

The Tivvy Buzzette



The newsletter of the Tiverton Beekeepers ~ October 2019

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

Welcome to this months edition of the Buzzette

TIVERTONBEEKEEPERS.UK - OUR NEW WEB ADDRESS AND SITE!

A big thank you goes to William Lines who has given his time to getting our new website up and running and is still operating things at the moment until we get another volunteer. You can now find what's happening within the branch, articles, education news, and links to other useful sites plus much more!

If you put in a search for Tiverton Beekeepers our new user friendly site will appear! Please take the time to have a look at it and send the webmaster any suggestions ... webmaster@tivertonbeekeepers.uk

There is also a members only area which is password protected – this area will contain minutes of committee meetings and any other more sensitive data which we don't feel should be accessible by the general public.

As the Buzzettes will be published on the website this information can be obtained from the branch secretary - secretary@tivertonbeekeepers.uk.

Happy browsing.

A Big Welcome to all 23 new members to the club

We would like to welcome all our new members to the club who have just begun the 'Beekeeping for Beginners Course'. We have now met 3 times, once at the Apiary to 'Meet the Bees' and 2 sessions at Uplowman Village Hall. The course runs right through to next August with 7 theory sessions during the winter and 9 practical sessions at the Apiary.

Anyone wishing to start next year, August 2020, please contact me via our WWW.tivertonbeekeepers.org.uk - Education Coordinator – Derek EVANS



We are looking for help!

1. To help with next year's Club Display. We usually begin thinking about it just before Christmas with a meeting at a pub for anyone who wants to help! This usually generates some ideas and a theme for the display. Then we create the display for the Devon

County Show in April. It then gets used at the Mid Devon Show, the Honiton Show and finally the Killerton Apple Day. We would like people to help build the display and to come up with ideas. *Continued on next page*

Previous Themes have been – Bee Olympics (2016), Jobs for the Bees (2017), Bees in Trouble (2018), From Flora to Flow & Beyond (2019) – **WE NEED A NEW THEME**

If you could help with either of these please contact Derek on 07977 922173

2. We are trying to improve the benefits you get from club membership.

Initially, we want to know how many members would be interested in:

- a. Improving your Beekeeping skills
- b. Joining a Queen Rearing course
- c. Selling your honey/products at shows
- d. Joining the Asian Hornet Action Team (AHAT)
- e. Attending visits to other people's apiaries
- f. Entering competitions at shows, etc
- g. **Anything other ideas**

We would like to hear from as many members as possible so we can plan for next year.

PLEASE can you send your ideas back to either myself or Malcolm Crook via www.tivertonbeekeepers.org.uk or post it to Derek Evans, 8, Brickhouse Hill, TIVERTON EX16 6BG

Bulk Buying Scheme

Forth coming events are:

1. In the **December Buzzette** you will find the order form for (25% discount) and Frames at good prices – orders in by orders collected 19th February (Club Branch Meeting)
2. Feeding Syrup (usually about 40% discount) – advertised Buzzette
3. Honey Jars (usually 10-15% discount) – advertised in the September 2020 Buzzette



the sale of Foundation Friday 3rd January 2020
in the August 2020

In the past year over quarter of our members took advantage of the scheme and made an average of 20% to 30% saving overall.

I gave everyone a year off from buying honey jars this year. Next year, if there is a demand, we will purchase both 1lb and 12oz Jars and order both in quantity to get the best discount.

The scheme works on the principle that 100% of the savings go directly to members. The club does not make any money from the scheme.

Derek EVANS

Bulk Buying Coordinator

Look out for the Asian Hornet – The Killer Insect

Last week at our first Winter Branch Meeting, Lynn Ingram from the Somerset Beekeepers gave us a fascinating illustrated talk about the imminent invasion of the Asian Hornet from the continent

Over 40% of our food crops grown in the UK rely on pollination by insects. The Asian Hornet is a very efficient predator of these insects including honey bees, butterflies, bumblebees and other beneficial insects. It has the potential to destroy whole ecosystems, unless it is controlled.

Since 2016 there have been a total of 16 confirmed sightings of the Asian hornet in England and their nests have been destroyed. Beekeepers across the country are helping government bee inspectors to combat this pest.

The Asian Hornet was accidentally imported into Southern France in 2004 in a container of terracotta pots from China. In China it has predators which control its effect BUT in Europe no such predators exist, except for 'beady eyed' humans who report it to the authorities who can then destroy its nests.

Originally the French authorities believed it would not survive in the European climate, but that was a mistake! From there it has rapidly spread throughout France, and its neighbouring countries. This year many people volunteered to help on the island of Jersey which is battling a serious situation with Asian Hornets. So far we have eradicated all known nests in England.

It travels by hitching a lift in camping equipment, vehicles, containers, etc. People need to be able to distinguish between the Asian Hornet and the European Hornet. The larger European Hornet is no problem and in fact is very good for our environment.

At this time of the year the Asian Hornet raises a large number of queens, possibly up to 300-400 queens. When they mature they mate and then hibernate alone over winter. When the temperature increases in the spring each queen may migrate up to 40 kms away, then will build a small nest (e.g. in a shed or a loft, somewhere sheltered and warm), she will lay a few eggs which will take 6 to 7 weeks to hatch out. These will be worker hornets, not queens. Then they begin to build the large nest possibly 1 metre high and 80 cms across out of paper mache, just like a wasp. Here thousands of Asian Hornets will emerge in the summer. It is too much to expect that we can stop it coming BUT we can reduce its numbers and effect by careful monitoring.

How to recognise an Asian Hornet



- Its face is orange with two brown eyes.
- Its body is black.
- Its legs are yellow at the bottom.
- It has an orange band towards its back.
- It is about 25mm in length (slightly smaller than the native European Hornet).

Where can you look for the Asian Hornet?

- Often seen around flowers in late summer and early autumn.
- They often hawk for insect prey which are on ivy flowers and on fallen fruit.

What to do if you identify an Asian Hornet?

1. Go to www.tivertonbeekeepers.org.uk – Click & follow > Is it an Asian Hornet?
2. Download Asian Hornet Watch app.

SOUTH DEVON BEEKEEPERS CONVENTION 2019

The Ariel Centre, King Edward VI Community College, Totnes TQ9 5JX

Sunday 3 November 2019

9.45 am - 4.30 pm

Celia Davison

Mr Bee: the Life of the Drone Bee and *Bee Plants and the Environment*

Prof Francis Ratnieks on *Policing and Conflict Resolution in Honey Bee Colonies*

Gerry Brierley on *The Accidental Apitherapist*

Ticket Prices (purchased before 20 October): Adult £16.50 Under-18s and full-time students
Free!
(after 20 October: £20)

Book Stall, Equipment and Trade Stands. Pasties available.

See www.devonbeekeepers.org.uk for more details and to book tickets and pasties.



Everybody welcome!