

The Tivvy Buzzette



The newsletter of the Tiverton Beekeepers ~ November 2018

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

Welcome to the November edition of the Buzzette.

Upcoming dates for your diary

Wednesday 21st November 7.30 at Uplowman Village Hall - ***Tiverton Branch AGM***. Your chance to have your say on what you'd like to see the Branch providing for its members & support the Officers & Committee who work hard on your behalf. Anyone interested in joining them would be more than welcome - speak with our chairman, Malcolm.

BRANCH CHRISTMAS DINNER.

Wednesday 19th December 7.00 pm at Mid Devon Indoor Bowls Centre, Amory Park, Tiverton.

A two Course carvery meal with tea, coffee & mince pies to follow all for only £15 - everyone who went last year was very pleased with the meal so we are using the same caterer. A bar is available.

We have to pay for the hire of the Bowls Centre separately so will be holding a Christmas Draw to cover the cost of the hire. Great prizes!

Please book by emailing me (tony.lindsell@btinternet.com) or letting me know at our AGM. Please also pay in advance either directly into Tiverton Beekeepers (reference Christmas Dinner) bank account or by cheque. Tony

Devon Beekeepers Day

Dear Secretaries, I hope you are all planning to attend the DBD at the Future Inn , Plymouth on 15th December. The event is Free and open to all Devon Beekeepers. We are hoping that all branches will bring along a table top display to share some aspect of their Branch's Beekeeping year. There will also be displays from NBU and DARG. The speakers are John De Carteret updating us on Jersey Beekeepers' Campaign against the Asian Hornet and Dr. Claire Bethune, Immunologist at Derriford Hospital, talking about the body's Reaction to Bee Stings. Claire will also be presenting the results of the DBKA members questionnaires on stings.

Please ensure you publicise the date amongst your branch members as much as possible.

It is also time to think about selling the draw tickets for the event. I wonder therefore if I could prevail on you to promote and sell these at your branch events this autumn? The prizes are as follows:-

Prize
Poly Hive
Thorne Voucher £50
Small Bee Smock
£30 book voucher
Bee Gyms x2
Box of apiguard x2
£10 voucher
£10 voucher

Donated by
National Bee Supplies
Thornes
The Beeshop.co.uk
Northern Bee Books
Vita Bee
Vita Bee
Compak
Beckys Beezzzs

Tickets are £2 each or £10 a book of 5 with any surplus going to DBKA funds, some of which will be used for research and for initiatives to fight the asian hornet invasion. Can I send you 10 books per branch? If you could gather the money and retain it in the branch accounts it will be collected through the spring levy, that will make the system work more smoothly. Unsold tickets should be returned to me by 10th December so that the numbers sold can be determined. I can send you more tickets if required and they will be available at the Devon Beekeepers' day.

National Bee Supplies, now owned by Sutton Seeds, will also be coming to DBD and setting up a pop up shop- good for beekeeping supplies and Christmas presents!

Last year, we had feedback from some branches to say they did not receive any of this information, so can I please ask you to ensure this information goes out to all your branch members (including those not on email).

Many thanks Viv Thorn.

Notes from the apiary - November 2018

On a sunny Sunday Oct 21st around mid-day all twelve hives were bringing in pollen. The varroa drop ranged from zero to two per day. We had treated four hives with MAQS (formic acid) in September, a third of the total number.

It's worth noting the history of hive no. 14, our strongest this season. This colony was brought to us as a swarm by William Lines in May 2017. It developed well in spite of the poor summer of last year, and went into winter without treatment. In the spring of this year it emerged in great form and peaked with six boxes, two of which were brood boxes. We used it twice to rear queens, and took some frames with bees and brood for nucs. It also yielded 120 lbs of honey.

In August we divided this hive into two, and in September both parts showed a considerable varroa drop and were both treated with MAQS. I would like to think that the fact we did not treat it in the first year, when it didn't call for treatment, in fact contributed to its success the following year - they had been spared the shock of a nasty chemical. Having treated the two boxes now, it will be interesting to see how they come out next April.

The configuration of the hives going into winter is as follows: 1 polynuc; 4 on a brood box; 3 on 'brood-and-a-half'; 4 on two supers. Next spring we'll have the option of adding a brood box to some of the latter group in order to convert them back to the more traditional arrangement of brood-and-a-half + queen excluder + supers.



Some of the hives had to be fed, but others did not after we resisted the temptation to take off all the honey, and left behind enough for their needs. Where we did feed, we tried not to overdo it, bearing in mind that during the first inspection last spring we found many frames clogged with granulated sugar which is useless, and which deprives the queen of space to lay. I think 15 kg of stores is plenty, then keep an eye from end of February until the weather warms up. Add fondant or dry sugar if the hive is very light.

Queen wearing new crown.

Dear Fellow Beekeepers

Please can you insert the following notice - or something similar - into your upcoming Branch newsletter. There are plenty of places still available.

Don't forget to book your place online at the South Devon Beekeeper's Convention before 31 October for just £15. The Convention is on Sunday 4 November (doors open 9.15 am for 9.45 am start) at The Ariel Centre, Ashburton Road, Totnes, TQ9 5JX.

Tickets after 31 October, or on the door, cost £20 each. Pasties (£3) available at lunchtime but must be booked before 31 October. Full details, and to book online, see www.devonbeekeepers.org.uk.

Regards
Lilah Killock

If you have any interesting articles relating to Bees & Beekeeping, please do not hesitate to forward them to me jon.gubb@voddens.co.uk by the 27th of the month for inclusion in the next months edition of the Buzzette.