



# THE TIVVY BUZZETTE

The Newsletter of Tiverton Beekeepers – October 2020

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



## IT SEEMS A LONG TIME SINCE THERE HAVE BEEN ANY OF THESE BUT HERE GOES!

### Tiverton Beekeepers' Forum - Wednesday 15th October 7.30 pm by Zoom

Having been unable to meet for some time we are now in a position to hold our meetings over the internet, not ideal, but it is the best we can do.

We are starting with an open forum which is a chance to catch up with each other & talk about our beekeeping experiences during the last 6 months. It's been an unusual year for the bees & honey crop so join us to see what we can learn from it.

To be part of the meeting please send me an email confirming your interest (tony.lindsell@btinternet.com). Nearer the date I will send you an invitation to the meeting including a link to the Zoom website for our meeting. Hope you can join us.

Unfortunately you will have to provide your own tea & cakes!

### Our AGM via Zoom on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November

More details to follow but we do need as many members to join us as possible and would love it if we had some folks who might be able to take up committee positions as there are quite a few vacant ones and as you all know "more hands make light work"! Contact me at secretary@tivertonbeekeepers.uk

[https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/jan/07/honeybees-deaths-almonds-hives-aoe?CMP=fb\\_gu&utm\\_medium=Social&utm\\_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR0aqMIPSNak4qMISNYF1s3knrr1ZTeO5Gk6AxDooPFHcPJHohOMHGIKYW8#Echobox=1598963591](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/jan/07/honeybees-deaths-almonds-hives-aoe?CMP=fb_gu&utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR0aqMIPSNak4qMISNYF1s3knrr1ZTeO5Gk6AxDooPFHcPJHohOMHGIKYW8#Echobox=1598963591)

Thanks to one of our members for sending this link into me - an interesting read titled "The Age of Extinction" – keep the articles coming!



## **AROUND THE APIARY OCTOBER**

**By Keith Owers**

It is now the end of September and the nice sunny weather has changed to cold and wet.

Most of you will have finished your feeding. With the change in the weather the bees will find it harder to process the sugar feed for winter storage. For this reason I will be changing to Ambrosia for top up feeding on any hives I think may be on the light side. Ambrosia is much easier for the bees to convert for storage.

It is good to have a tidy up around the hives. Cutting any long grass down can make a big difference to the microclimate around the hives. In the autumn you may see first thing in the morning a mist on the ground maybe only a meter high. This mist quickly disappears as the morning warms up but it will go quicker if the grass is short. This is what we refer to as the microclimate. This cold damp air is no good for the bees.

At this time of year it is good practice to check hive roofs to see that hives stay dry. Deep hive roofs are more expensive than shallow ones but they do not blow off. I know you can put bricks on the roof but do you have a supply of bricks in an out apiary?

I am told that wasps have been a problem again this year, so it is better to leave restricted entrances in place for the moment. They can be changed later in the month for mouse guards.

With hives well protected from bad weather, and bees well supplied with stores what comes next?

Ivy will soon be in flower, a mixed blessing, the pollen is good but the nectar is high in dextrose and will set hard like oil seed rape. It is not so good for winter feed. If the hive is well fed the ivy stores will be tucked well out of the way and not be a problem.

I hope you have all been watching out for Asian Hornets. I have been watching some flowering shrubs in the garden that are popular with Bees and Bumblebees, Butterflies and Hoverflies. I have not seen a Hornet but I have seen a Hummingbird Hawkmoth - much more interesting to see with its long tongue going into the flower collecting nectar while it hovers in front of it.

# CHAIRMAN'S



Many congratulations to all of you who took part in the recent DBKA Virtual Honey show. What a fantastic turnout of entries from the Tiverton Association and fantastic results! Well done to everyone and of course, many congratulations to the master, Brahim. Brilliant.

We have recently had our second committee meeting via Zoom. It was a 30 minute catch up session and to make some decisions that were needed. The treasurer's report was given along with numbers of our members which total 155.

An AHAT report was circulated giving details of local press releases and an electric copy was sent to 50 Parish Councils for information. Samples of Suterra was collected by 10 members from Uplowman Village hall for monitoring.

One AH nest has been located in Hants and was destroyed, the only sighting reported at present.

Derek gave us a report on the Bulk buying scheme recently held which saw 22 members wanting 86 containers of Ambrosia and 47 boxes of honey jars which amounted to sales of over £2000.

On the education front, the beekeeping for beginners' course scheduled for this Autumn has been postponed until January, but that is not looking good.

Derek is working with the DBKA to produce a pan Devon Beginners Course consisting of 9 sessions, 1 hour each session.

The improvers' course which has 4 participants, was halfway through. This could maybe resume in October.

The Autumn equinox has passed and the new bee keeping year has begun. And it is always said that next year will be better. I do honestly hope so in every aspect.

The AGM is also looming, and that could also be termed as the beginning of the new committee members new year. There is an option to defer it until the New Year, but we will have the AGM via Zoom on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November.

