toast

Ham Hock Terrine with Piccalilli, English Mustard Butter and Toasted Croûte

\* \* \* \*

Traditional Roast Devonshire Turkey with all the Trimmings

Belly of Spiced Pork in a Chilli Noodle Broth

Braised Lamb Shank with Creamed Potato and Rosemary Jus

Baked Fillet of Salmon with Baby Vegetables and Marinated Fennel

Goats Cheese and Beetroot Risotto

***All served with a selection of Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables***

\* \* \* \*

Traditional Christmas Pudding and Brandy Sauce

Vanilla Panna Cotta with Balsamic Berries and Honey

Baked Peach with Amaretto and Honey

Poached Pear with Chocolate Sauce

Selection of Cheese and Water Biscuits

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Freshly Filtered Coffee and Mince Pies

## DBKA Membership 2017

Attached to this Buzzette please find the DBKA Subscription/Renewal 2017 form and associated notes. May I point out that DBKA will be enforcing its rule that anyone who has not renewed membership before the beginning of January has lapsed their membership, and may therefore not receive the DBKA and BBKA mailings again until renewal is completed.

You'll note that the forms are to be returned to Kim Orchard, who is taking over from me as Branch Treasurer and Membership Secretary.

If you have any questions, then please contact Kim or me. Thank you.

William Lines  
wlines@btinternet.com

Kim Orchard  
steve\_kim\_orchard@hotmail.co.uk

Following the publication of the October 2016 edition of Beekeeping, **Ruth Neal, the DBKA Show Chairman and Secretary**, kindly wrote the following to our Branch Chairman, Malcolm Jenkins:

*I was amazed to read the report in the Beekeeping magazine about Tiverton Branch's triumph at the Mid-Devon Show. What a wonderful achievement and the awards are so richly deserved.*

*Mind you, it doesn't surprise me that the branch has done so well! I have always known that you have some exceptionally talented people in your branch. Your Stevenson Trophy entries have been so imaginative and educational and so cleverly achieved, and I am really pleased that the Mid-Devon judges recognised what valuable work you are doing to educate both beekeepers and the general public.*

*Please pass on to the members my warmest congratulations, both to the movers and shakers and the back-up team who do all the tea making and other vital support work.*

*I feel so proud of you all and thrilled that you have silverware for the trophy cabinet!*

*Surely there is someone who would like to do my job!!!*

## Apiary Site Available

On an organic farm of 800 acres near Bampton and close to moorland and woodland. The site can be reached via a track, and was previously used by a bee farmer who kept twelve hives on the site. Some stands are still there.

If interested, please contact Tony Lindsell by email:  
tony.lindsell@btinternet.com

Tiverton bee keepers club has again been challenged to a friendly skittle match by the members of the Taunton bee keepers club. The previous challenge was a good social event and it would be nice to try and beat them again.

No expertise is required and all members and their families are invited to attend and take part.

I have agreed with the manager of the Blue Ball pub, at Sampford Moor, Wellington to the use of their skittle alley for the event. The Blue Ball is about mid way between the two clubs and is easy to get to.

The date for the challenge is Friday 2nd December 2016, at 7:00pm for a 7:30 pm start. The skittle alley is free and if suitable numbers are attending then I can arrange for buffet type food to be served for about £8 a head. If not any individual meal is very good value.

I will collect the names of those attending on behalf of the Tiverton club, so please email me mcrook505@yahoo.co.uk with numbers attending please.

Malcolm Crook

## **Never a dull moment.**

### **National Trust Apple Fest at Killerton**

The National Trust has run a festival in October to celebrate the Apple and in particular the cider apple, Cider being the preferred drink for country folk in the west of England for centuries. This year the Trust approached DBKA to ask whether they could help, as they wished to incorporate the importance of pollinators in the production of apples. Exeter and Tiverton agreed to put a stand together at quite short notice for the two day event.

The stand, being a joint venture, was staffed by Tiverton on the Saturday and Exeter on the Sunday with combined help to erect on the Friday and dismantle on Sunday late afternoon.

Why do we do it? Being a member of the branch is not just about keeping bees. A lot of the enjoyment of being a member is in helping with such ventures and meeting the public of all ages, and explaining the life of a colony. This was made easier by having our new observation hive on display. I arrived at lunch time to help with the afternoon shift, just as the heavens opened. The crowds were not put off, 8,000 plus turned up over the week end. The children tend to drag the parents in to see the bees and that is our opportunity to explain what is going on. 'What is the difference between a bee and a wasp?' is a common question, but also how do we set about keeping bees; that is our chance to get a plug in for our beginners' course.

For me the afternoon highlight was a little girl who had been enthralled by the observation hive and watching the queen and seeing a baby bee emerging from a capped cell. A few minutes later she came to find me again to ask if I could show her the King! The more you put in to such ventures the more you get out of it. If you would like to help at such ventures let the committee members know or better still volunteer to stand at the forthcoming AGM. Thanks to all the team for a job well done.

Keith Owers

Thanks for reading this far!

Please NOW fill in the  
**Membership**  
and  
**Christmas Dinner**  
forms, with payment, and send them off.

Please send any articles for the December  
Buzzette to William Lines (temporary  
Buzzette Editor) by Sunday 27 November.