

The Tivvy Buzzette



The newsletter of the Tiverton Beekeepers ~ May 2017

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

Branch Meetings.

Apiary inspections will take place at Knightshayes on Sundays throughout July. All members welcome please bring clean bee suits, start time 10:00 hrs.

We still have a vacancy on the committee for a Branch Secretary, to replace Tony. Interested? Then please contact the Chairman Malcolm Jenkins.

NBU Warning;- High Mite Levels in Colonies

In some regions of the UK, colonies are starting to show symptoms of high levels of Varroa mites, for example wing deformities and perforated cappings. Therefore, it might be prudent to start monitoring colony mite populations and information on how to do this can be found on page 15 of the Managing Varroa booklet. Also, the Varroa calculator can be used to help calculate your estimated mite population in your colonies:

<http://www.nationalbeeunit.com/public/BeeDiseases/varroaCalculator.cfm>

If your colonies have a high amount of Varroa, i.e 1000 mites after calculating it from the average drop, you may want to treat them with a registered varroacide. Suitable treatments where brood is present would include:

Apiguard; Apilife Var; Apistan*; Bayvarol*; Mite Away Quick Strips (MAQS) and; Thymovar.

If you wish to use an oxalic acid based product then a broodless condition should be created first. Additionally, if you have honey for human consumption on the hives, remember that MAQS is currently the only registered product which can be used. When using any medicines it is important to remember to always follow the manufacturer's instructions.

*Mite resistance to these products have been recorded and so a resistance test (the Beltsville test) should be carried out before using the product.

Mid Devon Show Saturday 22nd July 2017

The Tiverton Beekeepers will once again be at the Mid Devon Show with their stand, hoping to match last years success! If you would like to volunteer to do a stint on the stand on the show say then please contact Malcolm Crook, who will be co-ordinating the volunteers. Malcolm can be contacted on 01884 821927.

HONITON SHOW August 3rd 2017.

Honiton Show has come around again and you have another chance to showcase the fantastic work that we have all been doing over the year. You are all undoubtedly as eager to exhibit and sell the gallons of honey, that your bees have been busily producing, as the public are to see, taste, buy and learn about it. Now is your chance.

Last year we had 135 entries and that entitled us to award the Blue Ribbon to the entry judged to be best in the show. For a small show this was excellent and totally due to the efforts that all of you made. Let us try to do it again. Of the 135 entries 9 were total novices all of whom won, some in cash, some in experience but all were left feeling good at the end of the day. It would be great to get more novices involved. Many of us were inspired last year by the family of four who submitted 24 entries won 2 prizes and received 3 commendations.

If you don't have any honey then try the Cookery section. Take a look at some of our new recipes. I am just about to send the Flapjack recipe to a couple of 8 year olds who wanted to have a go. There is even an Art section and a photography competition.

Please join us at the Honiton Show on Thursday 3rd August for a great day out. As well as the competitions we have candle rolling, honey tasting, observation hives, lots of information, bee friendly plants and lots of people who are very knowledgeable about bees. If you can't come along in person you can still try competing in a class that appeals to you, just send in the entry form and get somebody to drop off the entries (any problems contact me).

Please check the DBKA website for further details or answers to any queries <http://www.devonbeekeepers.org.uk> or contact Richard Crowther on 01404 811 049 or richardncrowther@gmail.com See you there.

Bring your family.

Colonies of Bees For Sale

For Sale; 2 hives of bees, one and a half brood on national frames. Contact, Barbara Brannam, bjbrannam@hotmail.co.uk, or 01884 820745

Also, Mr & Mrs Williams, The Firs, Sampford Peverell, offer an apiary site in their large garden. Anyone interested contact them on 01884 820199.

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.