

# The Tivvy Buzzette



The newsletter of the Tiverton Beekeepers ~ September 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 September. All members welcome please bring clean bee suits, start time 10:00 hrs.

## **Branch BBQ.**

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> Sept 2pm.**

**Voddens Barn, Clay Lane, Uffculme. EX15 3AJ**  
**All members and their families welcome, let me know numbers attending for catering purposes.**  
**[jon.gubb@voddens.co.uk](mailto:jon.gubb@voddens.co.uk) 01884 840975 please.**  
**Feel free to bring along some of this years honey crop for a taste off!!**

## Styles of beekeeping 2.

The second article by Baruch in the series this month looks at:-

### **Beekeeping by the book – Bailey comb change and Artificial Swarming (AS)**

A colony is overwintered in a brood box (b/box) or b/box plus super (brood-and-a-half), depending on its size. In the spring, add supers as required. Place a queen excluder above the first super, giving the queen more room to lay her eggs.

If the brood pattern is not the best, do a Bailey comb change early in the season as follows: place a second b/box with clean frames and foundation on top of the first (any super to go right on top.) If the colony is strong it will draw out the new frames and the queen will start laying in them. If this doesn't happen after a week or two of good weather, raise a frame with brood from the old box up to the new one, and feed if necessary. Once the new combs either side of this frame have eggs and larvae in them, lower the old frame back down to the old box and introduce a queen excluder between the two boxes, making sure the queen is in the top box.

About three weeks later, once no brood is left in the bottom box, remove it and extract any honey. Dispose of the comb and scrape and torch the frames and the interior of the box. If disease was the reason for the patchy brood pattern in the original box, a better pattern in the new one will indicate that the problem has been alleviated. Such a colony is now in a better position to start the season and is more likely to thrive.

As soon as the weather warms up, keep an eye on the colony with brief weekly inspections to detect signs of swarming preparations. Once queen cells are found, proceed to swarm the colony artificially as follows: estimate the age of the most advanced queen cells and leave the hive alone until a day before they are due to be capped (the larva spends five days in the open cell, so wait until day 4). Insert a queen excluder under the b/box and leave it for two days; this is to block the queen from flying. During these two days the cells will have been capped, and the colony attempted to swarm, possibly more than once, returning to the hive every time to reunite with the trapped queen. The colony is now fully ready for swarming.

On a dry day, remove the hive from its stand leaving the queen excluder in place, and put a new *(continued on next page)*

b/box over it with fresh comb, if possible, or new foundation. Look through the parent colony and find the queen; transfer the frame she is on to the new box which is on the old stand. Add any supers and close the hive – this is the artificial swarm (the frame that was transferred with the queen to the AS can be returned to the parent colony some 20 minutes later after shaking off the bees and queen; this is to ensure that no new queen cells are built by the swarm). A few days later remember to remove the queen excluder from under the AS.

The parent colony is left a couple of feet to one side; turn it through 90 degrees to face away from the AS. Five or six days later move it to the other side of the AS, or to another position in the apiary. This is done in order that it lose most of its flying bees, which go to the AS, and is therefore unable to throw casts, even if there are several queen cells present. (Note that supers, if any, are added to the swarm, not the parent colony; the latter needs to be deprived of as many flying bees as possible to discourage secondary swarming.)

### **Exmoor Division Honey Show.**

Members are invited to exhibit their wares at the Exmoor Division Honey Show, which this year takes place at Dunster on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October. For the full schedule of the show please go on to our website and download the it from there.

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### **Bulk Purchasing Scheme – Jars**

I have ordered a delivery of 1 lb. Honey Jars with Gold Screw Lids, for delivery in early September.

Additionally, due to demand, I have ordered extra Lids. So now you can recycle your returned honey jars with new Lids.

**It is on a first come, first serve basis – when it's gone its gone!**

#### **Prices**

1. 1 lb. Honey Jars with Gold Screw Lids at £19.75 per box of 72 jars
2. Extra Gold Screw Lids at £6.30 for 72 lids

Please **email me your order** to [jender008@gmail.com](mailto:jender008@gmail.com)

**Payment** by cheque/cash on collection. Cheques payable to 'DBKA – Tiverton Branch'.

Congratulations to everyone who bought the Ambrosia Syrup. It flew out of my garage even quicker than last year. Well done! Happy bees!

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. Derek Evans Bulk Purchasing Coordinator

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### **Volunteers required – Killerton Apple Festival 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> October**

Can you help? We need volunteers to help put up the Marquee on the 13<sup>th</sup> people to help steward the stand on both days 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> and to dismantle the marquee after the event. This is a great day and if you can help please let Tony Lindsell know [tony.lindsell@btinternet.com](mailto:tony.lindsell@btinternet.com) there will also be a chance to sell honey at the festival. For more info take a look at their website <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/killerton/features/killerton-cider-and-apple-festival>

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.