

The Tivvy Buzzette



The newsletter of the Tiverton Beekeepers ~ February 2019

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

Welcome to the February edition of the Buzzette.

Chairman's Notes

A warm welcome to the new new committee members

We welcome, the return to the committee, of Malcolm Crook in the role of Vice Chairman, Gary Dufton, Barbara Brannan and Susan Frankham have also, agreed to join the committee, Gary has taken over the role of librarian, following on from the excellent work of Bernard Johns, Susan has agreed to take on the role of minute secretary, again following the previous good work of Margaret and Colin Wellard.

Gerry Hanley has kindly taken up the post of Assistant Apiary Manager, supporting Baruch, whilst not being a committee member.

Whilst these additions, are most welcome, the committee still have roles to be filled. At present the shortfall, is being taken up by other committee members, doing multiple roles. Clearly we cannot expect, people to give up more, of their valuable time, to help us. With this in mind, we would like some members to consider offering their services. Jess will give further details of requirements, if you contact her.

New DBKA Website Password

There is a new password, to gain access, to the Devon Beekeepers Association secure website, if you wish to use the new password, will you please contact Jessica, on her email, to obtain it.

This months meetings

The speaker at the next monthly meeting, on Wednesday 20th. February is Simon Jones, our Regional Bee Inspector, who will inform us of the work the N.B.U. are undertaking, on our behalf and the current situation, regarding the Asian Hornet.

Nosema testing evening

We are holding a Nosema testing session at Uplowman Village Hall, on Wednesday 17th. April, there will be further details in next month's Buzette.

Malcolm.

Don't forget to book your place online for the DBKA Holsworthy Convention 23rd February 2019.

Doors open 9.00 am for Breakfast Bar and Trade stands.

Lectures throughout the day start at 10am finish around 4:30.

Venue: Holsworthy Memorial Hall.

For full details, and to book online, see www.holsworthybeekeepers.org.uk £20 includes Lunch, drinks and yummy cakes.

Pay by bacs or on the door.

[Click here to see the programme](#), what a great line up!

See you on the 23rd February.

Linda Davis

Workshops for 2019

Swarming

Two separate afternoon sessions which explore the phenomena of honeybee swarming.

Saturday April 27th between 2pm and 4.30pm will deal with the whys, how's, and when's of swarming including how often you need to inspect in order prevent or control it. **Cost £5**

Saturday May the 4th between 2pm and 4pm will focus in more detail with different methods of prevention and control which we think are the most effective to stop you losing your bees. **Cost £5**

Bee-gin again!

Reboot your beekeeping skills. Sometimes turning the computer off and then on again will sort out how well it responds. We can easily become unfocussed and sloppy when looking at our bees. Going back to basics and relearning the fundamental procedures and perceptions which we use to manage our colonies will refresh, refine, and strengthen a framework for great working practices.

Saturday April 20th 2pm till 4.30pm. Cost £5

Are your bees not doing as well as you would Like?

They could be stressed! The balance of your colony is essential for its well health, well being and success. Learn how to read your colony and to recognize when they are out of kilter. You could steer them back onto the right track by using simple management techniques. Sometimes these could make the difference to your colony surviving and flourishing or dwindling and dying out!

Saturday 8th June 2pm till 4.30pm. Cost £5

Healthy bees' day

A detailed look at honey bee disease: diagnosis, treatment and avoidance. The day will teach you how to recognize healthy brood and how to detect when things are not as they should be. Plenty of hands on experience coupled with expert advice and tuition.

Saturday 20th of July from 11am till 4.00pm. Cost £10. Bring your own lunch or dine at the Grange restaurant on site.

Give your bees a flying start to the season!

You can't build a great building on a weak foundation. You must have a solid foundation if you are going to have a superstructure. **Gordon B Hinkley.**

This workshop will outline some of the ways which you can promote and strengthen the welfare and fitness of your colony in spring to pave the way for a productive season. **Saturday March 16th, 2pm till 4.30pm. Cost £5**

Making Increase.

It's always a good idea to have more than one colony just in case something goes wrong. Instead of buying in expensive nucleus colonies why don't you produce your own? Splitting your bees is the simplest form of queen
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rearing and we can show you some of the ways which have worked for us most successfully. **Saturday May the 18th from 2pm till 4.30pm. Cost £5**

When to leave your bees alone.

Have you ever wondered how some of the larger professional beekeepers manage to look after so many colonies? Do they inspect them relentlessly every 8 or 9 days all through the season?

How good record keeping and a basic understanding of the natural life cycle of a colony can lead to less manipulation, more meaningful inspections, and happier bees. There are times when your girls can do perfectly well (actually better) without you. Learn when and how to inspect your colonies and when you can give them a break for less stings and a more relaxed summer. **Saturday May the 25th between 2pm and 4.30pm. Cost £5**

What the books don't tell you and why bees change their minds!

Bee behaviour can be confusing and we often resort to the anthropomorphic and rather desperate statement "Oh well the bees don't read the books!" Actually there is an awful lot in the books which is misleading or only partially correct (depending on what books you read of course). This workshop aims to debunk some of the common myths and misconceptions about bees which are often quoted in literature and by word of mouth. **Saturday July the 13th from 2pm till 4.30 pm. Cost £5**



Skep Making - an article by Sue Francombe

Early on a mid-January Saturday, Norma and I drove down to the Buckfast Bee Barn for a 2 day skep making course, run by Paula Carnell - a beekeeper and skep maker with an inquiring mind to all things related to natural beekeeping around the world. She told us of her journeys to visit beekeepers in South Africa, Oman, Bhutan, The Netherlands and helping set up apiaries in England. She has seen many styles of beehives and brought along a sun hive that she had made, along with other examples of skeps.

