

The Tivvy Buzzette



The newsletter of the Tiverton Beekeepers ~ October 2016

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

Branch Meetings.

Branch Meetings:

Wed 19th October. Elena Burgess (DEFRA seasonal Bee Inspector), who will talk to us about pests & diseases including the topic of the moment the Asian Hornet. 7:30 at Uplowman Village Hall.

Wed November 16th AGM (see opposite).

There are still a few places left on the 2016/17 if you know of anyone who wants to join the course, let me know asap. Keith Owers.

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

Devon Beekeepers' Association
Tiverton Branch.

Notice of Annual General Meeting.

To be held at 7:30 pm on Wednesday 16th November 2016 at Uplowman Village Hall.

Nominations for officers and/or committee members and/or any proposition must be with me, the Branch Secretary by 2nd November 2016.

Please support the branch and come along to the AGM.
tony.lindsell@btinternet.com

The meeting will be followed by the film "Fields of Gold" which gives an insight into the processes, production and end products of oil seed Rape.

Thanks Tony

September Branch Meeting Report.

The first meeting of the branch took place on Wednesday 21st September at Uplowman Village Hall.

Around 20 members attended and after the announcements had been dealt with we all settled down to listen to an enlightening talk by Ian Homer who along with his wife Ruth are on the selection and organizing committee of the International Meeting of the Young Beekeepers, which is an annual event open to all young beekeepers' between the ages of 12 to 15, staged over 3 days at venues all over the world.

Young beekeepers' are in short supply and the aim of the committee is to promote and get young people interested (the younger the better) in the art of beekeeping. We can all help with this by finding out if our local schools, colleges etc would be interested in having bees on their grounds with a view to getting the students to take an active roll in looking after them under the guidance of an experienced beekeeper. Ian and Ruth would be interested in taking their talks and expertise into Schools etc if there is an interest. If you know of any schools that may be interested then please inform Ian or Ruth or tell our branch secretary who will pass on the information.

In 2017 the event will be hosted by England at Marlborough College in July. England will be represented by 4 young beekeepers' who have to go through a rigorous selection process before being selected. Full funding is not quite in place yet but Ian was confident that this shortfall would be forthcoming.

Polite Message.

Have any members or guests inadvertently taken home any protective jackets from the Branch Apiary, if so could they make arrangements to return them please?

Many thanks in anticipation Malcolm Jenkins.

Report from the Branch Apiary September 2016

After a busy season in which we divided some of the hives by artificially swarming them, lost swarms from others, picked up swarms from Town later passing them on to three members, we now have ten colonies – a small increase from the eight we started with (3 overwintered, 3 bought locally (including one from Wells) and two nucs from the Isle of Man.) Having inspected the hives recently, we've found all ten to be in good condition, ready to face the cold season. About half of them require a bit of feeding, which we are in the process of doing.

Only one colony did not swarm either naturally or artificially – no. 4 given to us by Jon Gubb about 18 months ago. It didn't swarm last year either, and still has the original queen, marked green. It produced more honey than most of the others, and is a possible candidate for some queen rearing next year.

Last autumn we treated the bees with Apiguard, but in the spring we decided to hold back and see how they fared. For a whole year now they have not been treated, and some of the hives have an average daily mite drop of just one or two, while the maximum is ten. The average for the whole apiary is about 5 mites per hive per day. On the bottom inserts of some of the hives there is evidence of hygienic behaviour. Some members have expressed their opinion that colonies showing a relatively high mite drop should be treated, and so we are in the process of applying apiguard to those.

We have extracted approximately 100 lbs of clear, golden, rich flavoured honey, after leaving enough stores on the hives so as to minimise feeding.

In our Sunday morning sessions we have started to delegate the work so that members can get more experience handling the bees and reading the state of the hive; the intention next year is to do this more systematically. Anyone interested in gaining experience and supporting the apiary is welcome at these Sunday sessions, which will go on till the end of September, and resume again next March.

Baruch Livney.



GORDON HILL

It is with great sadness that we have heard of the passing of Gordon Hill. He was a very active member of both the DBKA and the Tiverton Branch.

He started beekeeping back in 1949 and was a keen user of the Smith hive.

Not satisfied with just being a beekeeper he was a member of several beekeeping organisations and obviously enjoyed taking on officer roles within those organisations.

He was the Secretary of the Tiverton Branch for 40 years and became their honorary President in 2002.

He was Chairman of the DBKA from 1990-1993 when he then became their President until 1996.

He was also Chairman of the Show Committee and in that role he met many of the Royal Family including the Queen & Duke of Edinburgh, Princess Margaret and Princess Anne.

The DBKA awarded him a 50 Years in Beekeeping certificate in 2001.

For 15 years he organised Beekeeping trips abroad. A Somerset members recalls the following 'I and other Somerset BKA members will remember Gordon chiefly from the time that he and Marion organised the Devon BKA annual continental beekeeping trips. I still have a letter he sent to me regarding our trip to Alsace and Black Forest in 1989. I think he organised this annual event for many years. I always found him to be so efficient, well organised and always so courteous and pleasant to deal with.' The destination of their trips included the Loire valley, the Rhine valley, Switzerland, Germany & Ireland and included Beekeepers from Somerset to Yorkshire and Ireland.

He was also an active member of BIBBA, DARG and was the Chairman of the SWJCC.

Gordon died a few days before his 95 birthday and our thoughts go out to his wife Marion (a keen supporter of his beekeeping), his daughter Beverley, son-in-law Tony and Granddaughter Emily.

His funeral will take place at East Devon Crematorium, Rockbeare on Monday 3rd October at 2.30 pm.



Bulk Purchasing Scheme

Only ONE bargain left:

All the Ambrosia Syrup has gone!

Now the only bargain left are 13 boxes of 1 lb gold screw top honey jars with gold lids; price is £19.90 per box of 72 jars. Also good for jam, etc

If possible, email me first on jender008@gmail.com or phone 07977 922173 or 01884 257726.

The aim of our scheme is that 100% of the money saved with our bulk purchasing scheme is passed on to our members. No money goes to club funds.

The next bulk purchase will be in January for foundation and frames.

Derek Evans Bulk Purchasing coordinator.

Annual Christmas Dinner

Members and their partners are invited to the Tiverton Bee Keepers Annual Christmas Dinner Wednesday 14th December 2016 at The Tiverton Hotel, Blundells Rd, Tiverton. This year your meal selection can be made on the night from the selection which is a three course Christmas meal with a vegetarian alternative. This form is separately attached to your Buzzette email, to fill out electronically and return by email to; gavinscott@hotmail.com or hand in at the October branch meeting, *(please include all names of those wishing to attend)*.

Name	Tel No	No of Tickets	Payment made by Cheque or BACS	Amount Paid	Form Returned to G Scott
Example	01884840975	1	BACS	£20.00	Yes

To reserve a place at the dinner, members are asked to pay the £20 per person cost to Tiverton Beekeepers by BACS to account No 06514553 Sort Code 60-21-27 using reference "Christmas Dinner", or by cheque, made payable to Tiverton Beekeepers' & post along with this filled out form to; Gavin Scott, East Great Moors, Kerswell, Cullompton, Devon EX15 2ES. Or by email to gavingscott@hotmail.com

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 by the 27th of the month for inclusion in the next months edition of the Buzzette.