

The Tivvy Buzzette



The newsletter of the Tiverton Beekeepers ~ January 2019

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

Welcome to the January edition of the Buzzette.

Hi all, hope you have all had a great Christmas and that you all have a good new year!

Branch Programme

We start the new year programme on Wednesday 16th January 2019, 7.30 pm at Uplowman Village Hall. Our programme for 2019 starts with a visit

from Liz Westcott who is Chair of Torbay Branch and the Chair & Secretary of the County Show Committee responsible for the Bees & Honey marquee. Liz also runs a small business selling products that she has manufactured from her hives. She will be sharing with us some tips on how to make products from our bees' wax, cosmetics and food. She will also keep us updated on what's changing in the County Show Bees & Honey marquee. Another meeting well worth attending.

Branch Christmas Dinner 2018

A great evening was enjoyed by 38 of our members at MidDevon Bowling Centre with a lovely carvery meal supplied by John Whitton of the Toucan at Bampton.

Many of our members supplied prizes for a raffle from beekeeping equipment to wine & chocolates. Thanks go to, amongst others, Bill Hill, Malcolm Crook, David Pearce and Keith Owers who kindly donated a Christmas Cake that he had won in the DBKA Draw. £86 was raised as a result.

It was good to see new members as well as those who've been at it a bit longer all in good spirits and enjoying each other's company.

I'd book your place for next year if I was you.

Time to update your knowledge.

The branch has been running an improver's course for the past 6 years, and all have found it helpful. Forty eight members have completed the course with half going on to take the BBKA Basic Assessment and passing.

The course runs for six sessions at Uplowman village hall 7.30 to 9.30 on the following dates February the 12th-19th- 26th and March the 12th-19th- 26th.

I will not be delivering a formal lecture but will be leading the discussion on a wide range of topics. The idea is that you will be demonstrating your knowledge of the subject and I will be filling in with all the points you do not know. This format will enable us to update the group without going over all the areas that you understand. We will not be looking in live hives but you can read frames to know what was going on.

If you wish to join the course please contact me on 01884 254977 or on email keithowersbees@gmail.com

What Should I do ?

Having checked my bees in mid December I found one or two hives that are on the light side for the time of year. Checking the hives in September- October I was quite happy that they would be fine for the winter.

What has gone wrong? I would say the weather. Late autumn has been mild and wet and beekeepers have been telling me their bees have been flying well on fine days. So far so good but what have the bees been returning with? We can see them coming in with loads of pollen but we are unable to see if their tank is full of nectar. My guess is that this autumn there has not been as much nectar available so the returning bees have been refueling from their winter stores.

Not all hives will be the same because you have different populations in each hive.

My normal procedure would be to check the weight of each of the hives the first week in January and if in any doubt about the hive weight give them candy or Ambrosia past over the feed hole or directly on top of the frames.

Replacement feeding will be continued through to April.

I hope this warning has not come to late for your bees. Good luck with your beekeeping in 2019.

Keith Owers

Bulk Purchasing Frames and Foundation

LAST CHANCE FOR A BARGAIN!

STILL TIME TO SAVE MONEY

NOW is the time to start planning for 2019. Attached is the order form for Frames and Foundation. As I am away during the latter part of January and most of February, I am having to bring this ordering a month earlier than usual. I am sorry if this causes any problems.

DON'T MISS THURSDAY 3rd JANUARY 2019 DEADLINE for a bargain!!

Happy New Year!

Derek Evans

Bulk Purchasing Coordinator

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.