

# The Tivvy Buzzette



The newsletter of the Tiverton Beekeepers ~ March 2018

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

## Branch Meetings.

### Next Meeting

7.30 Wednesday March 21<sup>st</sup>

Our very own Keith Owers, "Better use of nuc boxes whilst maintaining a good honey crop"  
Uplowman Village Hall.

## Advanced Notice

Wednesday April 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting at Uplowman Village Hall.  
Annual Nosema testing evening, a chance to have your bees tested and to have a look at bees through the microscope.  
Please let the secretary know if you will be bringing a sample of bees for testing.

## February Meeting Report

The February meeting of the TBK was well attended with 36 members and guests in attendance. The Chairman welcomed all and after club announcements and notices had been dealt with he welcome Martyn Hockin, a Beekeeper from Woolacombe in North Devon who had found Asian Hornets at his Apiary. Martyn described how from the first report to the proper authorities right through to the destruction of the Hornet colony nine days later. It was clear from the outset that the proper authorities were unclear in their approach and as Martyn pointed out it was nine days after his initial report until the colony was destroyed which it was felt is unacceptable. Time most important and delays can be major factor in stopping the spread of this devastating pest. Martyn and the attendees at the meeting agreed a more coordinated approach involving Beekeepers and DEFRA, BBKA, etc.

## Messages from the Chairman

### Orchard Site Offer, Brithembottom

We have received a generous, offer from a local farmer, in the Halberton, Cullompton, Willand triangle, to place some hives on his forty acres of cider orchards. They can be placed there for the apple blossom, or, permanently, as he has white clover and wildflowers, between the rows. The boundary hedges, are also offering plenty of forage. If anyone, is interested, could please contact Jess or myself, for further details.

### Asian Hornet

Also, in view of the potential risk, of the appearance of the Asian Hornet, in view of the difficulties, encountered, by Martyn Hocking, last year, the County, have put together a program, to assist clubs in supporting their members, should they encounter, this pest. We, as a club, are preparing to set up our own action support group. If any of our members would like to be involved in this group, would you please kindly contact either Tony or myself, as soon as possible. We will keep you all updated as we move forward.  
Many thanks, Malcolm.

## **The Community Beekeeping Group in**

### **Sampford Peverell is actively seeking new members.**

At the moment we have five active beekeepers and two others who help out when they can. We have had up to 5 National hives at various times over the past few years but currently have only one from which we hope to expand next season.

We have a rota so everyone has the option to be away if they need to and there are usually at least two at the apiary at each time. The apiary is in a lovely spot with a fantastic view, a shed for the equipment and a water supply.

We ask that anyone who is working with the bees on their own should have completed a beginner's course. However anyone on a course is welcome to join us to gain experience whilst they are training.

This is particularly suitable for those who don't have space to have their own apiary or who would like to gain experience before striking out on their own. If you are interested we would love to hear from you. Please contact Rosalie Chamberlin by emailing [rosaliechamberlin@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rosaliechamberlin@yahoo.co.uk) or by ringing on 01823 672135.

The Community Beekeeping Group is part of Tiverton Area Communities Transition, a Transition Network Initiative. The Network's role is to inspire, encourage, connect, support and train communities as they self-organise to create initiatives that rebuild resilience and reduce CO2 emissions.

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## **TAUNTON AND DISTRICT DIVISION**

Annual Auction of Secondhand Beekeeping Equipment Sunday March 25th Ruishton Village Hall, Nr Taunton TA3  
5JD Items received from 10am, Auction starts at 2.00pm, Refreshments Raffle, Free Car Parking. Thank you so much, in advance, for your help. Barbara Drak.

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### **Thornes are coming to Devon - job opportunity!!**

Dear Sir/Madam

Good Morning, and I hope you are well and looking forward to the upcoming beekeeping season.

We have some exciting news here at Thorne Beehives that we would like to share with you. In early spring we will be opening a Thornes of Devon shop within the grounds of Quince Honey Farm, South Molton, EX36 3AZ. For several years customers have been asking for us to open a store in the South West and we have now grasped the opportunity. The store will carry our full range of equipment and of course the location, within Quince Honey Farm, is a perfect fit.

The next step is to recruit two people to run the store. We envisage this being a job share, with each person working three days per week, but of course covering for sickness and holidays. Retail and customer service experience is essential and Beekeeping knowledge is preferred.

We think this is a great opportunity for a local beekeeper and we would be grateful if you could forward this email to your branch members. Any interested applicants should send a CV to [sales@thorne.co.uk](mailto:sales@thorne.co.uk), or please contact us for a full job description and any further information.

## **2018 Programme - all at Uplowman Village Hall**

7.30. Wednesday March 21st. Our very own Keith Owers needs no introduction to you. He will be talking to us about how to make better use of our Nuc Boxes but maintaining a good Honey crop.

6.30. Wednesday April 18th. Advanced warning of our annual nosema testing and chance to examine bees under a microscope. Please could you let us know if you are going to be bringing your Bees along for 'testing'.

As always refreshments are provided and time for questions for the speaker.

During the summer months we are hoping to have a programme of meetings on the 3rd Wednesday evening of each month at our Knightshayes Apiary. More about them in next month's Buzzette.

Tony

### **Asian Hornet Action Team**

Following last month's talk by Martyn Hocking about his experience with the Asian Hornet the Branch will be setting up a support team to help any of our members who have the misfortune of discovering an Asian Hornet around their hives. If you are interested in joining this team please contact me at [tony.lindsell@btinternet.com](mailto:tony.lindsell@btinternet.com).

If you have any interesting articles relating to Bees & Beekeeping, please do not hesitate to forward them to me [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.