

The Tivvy Buzzette



The newsletter of the Tiverton Beekeepers ~ April 2018

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

Branch Meetings.

Next Meeting

6.30 Wednesday April 18th Uplowman Village Hall,

Annual Nosema testing evening a chance to have your bees tested & to have a look at your bees through the microscope.

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.

Chairmans notes

Nosema evening on Wednesday 18th. April at 6.30 pm. Please bring along your samples of 30 dead bees for inspection. If you have no bees, please come along, as there will be some samples, available, for you, from the club Apiary. There will be members in attendance, to offer advice, if your sample, is found to be infected.

The Sunday, weekly inspections, at Knightshayes, have been postponed, until Sunday 15th. April, 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon, due to adverse weather forecast. We have two landowners, in the Cullompton area, who are offering placements for bee hives, to our members, please contact me on 01884258086, for further details, if interested.

It is very sad news, to report, the passing on one of our Honary Members, Mrs. Marion Hill, she is the widow of the Late Gordon Hill, who was a stalwart worker, for both the County and our club. Mrs. Hill, has in recent times, has continued, supporting our club and kept a keen interest in club news and events.

DBKA County Honey Show - 17th to 19th May 2018

The 'Taste of Honey' Stall traditionally offers honey from around the county so that people may taste and then, hopefully, buy from the Honey Sales Stall. We are asking for donations from all Branches, from those members selling honey at the show, and as many members as can spare a couple of jars.

Please let me know if you are able to donate any type of honey to help us maintain our diversity of choice -

lizwestcott@me.com; 01803-855420.

Liz Westcott 'Taste of Honey' Stall Manager-

Summer Programme of Meetings.

We are planning to continue our meeting programme through the summer with events at our Knightshayes Apiary. We hope to make them about practical beekeeping without necessarily going into the hives. So keep the 3rd Wednesday evening if the month clear so you can join us. More information next month.

Devon County Show - Bees & Honey Marquee

You may recall that last year at the show Tiverton Branch won the Divisional Cup for scoring most points in the competition- this was the first time we'd ever won the trophy so wouldn't it be good if we could win it again. The classes schedule is now available and entries have to be in by 20th April. Derek Evans entered for the first time last year and won the National Honey Show Card for gaining most points in the Novice Classes. So don't be overwhelmed it can be done. It doesn't just have to be honey there are a whole range of classes ranging from wax, mead, cakes, art, photography, cosmetics, flower arranging or an item of beekeeping equipment.

Entry forms on the DBKA website.

Good luck.

Tony

A message from Barry Neale – General Secretary DBKA

Dear Members,

I have taken the liberty of attaching to this newsletter another letter which could be used to send to your local council asking them to plant wildflowers in the central reservations on the roads. The letter is self explanatory and if you would like to use it you may find a difference in the roads surrounding the area in which you live. We can only live in hope.

World Bee Day

In New York the United Nations declared a World Bee Day which is to be on the 20th May each year, this was proposed by Slovenia and was accepted. We have been looking at how to celebrate the World Bee Day, the ideas up to now have been a Honey Cake tea party at the branches, photographs of honey bees to be used as posters at the new hall at Stoneleigh. Any further suggestions would be welcome.

The Shows Committee have two shows organised for this year, and there was a suggestion that if anyone from the Associations wanted to take part for the experience they would be made very welcome, the first one is at Chatsworth 6th to the 9th June 2018. I went as a volunteer last year and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. The visitors are not beekeepers but as you will all know, bees are very interesting and with all the displays, no one was disappointed. The second one is at Blenheim Palace and is on the 2nd to the 5th August 2018. Again, this was well attended last year. The footfall through the doors is counted at each show and averages 5000 people through the marquee. It is so good to spread the word of honey bees and I am sure if you visit you will enjoy the day, not even mentioning the other events of those days.

International Meeting of Young Beekeepers (IMYB)

As you may have seen elsewhere, this years' International Meeting of Young Beekeepers (IMYB) takes place near Bordeaux on the 2nd-6th of July 2018. Our BBKA team will be trained and organised by Simon Cavill

As usual we are holding an open selection day at the BBKA HQ in Stoneleigh on Sat the 24th March starting at 10am to select our three team members plus a reserve. Any attendee must be aged between 12 and 16 years old on January 1st 2018 and affiliated to a BBKA Association. However, this year we are also welcoming anyone over the age of 10 who would like to learn more about the IMYB and might want to put themselves forward in future years. Attendees to the selection day will need to be accompanied by a parent or guardian and bring a packed lunch. Please let either the BBKA office or Simon Cavill know at simon.cavill@bbka.org.uk if you wish to attend or have any more questions about the IMYB or the selection day.

Packaging of BBKA News

The BBKA News team are looking at the packaging of BBKA News. It is not as straight forward as just swapping to a paper envelope, there are a number of things to consider, i.e. the weight of BBKA News, the Royal Mail postage rates, the current stock of poly wrap, the production of the paper envelope and the cost. We would hope to see some changes later this year, but all these things will have to be considered first

Sharon Blake. BBKA News

Please see the letter to the council below,

Dear Councillor ?????

We write with some concern about the difficulties of the pollinating insects in our area and would like to ask the council to consider helping in this respect at the same time making savings on their own maintenance budgets.

Some councils at their own instigation have started to plant wild flower seeds in the central reservations on their roads, this serves two purposes, it provides nectar and pollen for all the pollinating insects but it also cuts down on the maintenance charges for their upkeep.

One Council who have taken this to heart is Coventry in the Midlands, where all the central reservations are a mass of colour throughout the summer months, there is no need for weeding or grass cutting and the area's do not look neglected or barren.

The flower heads are left to self-seed and they will produce new plants the following year with colour and support for pollinators for many years.

Asian Hornet Action Team

Following the February 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.

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.