



THE TIVVY BUZZETTE

The Newsletter of Tiverton Beekeepers – December 2019

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

**SAVE THE
DATE**

**“YOUR MEMBERSHIP
RENEWAL IS DUE – SEE
ATTACHED FORMS”**

Also Don't Forget *Sat 14th Dec* DBKA AGM
10.15am at Quince Honey Farm

Social Evening on Friday January 17th 2020

Come to Uplowman Village Hall on Friday January 17th 2020, 7pm-10.30pm to meet other members of the Tiverton branch.

Since we have the use of the building we plan to have a sit down buffet which will be Bring and Share.

More details will be sent nearer the date, but please put it in your diaries and plan to be there with your partners.



**Bulk
Buying
Scheme**

NOW is the time to start planning for 2020.

Attached is the new order form for Frames and Foundation. As I am away during the latter part of January and most of February, I am having to bring this ordering a month earlier than usual. I am sorry if this causes any problems.

**DON'T MISS THURSDAY 3rd JANUARY
2019 DEADLINE for a bargain!!**

Happy Christmas and a Honey New Year!

Derek Evans

Bulk Purchasing Coordinator



Just to keep you all up to date with the results of the Clubs AGM held last Wednesday 20th November at Uplowman Village Hall.

As we had no current Chairperson, Barry Neal, Devon's General Secretary and Holding Trustee, and his wife Ruth, kindly attended the meeting to advise us if necessary, (which it was!).

The first item of the evening was to hold a minute's silence for bee keepers that had passed on during the last twelve months, and in particular, Dodie Huxter, who had died earlier this year.

Secretary and Education officers' reports were read out along with the bulk buying report. At this point most people were still awake.

Then came the point in the evening when everyone sat on their hands - the Election of officers!

It was pointed out that the club would only expect about 20 minutes a month commitment - THREE HOURS A YEAR!! for any of the vacant roles within the club. That's probably less time per month than it takes to tidy your sock drawer. So please, think about giving us a hand.

The results were:-

President	Keith Owers
Chairman	Malcolm Crook
Vice Chairman	Barbara Brannam
Branch Secretary	Jessica Lee
Treasurer & membership secretary (temp)	William Lines
Programme Secretary	Tony Lindsell
Minutes Secretary	Sue Francombe
Press Officer	Derek Evans
Webmaster	Gary Dufton
Education Coordinator	Derek Evans
Bulk Purchasing	Derek Evans
AHAT Coordinator	Gavin Nuttall-Owen
Microscopist	John Knowles
Librarian	Gary Dufton
Buzzette Editor	VACANT

Thank you to everyone who attended the meeting and a very big thank you to you the members for being behind the club and helping us greatly!! Should you wish to get involved within the club for any post or as part of the apiary team please email Jessica Lee at secretary@tivertonbeekeepers.uk for more details.

Happy Beekeeping – Malcolm Crook

Eastern Europe Bee Keepers

by Barbara Brannam

In September I was fortunate to be able to cruise down the Danube making brief visits to towns and cities in Hungary, Serbia, Romania, and Bulgaria. These countries are still recovering from the breakdown of communism and in the countryside particularly there is real poverty and unemployment. Large agricultural companies have bought up vast areas of fertile land and with their big machines harvest acres of wheat and other cereals. In so doing the local farmers who used to work this land together now struggle to earn a living.

As we drove through the countryside I noticed many apiaries but unfortunately was not able to visit one. However, in many towns and in the large market in Budapest, there were stalls selling honey and other hive products.

One such was the stall in the photo which I saw in the open market in Novi Sad, Serbia. I was able to have a conversation with the stall owner who was able to tell me in his limited English, (of course I knew no Serbian!) that everything on his stall were the products of his apiaries. As I hope you can see from the photo, this was not just varieties of honey in jars, but cut comb, comb in honey, bags of multi coloured pollen, bags of rape pollen, bottles of propolis oil (Not sure what that is used for), nuts in honey, many different flavoured meads, candles and hand creams. Makes me wonder if the Tiverton branch could ever have such a stall?



Report from Killerton Apple Fair

Beekeepers from our own Tiverton Branch & from Exeter Branch joined together to provide & steward a Honey Bees Marquee at the Killerton Apple Festival over the weekend of the 12th & 13th October. Our show display was centre stage with displays about both branches at the sides. Exeter provide an observation hive so all we needed was good weather. Unfortunately the sun didn't shine and it was wet & windy at times. However that didn't deter us nor the general public. We had 2 busy days and as usual people were fascinated to see & hear about the honey bee.

Thanks to all our members & those from Exeter who made the weekend a success.



By Tony Lindsell

Good bye cling film hello 'Wax Wraps'

We had a fascinating demonstration by Norma King on how to make Wax Wraps, at our November Branch Meeting.

All you need is 60,000 bees to produce you some spare bees wax (or know a friendly beekeeper), a coconut, a Bain Marie, an old iron and to follow Norma's instructions! Basically, you need about 200 grams of bees wax, 20 grams of coconut oil. Heat them up together in a jug standing in a pan of boiling water. When melted use a paint brush to spread the mixture on a piece of clean cotton cloth, cover with a piece of greaseproof paper and iron away! After about 30 seconds the wax mixture will have spread evenly and soaked into the cloth. Hey presto! You have made something in which to wrap your sandwich.



Wraps can also be used to cover containers to put into the fridge and store food.

The great thing about wax wraps is not just the fun of making your own Christmas presents but also they can be washed in warm (not hot) water and reused many times.

Eventually, they can be composted, so no harm to the environment.

Derek EVANS