

The Tivvy Buzzette



The newsletter of the Tiverton Beekeepers ~ August 2018

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

Welcome to the August 2018 edition of the Buzzette.

Branch Programme August.

Thursday 2nd August. Visit our display in the Bees & Honey Marquee at Honiton Show.

Beekeeping meeting Saturday 4th August 14.30. Meeting at Bishops Farm, Kentisbeare. EX15 2BE. By kind permission of Mr.& Mrs.C. Blackmoor.

From Cullompton take the A373 to Honiton. After approximately 2.5 miles turn left at Post Cross for Kentisbeare, then take the first left, at the next junction Bishops Farm is on your left. Watch out for apiary signs.

See you all at 14.30, refreshments will be provided.

Saturday 18th August. Fellow Beekeepers from the Okehampton Branch will be visiting our Knightshayes Apiary, please come along to welcome them and help with refreshments.

Sunday 2nd September. 2.00 PM Annual Branch BBQ by kind invitation of Jon & Julie Gubb at their Clay Lane Apiary in Uffculme EX15 3AJ. For catering purposes please let me or Jon know if you will be attending. As is the norm at this event, please bring a small jar of your honey so we can compare honey crops across Mid Devon

Wednesday 19th September 7.30 at Uplowman Village Hall - our Winter Programme starts with Gerry Stuart from the Torbay Branch who will tell us all about the Bee Project at Paignton Zoo. The bees are part of a Heritage Lottery Fund project run by B4 - Bringing Back Black Bees, a Cornish conservation organisation working to promote the qualities of the native black honey bee *Apis mellifera*.

Date for your diary - this year's Branch Christmas Meal will be on Wednesday 19th December . Put the date in your diary now.

We have arranged, a visit from Okehampton Branch to our Apiary, on Saturday 18th. August at 2.00 [pm.It](#) would be ideal, if we could have as many members as possible, attend, to entertain, our visitors and exchange information and ideas, regarding the bees. It is of course, weather dependent and refreshments, will be available Thanks Malcolm.

Thanks

Dear all - just a quick thank you to everyone who helped contribute towards yesterday's Branch Display at Mid Devon Show. Despite several heavy rain storms, everything went according to plan and it felt to me that we had a very successful day.

Thanks again. Tony

Asian Hornet Week

To all members

As you are aware, the critical time, to find and locate, any Asian Hornets, that may have arrived, near us is fast approaching. With this in mind, the B.B.K.A. are holding, a National Asian Hornet Week from 10th to 16th.

September, whilst this may seem some way off, now is the time, for preparations, to be made.

I do not propose, going through all the information, that is provided, so if you read the latest B.B.K.A. News, starting at page 268 you will find various information, advice, trapping plans and contacts.

The club has an Asian Hornet Action Team coordinator, Chris Coutts, who has been collecting various information, regarding this pest, for some time. I am sure Chris would be happy to share some of his information and indeed welcome, any fresh input, from members.

Some of the information, given may not seem fair to other insects, however, please read the comments, made by Ken Basterfield on page 265 in which he expresses, his personal views, on this subject, before making, any judgement.

The Late Summer B.B.Q. held in Early September, will also, have an Asian Hornet Theme, again, to remind people, to be aware, of this pest.

Many thanks,

Malcolm.

Bulk Purchasing Scheme – Ambrosia Syrup

It's that time of year again! Except this year is proving a little tricky to anticipate/guess (!) what the weather is going to be over the autumn and winter and how your bees are going to cope.

One answer is to give them a good start and give them Ambrosia Syrup!!

Hence, I have ordered a pallet of Ambrosia Syrup, for delivery in early August. The syrup comes in 12.5kg jerry cans and is ideal to feed to your bees after you have taken your honey from the hive and treated for varroa.

Over the past few years a number of people who have fed Ambrosia Syrup have commented how their bees have come through the winter with no problems.

It is on a first come, first serve basis. IF, there is a great demand I may order a second pallet – there are 60 cans on a pallet!

How to order

If you would like Ambrosia Syrup
at £13.55 per 12.5kg
container please

1. email

me your order to jender008@gmail.com

2. Pay by cheque/cash on collection (or BACS beforehand)

Cheques payable to :-

DBKA – Tiverton Branch

Product Information

Ambrosia® bee feed syrup is a liquid ready-made feed with a balanced sugar type spectrum (fructose, dextrose, sucrose), based on beet sugar of the purest quality. The high percentage of fructose and *(Continued on next page)*.

lower portion of glucose prevents the formation of crystals in the honeycombs. The high sugar concentration makes the syrup resistant to microbiological decay. The ideal combination of the sugar type spectrum ensures the bee's optimal use of the nutritional components. The nutrient concentration is approx. 72.7 %. 1 kg (or, 1 litre) ambrosia® bee feed syrup is 0.73 kg (1 kg) sugar crystals.