However, we had to make our own skeps so in the warm, spacious barn (best equipped barn I've been in with tea and biscuits on tap) 16 beekeepers, all with an interest in making things, sat and watched Paula coil lengths of straw around a tiny starting hole and then binding the straw to the coil below with lapping cane. We were shown how to keep adding straw to the collection in our left hand, held together in a guiding circle of an elastic band or plastic bottle opening. To open up the straw to thread the cane through we used a fid – a pointed tool that we pushed through, that had a groove along which we pushed the cane which we pulled all the way through and tightened to secure the straw. In the past a turkey bone was used. I don't know if anyone does still use one.

Paula had made everyone a starter so we could get straight onto the stitching. (We were shown how to make a starter on the second day which we have ready to make our second skep at home). Like most crafts it looked straightforward when someone else was doing it. It was a fairly simple technique to get the hang of but difficult to keep it neat and level and going into the shape that we wanted. We first of all had to make a flat circle or straw coiled round and stitched in place. Some of us had fat coils of straw and others thin, some twisted the straw as they went along and

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others kept the straw parallel. The skeps on display were neat with uniform stitching and solid structures. So far I had made a misshapen coaster, with straw in one direction, cane in another and water everywhere. We misted our work to keep it supple. My work grew slowly and it was strangely calming sitting chatting, listening to fellow beekeepers' stories and forcing straw to go where we wanted it to.

We returned on Sunday hoping to finish our skeps. We had to form the shape of the skep, but as we (supposedly) knew what we were doing it was a day full of coiling and stitching, stopping for tea and lunch. Changing to a new piece of binding cane proved tricky, as did trying to keep the sides straight. One test of a well-made skep is that it should be strong enough to support someone standing on it. A couple of people tried, successfully to do this. I didn't finish my skep but will continue to work on it at home. I might even make another now I have had a practice attempt.

However, the next thing I really need to learn is how to use my skep to catch a swarm.

Here is the link to Paula's website. And of course reading one leads to looking up something else. Fascinating, this beekeeping business.



www.paulacarnell.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.

On the next page is the 2019 membership renewal form for those of you who prefer to print off and return to the membership secretary Kim Orchard. Below is the price guide to help you work out the amount due.

Registered Member BDI

Your total number of hives	1-3	4-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-25	26-30	31-35	36-39
Additional Cost	Nil	£2.00	£5.25	£7.75	£9.50	£11.10	£13.60	£16.10	£18.1

(Example - if you have 4 hives in total, the first 3 are covered in the subscription. You need to pay £2.00.) **Partner/Junior Member BDI**

Your total number of hives	1-3	4-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-25	26-30	31-35	36-39
Cost	£2.00	£4.00	£7.25	£9.75	£11.50	£13.10	£15.60	£18.10	£20.10

Devon Beekeepers' Association (DBKA)

UK Registered Charity Number 270675

DBKA Membership Renewal 2019

Branch

Title (Mr/Mrs etc) First Name(s) Surname

Address

Please complete a separate form for each member

Postcode Telephone

Date of birth (Junior only)

Email address

Membership Category @

Registered (includes BDI for up to 3 colonies) £37.00 Partner £17.00 Junior £17.00

Associate £14.00 Social £4.50 Honorary (please detail - subscriptions as before)

Voluntary contribution to Branch funds

Voluntary contribution to DBKA President's Fund

Bee Disease Insurance (see below) for total of colonies

Beekeepers Quarterly: I wish to join the DBKA bulk subscription scheme for 2019 @ £20 per year (4 issues)

BKQ is published March, June, September and December. If after 1 May, BKQ subscription is £15 (3 issues); if after 1 August £10 (2 issues)

Total amount due

District/Parish where bees are kept

Gift Aid Declaration: DBKA can claim 25p in Gift Aid for every pound from your membership subscriptions and donations. Please circle YES or NO in the box to the right to indicate if you would like DBKA to treat all membership subscriptions and donations as **Gift Aid** donations. I confirm I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations, it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

YES
NO

DBKA will only contact you from time to time with newsletters and news updates relevant to DBKA at large, and to notify you of DBKA, BBKA, and other beekeeping associations' related events. We will take all reasonable steps to keep your details safe and we will not pass your details on to any other organisation without your explicit consent. The only exceptions to that will be to the associations/agencies required as part of your membership process, and names and addresses only to the DBKA Beekeeping Magazine printing company. Your data is only kept by us while you remain a DBKA member and for a period of one month after your membership lapses to provide you with a chance to renew your existing membership. We may, however, retain data for differing periods of time for different purposes as required by statute or best practices. All DBKA members are free to update their details stored with us at any time through your Branch Membership Secretary. You have the right to request:

- Your contact details, other than your name, are not published in the DBKA On-line Member Directory*
- Your contact details are not passed to the NBU*

Such requests should be made directly to your Branch Membership Secretary.

Signed Date

SEND YOUR FORM WITH PAYMENT TO:

**Mrs Kim Orchard, Little Orchard,
4 Orpington Court, Halberton**

For payment by bank transfer* use Account Name:

DBKA Tiverton Branch Beekeepers

Cheques should be made payable to: Sort Code: Account No:

*** IMPORTANT: If paying by bank transfer, email your form to Branch Treasurer stating that you have paid electronically.**