

The Tivvy Buzzette



The newsletter of the Tiverton Beekeepers ~ June 2019

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

Welcome to this months edition of the Buzzette.

Notes from the apiary - May 2019

After artificially swarming a couple of hives, we have some 15 colonies at the Knightshayes apiary, a larger number than we need. Before mid-June some of these will be united (after using some of the spare queens to make up nucs) so as to reduce to a more manageable number as well as to consolidate ahead of the main honey flow - roughly mid-June to mid-July.

An isolation apiary, mainly for swarms, has been established at Hillersdon near Cullompton where we have some six nucleus boxes with swarms brought in by members, as well as nuclei generated at KH. It has been a good year for swarms so far, and they are always welcome. These will later go to this year's beginners, with spares for other members.



The TBKA out apiary at Hillersdon

We have had a generous offer of the use of a lovely site at Bradford Farm between Uplowman and Tiverton. However the Committee have generally felt that the TBKA bee empire is spreading too quickly and risking getting a bit out of hand, so we are resisting the temptation of wild-flower meadows and a large cabin and will not be placing the club's bees there. However the owner has offered the use of the site to members who wish to use it as a small scale out-apiary and two members have already taken up the offer. *Continued on next page.*

Our first attempt this year at queen rearing started well and then went pear-shaped. All ten punched cells were accepted and developed, but after a week the bees appear to have decided to abort nine of the ten cells, possibly because the frame bearing the cells was placed too close to the old queen. The tenth cell, spared by the bees, has been used to make up a nucleus. If there is interest among those of you who are able to come out on Sunday mornings, we may well have another go at queen rearing, this time by using a 'Nicot set', similar to the Jenter system.



The site at Bradford Farm

At the club committee the issue of the size of the apiary at Knightshayes has come up for discussion and opinions differed, as with all things human, it seems, and beekeepers are terribly human that way - 'humans beeing' we are after all... Some favour a modest six colony base figure going into winter, while others prefer a few more. We are limited in storage space, and the greater the number the more time and energy consuming the work becomes.

On the other hand, if we want to generate nuclei for the beginners, as well as some honey for the shop at Knightshayes, and allowing for possible winter losses, it may be that six colonies leaves too little a margin of error. We agreed on ten for now, a reduction from last year's twelve, though this figure can always be adjusted up or down. Do give us your view if you have one.

We've decided to delegate the inspection work by working in two or three teams, therefore the more people come out the quicker the work can be accomplished - your chance to make a difference - and the more experience to stand to gain.

National Botanic Garden of Wales Trip - Saturday 9th and 10th May 2020

Thank you to those who have responded to the last Update. ITINERARY Saturday 9 May in the morning we depart by coach (pickup points and times to be confirmed) to our accommodation at The Ivy Bush Royal Hotel, Carmarthen, stopping on route for lunch, and arriving in good time for dinner and perhaps a walk around this interesting town as well. Sunday after breakfast we depart for the NB Garden of Wales where we will be met by the resident apiarist, Lynda Christie, who will give those interested in bees a tour of the apiaries and research laboratories etc, whilst others view the extensive garden and grounds etc. There are plenty of opportunities to purchase lunch on site. We then make our way home, at a time to be agreed. PRICE £130.00 per person based on 21 passengers or £120.00 per person based on 26 to 29 passengers. Single room supplement - £12 per night. The price includes all coach travel, dinner, bed and breakfast and May 2020 hotel charges. The price excludes lunches and entry into the Botanic Garden but arrangements are in hand for a group booking at a reduced entry charge there. Details to be confirmed. PAYMENTS Initial payment £10.00 per person required by 30 June to secure a place, refundable if minimum of 21 not booked. Interim payment £15.00 per person required by 15 September. Final payment to be received by 1 March 2020.

PAYMENTS Initial payment £10.00 per person required by 30 June to secure a place, refundable if minimum of 21 not booked. Interim payment £15.00 per person required by 15 September. Final payment to be received by 1 March 2020. Cheques to be made out to Totnes and Kingsbridge BKA and sent to J Wells, Southview House, Wrangaton, South Brent, Devon. TQ10 9HJ. Please email any questions to jeremy.ena@gmail.com The Gardens In addition to the beekeeping and research areas there is a wealth of other interesting things to see including the enormous glasshouse, birds of prey, garden designing, youth work/training and much more. See the website for more information. I look forward to the trip and hope that it proves to be enjoyable, interesting and educational for all. Regards, Jeremy. Tel. 01364 72180 NB Transport and hotel booking is being arranged by Majestic Tours of Teignmouth, a registered tour company.

NEW MICROSCOPIST NEEDED FOR THE BRANCH

Unfortunately our microscopist Bryan Wright has had to resign from his post on the committee for personal reasons. We would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his very positive contribution to our branch over the past few years.

However it does mean we need someone to step up to the role. If you have an interest in bee anatomy and pollen dissection or would like to develop your skills with a microscope then you would be ideal for the role! There is a course you can go on to learn all about it which is subsidised by the branch.

Please feel free to ask any questions and we will do our best to answer them. If you are interested in taking this position then please email me jessica7lee@btinternet.com

Branch Honey Extractors.

The branch has two manual honey extractors available for members to borrow. One is a 9 (super) frame radial & the other is a 4 frame (or 2 brood frame) tangential - both can be booked for use up to 3 days at a time at no cost. You will have to collect the extractor from & return to me.

Tony 01884841257 - 07412610502

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.