



THE BUZZ

East Devon Beekeepers' Newsletter
www.eastdevonbk.co.uk

January 2019

Reg Charity No
270675

Dear Member,

Our first meeting of 2019 is our joint affair with West Dorset Branch on **January 10th 7.30pm at Whitchurch Canonichorum Village Hall, DT6 6RF.**

The talk is entitled 'Medicinal Apitherapy: A Journey into the Healing Hive' with Dr Gerry Brierley. Learn of the medicinal properties of honey, drone larva, pollen, bee bread, royal jelly and propolis. Gerry will share her personal survival story from Lyme Disease along with scientific evidence of how bee venom has saved the life of thousands.

(We usually help each other out with lifts to this event. If you wish to car share, meet in Kilmington Village Hall car park at 6.40-6.45pm and organize car loads to carry on to the venue. Latest departure will be at 7.00pm precisely).


If you are attending and can bake a cake or sausage rolls, please bring your offering with you. We alternate with West Dorset to provide refreshments and it falls to us this year.

Membership Renewals 2019: I WISH TO EXTEND MY APPRECIATION TO ALL THOSE WHO UPDATED ON TIME. THANK YOU.

Lovely to see so many of you at our December/Xmas meet. John has put a report of the evening on the website. Thanks to all of you who brought along tasty treats and of course the gadgets and kit which were so enthusiastically received, thoroughly examined and animatedly discussed!

Oxalic Acid – a note from David Shale our apiary manager: Those of you who have bees, will know that this is the time of the year that you normally apply oxalic acid treatment to your bees to kill off as many Varroa mites as possible before the spring. New legislation requires you to use approved solutions and some of you will have bought such a supply from the branch. However, we don't normally say it is too warm, but this year it is too warm to apply it effectively now. We need a spell of a couple of weeks of **really cold** weather before application. Oxalic acid only kills mites on the bees, not when they are in the brood. Normally in cold winters the queen stops laying and there is very little brood which is the best time to apply it. At the apiary the cut-off time will be around the middle of January. Beyond that date we will not use oxalic acid.

Also be aware that this exceptionally mild Autumn can mean that bees will have consumed more of their stores than is normal. Make sure you heft your hive(s) and feed your bees fondant if you have any concerns that they might go hungry. Google 'making fondant for bees' if you want to make your own - there are plenty of instructive websites.

AOB : Congratulations to Mike Walters and Jane Dumenil  who carried off prizes from the Devon Beekeepers Day Raffle. Yet again East Devon won the top two prizes. Mike is now the proud possessor of a poly hive and Jane won Thornes vouchers.

Anyone with bees to sell this year, kit to sell or services to offer, then please get in touch.

Similarly, anyone wanting to take their Basic certificate or other certifications then let us know.

A reminder that Peter Weller will be organizing all aspects of swarm collection and allocation. If you want to go on the 2019 list for a swarm make sure you have contacted Peter Weller directly in good time –

(email: peter_weller@btinternet.com Phone: 01297 32523)

Finally, here's wishing you all a very Happy New Year and in true Brexit lingo, may all your bees choose to remain!

Val Bone.

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