



THE TIVVY BUZZETTE

The Newsletter of Tiverton Beekeepers – July 2020

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



AROUND THE APIARY – JULY

Last month I finished on a met office report. This month I am starting with one. When last I wrote I was concerned with the dry weather and its effect on our bees. Not a problem, we had the rain and the flowers started to come good, resulting from what I could see very little of a June gap. On average the June rain fall for the Tiverton area is just over 50ml of rain, by the 21st of June we had received 75ml. Now for some sun again, I hope.

July is normally our best month for a good honey flow. Blackberry has many sub species with early ones in flower at the end of June and with later ones flowering to the end of August. White clover also does us well if the ground moisture and temperatures are in the mid 20-30c. Rosebay Willow Herb is still flowering and many other plants, Sweet Chestnut is one of the last good trees to flower for bees.

With high hopes of a good honey flow we need to check our spare supers and frames are ready for use at short notice. General hive inspections can be cut to a minimum, only checking queenless colonies or hives you have united. Yes you might lose a late swarm but the rest of your hives will benefit from being left alone in July. My own bees will be checked to see if they need more space for honey. Although it is early it is not a bad idea to check what you might need for extracting; buckets, jars etc; do you have a good clearer boards? They can save a lot of time brushing and shaking bees off frames when harvesting.

Keith Owers

CHAIRMAN'S



Life is beginning to slowly gather pace again, and no part more than our colonies! Swarming season was generally slow to start, but now it has, WOW, are they using the weather to move houses!

I am so grateful, to all those members who have been tirelessly going out, to very often inhospitable places, (locations not Villages!) and recovering the girls and making them safe again, and for that a very big thank you.

We have been offering the swarms to any of our beginners who wanted them, and at this moment in time, I think that that list is now empty. Well done Gang!

The bees do not read books and so the swarming seems to be going on. In view of this, I think that if now ANY member wishes to obtain a swarm colony, please contact either me or Tony to be placed on the waiting list.

Of course, beginners will be catered for first, if necessary.

So many thanks for all your support and please keep safe.

Malcolm Crook



DO YOU NEED SOMEWHERE TO KEEP BEES?

We have had a very kind offer from Jon Eldridge who had contacted me to say he has a very large garden – several acres – and he would happily have some hives there if anyone is interested.

His postcode is EX15 2DX and he is happy for you to contact him directly – either by telephone 07710 103510 or via his email jontcfeeds@gmail.com



BBKA - Positive Thinking
June 2020 – By Chair,
Margaret Wilson

What a heat wave we have all had in the past couple of weeks. After all the cold and windy days, it was lovely to have sunshine wall to wall, although it was getting rather too hot for me in the end. However, my bees seemed to enjoy every

minute and certainly the supers are very heavy, so a good crop of honey I hope.

Our Chair, Anne Rowberry, suggested a ‘question page’ on our web site; this is to raise awareness of various issues and we hope that you will be able to benefit from it. The first of these is about whether the wax moth was a problem last year. So please log on to:

<https://www.bbbk.org.uk/questions-for-beekeepers> We will add questions each month and would welcome your comments and/or experiences.

Thankfully, here in the North West, we do not have much wax moth, but you never know what each new year will bring, so it is good to be prepared.

***** Fundraising

has of course affected the BBKA. If you shop online and use Amazon, the BBKA will benefit from you using the ‘Amazon Smile’ site. This is an identical site but allows you to choose a charity to which Amazon donates a small percentage of the total spent. You will find the BBKA on there and all donations from ‘Amazon Smile’ will be gratefully received, thank you.

***** We would also like to give a big thank you to all beekeepers collecting swarms. We have had several generous donations from satisfied householders, below are just some of the comments left on our donations page. " A huge thank you to Phil for arriving within half an hour to remove a large swarm from our tree."

"Thank you for the advice from Richard somewhere near Bromley, Kent, who reassured me about the bees' nest in my garden and offered to help if the nest did not go away. It did."



To the two members who signed up to help Gavin in our AHAT team.

It's not too late to sign up – the more the merrier and the easier it becomes to stay abreast of the Asian hornet situation.

Contact Gavin on ahat@tivertonbeekeepers.uk

JUNE 2020

BeeCraft

£3.95

THE INDEPENDENT VOICE OF BRITISH BEEKEEPING



have released their April 2020 edition for everyone to read **free of charge** on our website. [Please press on this link](#) to all your beekeeping colleagues to read. (control and click)

Our new publication is now in stock on our website - [Bee Space to Bee Hive](#). This is the first of two books written by Andrew Gibb in collaboration with the late Ann Harman from the USA, and provides a wealth of information for students of Module 8 of the BBKA examination. It will also be of interest to all those curious to know how beekeeping has developed over the centuries, using the beekeepers' ingenuity to solve problems associated with colony management. One of the chapters from this book was printed in our March 2020 edition, and is now available as a [sample article on our website](#).

