



# THE TIVVY BUZZETTE

The Newsletter of Tiverton Beekeepers – March 2020

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



## **Weds 18<sup>th</sup> March – Asian hornet exercise** with Gavin Nuttall-Owen and Tony Lindsay

A group of our members recently went to an Asian Hornet Training Event for Beekeepers across the South West. The Asian Hornet poses a huge threat to honey bees and all pollinators so we will be attempting to have a practical evening where we can talk about identification, trapping, baiting, tracking & educating others. A very worthwhile evening that will prepare us for the County Wide Asian Hornet Watch during the last 2 weeks of April.

## **Weds 15<sup>th</sup> April – Nosema Testing day** – Put the date in

your diary and more details will be in next month's Buzzette

**See you at 7.30pm at Uplowman Village Hall**

## **Also don't forget - Sun 29<sup>th</sup> March – Taunton Annual Auction**

At Ruiston Village Hall TA3 5JD. Items for sale will be accepted from 10am and auction starts at 2pm.



## **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> – Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May**

ADVANCE NOTICE!

Our display is starting to take shape. We have had 3 meetings and the team is working very well with lots of ideas. Well done team!!

**However, we are looking for volunteers to steward our display in the Beekeeping Marque.**

We need 4 people each day. Two in the morning and two in the afternoon. If you are interested please contact Derek at [education@tivertonbeekeepers.uk](mailto:education@tivertonbeekeepers.uk). All stewards get free admission to the show which means you get half the day helping your club and half a day to wander around and enjoy the show.

Derek EVANS



## Social evening with Taunton Beekeepers

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February saw our second social evening of the year which was a combined event with members of the Taunton Beekeepers Branch. This year it was held in the White Horse at Bradford on Tone, just over the county border into Somerset.

The evening was based around a skittles match with Tiverton members taking one team, and Taunton taking the other, enjoying an enjoyable fun evening with plenty of friendly banter between the two teams.

Twenty-five people attended and enjoyed an excellent buffet at half time. The food was so plentiful that some members (most), managed to opt for second portions!

The evenings final scores were Taunton 204 and Tiverton, the winners, with 206.

Well done Tiverton

## DID YOU KNOW .....

### Saint Valentine



St. Valentine: **Patron saint of beekeepers**. There's more to **Saint** Valentine than Valentine's Day, romance, and love. He's also the **patron saint of beekeepers** — charged with ensuring the sweetness of honey and the protection of **beekeepers**. 9 Feb 2018

### “Bee” Ready for Swarming – with Maggie North

On Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February we welcomed Maggie North from our neighbouring Beekeeping group in Taunton.

Maggie is a very enthusiastic, knowledgeable and practical beekeeper. She didn't come with a PowerPoint presentation but instead had two brood boxes, a Nuc box and replica cardboard frames and foundation with cut out queens & queen cells. She had five or six different scenarios that we may find in our hives around swarming time and challenged us to decipher what was going on. Her main message was to keep things simple when attempting to do an artificial swarm and to make sure you understand why you are doing what you are attempting to do! Once you have mastered the basic artificial swarm you can then experiment with all the other ways of separating bees which we can become confused by when we are starting out on our bee-keeping journeys.

She then explained each one to us and after our usual tea, coffee, cake & biscuits break, she explained how we could manage each scenario to our benefit and help the bees. Thirty-three of our members attended and it was very encouraging to see many of our new beekeepers there.

It was a great evening and we look forward to inviting Maggie back on another occasion.



Our press release officer, Derek Evans, also put an article about swarming in the Tiverton Gazette which advertises our beginners' courses and informs the local public about the fact that we as a branch collect swarms and rehome them at the training apiary or another suitable site.

Thanks to Tony Lindsell for this article and Derek for remembering to take the photograph!



## HELP IS AT HAND IF ANY MEMBER SHOULD NEED IT

It has recently been brought to our attention as a club that one more of our members has been extremely ill and may have suffered a life changing incident as a result. One of their main concerns and worries was the current state of their colonies, as through illness, they haven't been able to examine them since July last year.

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I would suggest that every beekeeper has a deep regard and respect for their bees and if through illness or incapacity of some kind, they cannot be with them, then that must increase stress and tension levels.

It is important that we support each other and part of your membership with Tiverton branch should include the offer of help when needed. We would like to suggest that if any member is thought to be having worries or concerns over how they can manage their own colonies during periods of illness or family problems, then an approach could be made to them of an offer of help. We, as a club, would like to be informed of any such problems – however big or small and we will try and offer any assistance that would help in these circumstances.

Malcolm Crook



### PLEASE DON'T BUY SUGAR FOR SPRING FEEDING!

The Club has a stock of rejected sugar from Tesco's and Morrisons which is available to all our members to use for feeding their bees.

Please contact Malcolm ([chairman@tivertonbeekeepers.uk](mailto:chairman@tivertonbeekeepers.uk)) if you wish to collect some!

### NEW PASSWORDS FOR DBKA WEBSITE

Each year new passwords are needed to log into the DBKA;- members site – if you wish to use these please contact me

[secretary@tivertonbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:secretary@tivertonbeekeepers.co.uk)

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