It is with great sadness that we have to lose the expertise of our Secretary, Jess and early next year of our bulk buying guru, Derek. I can't thank them enough for all their work for the club and no one can be expected to fill their shoes, so we are looking for members with some "New shoe styles", new suggestions, new ideas, so please take the challenge please.

Malcolm

# BeeCraft

I'm sure you will already know, but if not, the good news is that the recent Asian hornet sighting in Gosport resulted in a nest being destroyed. Fingers crossed for no more confirmed sightings around the UK.

Bee Craft's [latest development](#) is the availability of Bob Maurer's book

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for Beekeepers



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'*Practical Microscopy*' as an ebook. This is the first in our planned provision of ebooks which is available from [Amazon through this link](#). If you just can't wait for a delivery, this is the way to go!

Plans are proceeding for the **virtual National Honey Show Online Autumn Conference - the first event of its kind in the UK**

**beekeeping world!** Keep an eye on the [National Honey Show website](#) for full information.

They will be posting on social media a series of promotional videos from people who have been involved with the show to encourage interest in joining this unique event. The first of these, from their chairman, Bob Maurer, is now live on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/nationalhoneyshow>

**Visitor registration and attendance is free of charge**, making it so easy to support this initiative. **How amazing is that!** We will also let you know when registration is open as it will help them to be aware ahead of time of the likely attendance.

So, whatever the NHS organisers plan to do, and whatever offers there are

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from the traders in the online trade hall, [it can all be enjoyed by everyone - around the UK and around the world](#). Computer screens are, for most, easily accessible and don't involve travel and accommodation costs, leaving more to be spent on the goodies on offer for your beekeeping/reading/educational/study needs! If you've never been able to visit this annual event before, what an ideal opportunity it is without having to leave home.

*Bee Craft's* new Digital Communications Manager, Anne, and our co-editors are busy organising our involvement with this event which all sounds really exciting. We will have lots to occupy you along with a variety of offers for everyone in our online trade hall stand, - they don't need to keep bees in order to enjoy this experience.

Oh and lastly, if you haven't yet taken a look at our latest publication '*Bee Hive to Beekeeper*', there is a [sample chapter](#) on our website and our October edition includes an excerpt for your enjoyment.

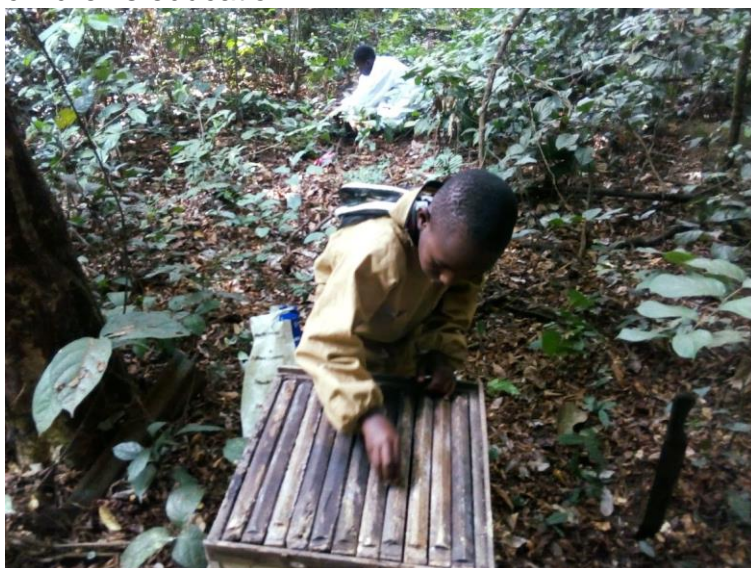


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<https://beesabroad.org.uk/legacy/> <https://www.rememberacharity.org.uk/leaving-a-gift/why-leave-a-gift/>

## COVID-19 Update

COVID is affecting our partners. Beekeepers are having to cope with evening curfews and schools may not return until January affecting children's education.



Meet Lase from Ogun State, Nigeria who at just nine has recently begun helping his father - one of Bees Abroad's highly skilled trainers - with beekeeping. Here, he is baiting a swarm box. At home he helps process the honey, his reward being the sweet taste of "tidying" the empty bucket. Photo used

with consent.

We have stepped up our use of WhatsApp and Microsoft Teams to communicate with our partners and projects. We have had to provide some projects with smartphones and local bandwidth issues sometimes mean we have to talk or message at night. We are trialling a simple hive monitoring app which gathers data, including photos, which supports our partners in delivering appropriate support in a more timely way.

## Bazar App - Ethical Giving

Our Ethical Giving partner, BAZAR pledge that 1% of sales commission revenue will be donated to their bees, trees and seas partners. Bees Abroad are their chosen "Bee partner". Download the App from your App Store and you will find lots of ethically sourced goods available on-line. There is no website, just the App!