There are also many other articles on a variety of topics for new or aspiring beekeepers to help them while practical training has for the most part been cancelled. Our website has a great deal of useful information including a comprehensive [glossary of beekeeping terms](#). Experienced beekeepers use these words so frequently they tend to forget it is a different language for new people to understand.

They also send out a Timely Reminder each week giving some guidelines on what could be happening within colonies, what to do and a general round up. It is easy to sign up to receive them and for anyone doing so they will receive **one of our downloadable booklets, free**, on the [home page of our website](#).

Through 'The Buzz' page on our website, then our ['Courses' link](#) there are a number of upcoming webinars run by Ken Basterfield, an experienced Bee Farmer, which look to provide useful information on a variety of topics, so another resource for all.



FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BEEKEEPERS'S VEIL

My husband started keeping bees a number of years ago when I relented and agreed to him taking up beekeeping as a hobby, with the proviso that, as he was working full time, it would only be one hive. I had grown up with a father who was a beekeeper but remember him soon giving up the hobby when a large number of bees found their way into

his suit! Those suits, in the 50's, were probably not of good quality and there were no courses or internet to inform novice beekeepers of how to keep bees so a good decision by my father at the time, although, as a family, we did miss the honey.

Now we have upward of 30 hives (I'm not quite sure as husband is a bit cagey about the actual number) and they are spread across our area of Mid Devon. On going with said husband out to collect a swarm, the dear lady of the house, terrified by the huge number of bees flying around her back door, said to me 'oh you like bees, do you?' She was slightly nonplussed by my instant retort - 'oh no, I don't'. I usually decline the offer of a trip to collect a swarm but, since the current crisis, any trip out is to be welcomed but although husband does insist all the bees will be contained and covered in the back of the car - I still don't fully trust him. He seems to have no compunction about driving back down the country lanes with bees plastered to the back window of the car trying to escape!

I now feel I have adapted to being a beekeeper's wife - I listen and nod my head wisely when husband reports on the current state of the hives, I answer the phone and knowledgeably respond to bee questions (but pass any difficult questions on to husband), I fill jars with honey, order labels and label the jars, I take orders for honey from various sources (Facebook is a very good way to sell honey I have discovered) and I (sometimes) attend beekeepers events.

Unfortunately, we still have some hives in our garden which gives me the perfect excuse not to go out weeding the vegetable patch when it's sunny as rogue bees have made a 'beeline' (sorry!) for me and I react badly to bee stings (although I'm not allergic they are just so painful and the swelling can last up to 5 days). We also have a dog who is terrified of bees as he has been stung on his face and the sound of a 'buzz' just sends him into a frenzied panic. The other dog, however, knows to keep away from husband when the bee suit goes on but can sit happily in the back of the car with bees flying round his head and he doesn't turn a hair, although he has also been stung - amazing!

(Note from editor – “The joys of being a bee-keepers partner! ... I admire your fortitude Ros Crook”)



Bulk Buying Scheme

Several of our members are asking about buying honey jars and Feeding Syrup.

Our annual programme is to purchase the Feeding Syrup during August and the Honey Jars in September. Both depend upon enough demand to qualify for bulk purchasing.

1. To qualify for free delivery and a discounted price for Honey Jars we need to order 35 boxes of jars.

This year's prices are:

Standard 1 lb Honey Jars 1 box (72 jars with lids) £22.25 i.e. 31p/jar including lid

12 oz Round Honey Jar 1 box (72 jars with lids) £28.90 i.e. 40p/jar including lid

IF, you are interested please let me know BUT I will advertise them in the September Buzzette, before ordering.

2. As for syrup, I have not enquired as it is a little early to know whether we need to order it this year. I usually advertise it in the August Buzzette.

The club is collecting sugar from Tesco and Morrisons for free and is available for all our members from Malcolm Crook, our chairman.

Derek Evans

Bulk Purchasing Coordinator



Sorry about these page fillers!!!

How do bees style their hair?

With a honey comb!

Why do bees get married?

Because they've found their honey!

"Opinions expressed in articles in this publication are those of the author(s), and do not necessarily reflect either the opinions or the policies of the Devon Beekeepers' Association"