



THE TIVVY BUZZETTE

The Newsletter of Tiverton Beekeepers – February 2020

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



What Events Are Coming Up?

Weds 19th Feb – “Bee” ready for swarming with Maggie North

Maggie North from Taunton Beekeepers will entertain us with her talk on ‘Swarming Bees’. She doesn’t use a PowerPoint presentation but plenty of examples using beekeeping equipment.

All of our bees are likely to swarm so this is definitely a talk not to miss.

Weds 18th March – Asian hornet exercise with Gavin Nuttall-Owen and Tony Lindsell

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 & 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.

See you at 7.30pm at Uplowman Village Hall

STOP PRESS:- IMPROVERS COURSE IS ON!

Time to update your knowledgethe hall has been booked.....

The course will be six sessions on Tuesdays at Uplowman Village Hall 7.30 to 9.30pm commencing on February 11th.

The cost will be £25.00 payable at the first meeting.

The following five sessions will be February 18th March 10th 17th 24th 31st.

The course is designed to pick up the things you have forgotten or do not know. With a small group you will have plenty of opportunity to ask questions. Each session will have a set of questions, such as "how do I know my bees have swarmed", what should I do? We will also have a little detective work to do reading combs.

If you are thinking of taking the BBKA basic assessment the course will be covering all you need to know.

I am sorry about the short notice but the earlier notice was lost in the computer network. Look forward to seeing you on the 11th February.

Keith Owers

Advance notice of Asian Hornet monitoring traps

At the DBKA-AHAT policy forum meeting at Okehampton, 13 January 2020, the issue of Spring monitoring was discussed. The consensus was that a Devon wide exercise on a specific number of days would be beneficial for all members. Each branch would arrange and coordinate their own area trapping.

Based on the current knowledge of the biology and ecology of the Asian Hornet in France and past years UK weather patterns, the last 2 weeks in April 2020 have been chosen.

The Rationale

Timing of AH monitoring.

For spring trapping of queens in France, the AAAFA say once a steady 13 degrees C has been attained, and more prosaically, ‘...from the flowering of plum, peach, or cherry trees or the arrival of swallows until the flowering of chestnut.’

Monceau et al. (2012) noted that none were caught at 10 degrees C or less, and the most were caught at 15 degrees C (optimum).

Last year, Guernsey caught their first queen on 18th April, and on Sark it was 21st April. (which I would say ties in with swallows arriving in Mid Devon).

You don't have to have the monitoring in place before queens emerge from hibernation - the queens have to feed on sweet carbohydrates all through their establishment of the primary nest.

Two weeks of monitoring gives more of a chance of spotting one in terms of weather, and gives more leeway for people to actually do it.

Provided by Dr Sarah Bunker

As we get closer to the date more details and practical advice / guidance will be published. The DBKA and AHAT (ahat.org.uk) sites provide information on how to assemble traps. Should any member have concerns then please contact the branch AHAT Cordinator.

Gavin Nuttall-Owen
ahat@tivertonbeekeepers.uk

FOR SALE!

Two National hives - good condition, one from Thornes, one from National Bee Supplies. Each includes stand, mesh floor with board, brood box, queen excluder, 1 super, crown board and 4 inch flat roof. Offers in the region of £130 each.

Also the metalwork for a small solar wax extractor (Thornes). £30

And odd parts - 2 dummy boards, queen excluder, 1 eke, 1 super, 1 crown board.

Please contact me on jane.simmonds@btinternet.com. Photos and more details available upon request.

Bulk Buying Scheme



Well done to all Club Members who ordered foundation and frames. Our order amounted to over £1,200, with a saving of about £240 on catalogue prices. 'Every little bit helps', as the saying goes!

As I am away until mid-February, I have arranged to bring all the orders to the February Branch Meeting on the 19th February for collection.

Two for one you will be able to pick up your bargain, if you took advantage of the scheme AND find out how Maggie North from Taunton manages Swarming!

Future bargains coming to Club Members:

1. Feeding Syrup (usually about 40% discount) – to be advertised in the August 2020 Buzzette
2. Honey Jars (usually 10-15% discount) – to be advertised in the September 2020 Buzzette

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 last year. This year, if there is a demand, we will purchase both 1lb and 12oz Jars and order both in quantity to get the best discount.

If you have a preference for 1lb or 12oz Jars please let me know asap.

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



Taunton Annual Auction

The Taunton Annual auction of Beekeeping equipment will be held at Ruiston Village Hall, near Taunton, TA3 5JD, on Sunday March 29th.

Items for sale will be accepted from 10am and the auction starts at 2pm.

Lots of free parking in the area and refreshments are available and there is also a raffle.

Come and grab a bargain.



Bees for Development

I would like to let you know about a series of fantastic beekeeping tours this year. Our bespoke Bee Safaris offer off-the-beaten track experiences, with eye-opening insights into local nature and people's lives that tourists rarely get the chance to see.

We have four amazing experiences to choose from for anyone with an interest in bees, with more than enough to cater for any non-beekeeper's tastes!

Trinidad and Tobago (one place remaining if you're quick), 3-13 February:

Gain unique insights into tropical island beekeeping, and enjoy friendly local hospitality. [Read more](#)

Uganda, 2-13 March

An opportunity to visit Uganda's closed canopy forests and to encounter some of its fabulous wildlife. You will be able to witness first-hand the real and lasting impact that beekeeping is having on local communities. [Read more.](#)

South of France 6-9 May

A mini bee break in Provence, to visit a couple of French beekeepers and discover a beautiful area and its traditions (including winemaking). [Read more.](#)

Ethiopia November (dates to be confirmed) A unique chance to experience the wonders of a fascinating country; we will take you to visit three different locations to explore ancient sites, and you will meet local people happy to tell you how beekeeping has transformed their lives.

Proceeds from the Bee Safaris support the projects that you visit and Bees for Development, the UK based charity supporting some of the world's poorest people to make a living through beekeeping.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions whatsoever, and please do share this message widely to your beekeeping friends.

Kind regards

Francine Sagar

Bees for Development

Our Bring and Share Social Evening

We had a good turnout for our first ever “Bring and Share” social evening at Uplowman Village Hall. It was a great occasion meeting new members and for chatting and catching up with friends plus of course having the odd conversation involving bees!

There was also a fun quiz which had a bee theme to it and some questions which set out to trip us up - which worked – I think the majority of us just put down “Buzzette” when asked what our monthly newsletter was called – myself and a former editor included!! I was tempted to take out the “Tivvy” part for this newsletter to see if anyone noticed but chickened out at the last minute! Not surprisingly the winning team included Keith Owers and Barbara Brannam – we should have separated them at the start!

The food was delicious so well done to everybody who provided such a lovely selection; the tables were set up beautifully so thanks go to Jacky Crook for her flower decorations; and of course thanks also to Barbara Brannam for organising it all and to all those who helped set up and clear up.



More photos can be seen on the website in due course – www.tivertonbeekeepers.uk

By Jess Lee