Ambrosia® bee feed syrup is particularly beneficial in the early and later winter feeding:- its formulation comes the closest to natural Bee feed, – effortless acceptance and utilization-less inversion work needed, conserves the bee's energy balance. Tests showed energetic advantages on a scale of 15 %. High resistance to microbiological decay leads to longer shelf life. Hygienic, time-saving, and practical handling.

Next month, I hope to order round 12oz Honey Jars with gold lids, for collection in September. They are the same shape but smaller in size than the 1lb jars of previous years. 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.

Two Offers of land for use as apiaries

Bickleigh

Whilst manning the club stand at the recent Mid Devon Show, a member of the public made a very kind offer to any club member of the free use of several acres of wild flower meadow as an apiary site. Any member interested please contact
Tim CARR, Henbere Farm, Bickleigh. EX16 8RA
Tel 01884 855593

Bampton

We live in Bampton and have a large garden bordered by the river Bathern. We are interested in bees, but have decided not to keep them ourselves. However, we were wondering if any of your members might like to keep bees in our garden? There are lots of trees and flowering plants so it would probably be suitable, and we would welcome the increase in bee numbers. We seem to have a lot of bumble bees anyway.

. Best wishes,
Gill Erskine-Hill.

Our phone number is 01398 332990

Do I Treat My Bees?

Last month our apiary manager explained why he did not want to treat his bees for Varoa Mites. I would consider this poor advice for beginners in particular. Some points I am in full agreement with, we should be endeavoring to reduce the chemicals we use on our bees.

I have worked all my working life growing glasshouse crops both salads crops, cut flowers and flowering pot plants. In the early days in the late 50s and early 60s we used some very hard chemicals that proved to be bad for the environment and for the spray operators, Nicotine DDT, BHC, and Mercury based fungicides. Why did we use them? Simple, no safer alternatives and the alternative was the loss of the crop and possible loss of your job. As a manager it is disaster to see a crop being lost and you are unable to stop the pest or disease.

Control measures are much improved today, control measures are much more rigorously tested. Soil and ground water testing annalist is truly amazing, hence chemicals that were once thought to have degraded in the soil, traces can now be found and declared dangerous. Bio-logical methods are much preferred, computer controlled ventilation has meant better humidity control which has meant a big reduction in the use of fungicides. Predatory insects are better understood and managed to control pests like white fly and glasshouse red spider mite. Plant breeding has given(*cont*)

us varieties that are resistant to some pests and diseases. Do not condemn all seeds marked as f1 hybrids, disease resistance is great, f1 hybrids that have changed flower form is a different matter.

I have had an interest in plants and insects since I was about 6 years old, bomb-sites in London were very good for butterflies and other insects.

Back to honey bees, I keep bees for the enjoyment I get from them in retirement. I increased the number of hives to offset the cost of some of the equipment like extractors and uncapping trays, so in one sense I do have a small commercial interest in the honey I produce from my thirty hives.

In teaching beekeeping to beginners I think it is important to tell them how to keep their bees alive. It is very important for new beekeepers not to lose their first hive. Once they have more than one hive, you have more options to replace lost colonies. Having gained experience you can make your own judgment on the direction you wish to go in. What will I be using this year. I prefer to treat my bees in mid August to enable my bees to raise healthy bees to go through the winter. A product like Apiguard has served me well with minimal winter losses without the need for winter treatment with oxalic acid. Contributed by Keith Owers.

Beekeeping for Beginners Course 2018

The Tiverton Branch of the Devon Beekeepers' Association will be starting their annual 'Beekeeping for Beginners Course' at the end of August 2018. The course will run for 15 sessions from August 2018 to June 2019.

Meet the Bees

1. On **Saturday 25th August** you are invited to - '**Meet the Bees**' at our Knightshayes, Apiary, Tiverton. We will kit you out (bring your own wellies please!) in full bee protective clothing.

This registration form must be (i) returned to Malcolm Jenkins at the address below ASAP and (ii) the £90 course fee at the 12th Sept session. This will include Full Membership of the BBKA (British Beekeepers Association) from 1st January 2019.

All our indoor sessions are held at **Uplowman Village Hall**, on **Wednesday evenings between 7.30pm and 9.30pm**.

The programme will include:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2. Introduction to Beekeeping | 12th Sept |
| 3. The Colony | 26th Sept |
| 4. The Hive and its Components | 3rd Oct |
| 5. The Beekeeping Year | 10th Oct |
| 6. Colony management | 24th Oct |
| 7. Bee and colony health | 14th Nov |
| 8. Plants & Hive products | 28th Nov |
| 9. Getting Started | 5th Dec |

Sessions 10 to 15 will take place at our Apiary where you will have practical tuition in handling and managing live bees. These sessions will take place between the **beginning of April and mid June 2019**.

For further information and to return the attached enrolment form to:

Malcolm Jenkins

22, Anstey Crescent, TIVERTON EX16 4JR

01884 258086

Email: malcolmjenkins07@gmail.com

Enrolment form (PDF) attached to Buzzette email

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.