## Wanted - Partners and Projects Trustee

Each of our trustees has a focus area. We need to replace our retiring Partners and Projects trustee. If you have managed people in a projects environment, want to give back and make a difference by changing lives in the poorest rural communities worldwide, do get in touch. The role description can be found here: <https://beesabroad.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/200909-Partners-Projects-Trustee.pdf>. email: [richard\\_ridler@beesabroad.org.uk](mailto:richard_ridler@beesabroad.org.uk).

Other volunteering roles can be found

here: <https://beesabroad.org.uk/home/volunteer-with-us/>



## **BBKA - Positive Thinking October 2020 – By Chair, Margaret Wilson**

The weather is certainly turning and colder days and nights are here, although in the day with a little sun, the bees are still happy to go out to work. Hardy little creatures aren't they?

Last weekend we had the Finance and the Executive Committee meetings, all by Zoom. It all does work but the personal interaction is missing which very often resulted in some good ideas for the benefit of the BBKA and the membership, but it looks like we will be using Zoom for some time to come.

You may recall that we advertised for someone to take over the position of Examinations Secretary from Val Francis when she retires. We had four interviews, all excellent calibre and one has been chosen. Hopefully, they will commence on the 1st November learning the

ropes from Val so that there is continuity, I hope you join me in wishing them well?

We are hoping that we will end this year with a small surplus, but like all things it is subject to outside factors, but we do live in hope. That would make it the 5th year in succession that we have managed the income and costs to the advantage of the BBKA, so fingers crossed there are no unexpected problems. The 'Two Diane's', Drinkwater and Roberts have worked wonders on our web site with the most popular page in June, July and August being the swarm collectors site with 36,000 visits which is fantastic. So a very big thank-you to the swarm collectors for agreeing to be on the map and for all the time they give to rescuing those bees.

Whilst on the subject of the internet, the BBKA YouTube is receiving really good feedback on the items there. If you have not visited the site, please do, you will be amazed at the help that is available. <https://www.bbka.org.uk/bbka-youtube-practical-beekeeping-videos> We have another Special Edition now printed and ready for sale. Steve Martin has finished his Varroa Edition and it is proving very popular, I have not had the time to read it yet but I am assured that it is certainly worth the £4.00 cost (incs p&p).

The training courses for General Husbandry, Advanced Husbandry and Queen Rearing will be arranged as scheduled for next year and we have to hope that Covid allows them to go forward. If necessary, we will cancel but at least they are ready, just in case.

September the 30th is the financial year end for the BBKA. The staff in the accounts section will have their work cut out to get the books ready for the auditors on the 15th October, quite a challenge in anyone's book, but it needs to be speedy otherwise we would not be able to get the results out to our members with the ADM packs. We are still looking at the

ADM being a virtual meeting. There will be lots of practice runs before the date and any association is welcome to partake. I know a lot of work has gone into organising this and it has been successful for the BDI AGM and also the Scottish AGM, both of which hosted quite a large number of attendees. Let's hope that the practice runs prove successful. Pam Hunter, one of our valued Trustees has volunteered to give three talks for the benefit of our members, Diane Drinkwater, another trustee, is going to arrange the necessary IT technology and we will advertise it to the membership as soon as it has been arranged. I know Pam quite well and have heard her speak on many occasions so I know that you will really enjoy her talks. Two other trustees have also offered to give a talk, namely Joyce Nesbit and John Hendry, so as I said, 'watch this space'.

I would like to pass on some interesting information. Cumbria County Council has launched a major project to sow wild flowers on all the grass verges, that will be lovely to see, it's a shame we cannot get all councils to do the same.

I hope you find the item below interesting? It is surprising how well it is working, we all need to remember to shop on Amazon Smile when we want to buy something. This is your quarterly AmazonSmile donation notification. Your chosen charity, British Bee Keepers' Association, recently received a quarterly donation of £69.11 from AmazonSmile, thanks to customers shopping at smile.amazon.co.uk or with AmazonSmile turned ON in the app. To date, Amazon has donated a total of: • £267.42 to British Bee Keepers' Association £4,621,862.95 to UK charities Thank you for supporting British Bee Keepers' Association at no extra cost to you, by shopping at AmazonSmile. You can track your impact throughout the year at the Your AmazonSmile Impact page. When you shop at AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as amazon.co.uk, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your selected charity. AmazonSmile is also available in the Amazon Shopping App on iOS and Android phones. See how to activate here.

Have you organised any online talks for your association recently? We're looking to expand the list of speakers available in the BBKA Speakers list. If you've got a local speaker who has a good digital talk suitable for other beekeeping groups, then please ask them if they would like to be included in the speaker list. If they say yes, then their name, contact details, list of talks, and fees are needed for them to be added to the list. Please see <https://www.bbka.org.uk/lecturers-speakers> for more details of the current BBKA Speakers list. This will help local associations and branches provide online talks to keep beekeepers going through Covid and beyond!

Take care and keep safe. Margaret Wilson President, BBKA

**Thanks again to all contributors – please keep the stories coming in as otherwise the newsletter becomes difficult to produce!**

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