



# THE TIVVY BUZZETTE

The Newsletter of Tiverton Beekeepers – December 2020

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

**Firstly, to get you thinking.**

**Name a Bee themed Christmas carol ( Answer at the bottom after you have read everything else of course!)**

## CHAIRMAN'S



Firstly, a very big thank you to all members for the support and help that each and every one of you has given towards the club in the past 12 months, I really do appreciate the commitment. I also want to say a massive thank you to all the members of this year's committee, who have managed to keep the Chair, who has no idea of what he is doing, out of trouble!  
THANK YOU SO MUCH.

A big welcome to the new committee members, and I can tell you now that they have got a lot of work to do during the coming year to ensure that each and every member is getting what they want and need from the club.

I am preparing a programme of events for 2021 both for members and at the apiary, depending under what Government rules we are working under. The apiary events will happen anyway, such as general husbandry and supering etc. It might well be that it may only be two members at a time.

I do send you sincere best wishes for the Christmas period and please don't feel alone. Finally, please, please keep an eye on your colonies' food supplies. The NBU has put out a general circulation highlighting the fact that colonies will die of starvation if not constantly checked.

Please stay safe

Malcolm

**REMEMBER, DON'T BEE SHY!**

**Members are always welcome to come on board as committee members not assigned to any particular role until they feel they are able to take something on or if you want to be part of the Apiary team or AHAT team but not a committee member that is also a possibility.**

Please get in touch as it's so important to keep the branch moving forward - we are always open to new ideas and suggestions – we want to keep thriving as a bee-keeping group.

Contact Malcolm at – [chair@tivertonbeekeepers.uk](mailto:chair@tivertonbeekeepers.uk)



**Saturday December 12th at 10.30 am Devon Beekeepers AGM**

Zoom meeting followed by Lynne Ingram (Chair of Taunton Beekeepers) talking on *"The adulteration of honey & how to promote your local honey"*.

As members you will receive an invitation from the DBKA and a link to join the meeting.

**Wednesday December 16th at 7.30 pm Tiverton Branch**

**Our Branch Christmas Social & Quiz on-line. Please bring your own refreshment & mince pies!**

Zoom Meeting – link to follow

**BBKA SPRING CONVENTION**

Message from Joyce Nisbet, BBKA Trustee & Spring Convention Committee Chair

The BBKA Spring Convention Committee is seeking views about the Convention 16-18 April 2021. It would be helpful if Associations could kindly encourage their members to complete the short anonymous electronic questionnaire available at:  
<https://forms.gle/w2xJac7mgGP3tvxm8>

The questionnaire will be available until 9th December.

## Looking ahead to 2021



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In the early months of 2021 it is expected our monthly meetings on the 3rd Wednesday will have to be on-line via Zoom. We are hoping to have a short talk & discussion about beekeeping topics that interest you. Please let Tony know what areas of beekeeping you'd like to know more about and he will try to arrange an appropriate speaker. [tony.lindsell@btinternet.com](mailto:tony.lindsell@btinternet.com)

If you are not familiar with ZOOM here are some guidance notes but be aware different laptops & tablets may have slightly different configuration.

### **Joining a meeting via a link that has been sent by e-mail**

1. Prior to any meeting, you will receive an e-mail which shows something like the following information: -

EXAMPLE ONLY:

Topic: Malcolm Crook's Zoom Meeting

Time: Jul 16, 2020 10:45 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/4771935060?pwd=YXZqSmJtSUY1WStvRW90V3dFbVUwUT09>

Meeting ID: 477 193 5060

Passcode: 747502

2. On the given day, give yourself a bit of time before the designated start of the meeting, and go back to the e-mail showing the Zoom meeting details.

3. Click on the link i.e. the string of underlined letters/numbers, and the system should automatically guide you through the steps to get you into the meeting.

If you have not already got Zoom loaded on your computer, it will give you option to Download Zoom and follow the instructions. This only needs to be done the very first time.

Otherwise, click on the dialogue box which says 'Open zoom.us:'

4. Initially, the system will state that it's 'Connecting.....', then a box will appear showing the words 'Join with Computer Video' in a blue rectangle. Click on it.

5. The system will then show 'Please wait, the meeting host will let you in soon'.
6. It will then state again that it is 'Connecting.....'.
7. After that, a box will appear showing 'Join with Computer Audio'. Click on this, and you should then be joined into the meeting.

Once into the meeting, you should be able to speak to, and hear, everyone else who appears on the screen.

#### MUTING:

The host of the meeting has the ability to 'mute' everyone, as sometimes they need to be allowed to speak without any interruptions or background noise from anyone who has joined the meeting.

Members can also 'mute' and 'unmute' themselves by clicking on / off the little microphone

#### TO SEE EVERYONE ON SCREEN:

To see everyone in the meeting, click the icon showing 'Gallery View' – usually in the top right-hand corner.

If you are using a tablet then this usually have a maximum of 9 images.

NOTE: You only need to download the app or install the Zoom programme if you are hosting (setting up) a meeting. If someone else is hosting the meeting, you simply click on the link they send to you via e-mail and enter the meeting password shown in the invitation. (If required).

## ASIAN HORNET UPDATE



The latest peer review published research (Nature; Nov 2020) has compiled the samples, nest collection, dissections and DNA sampling from the first incursion at Tetbury (2016) to that in Christchurch (2019). The findings from the various data sources have produced a series of discussion points.

1. The origin of the hornets arriving in the UK are from continental Europe rather than Asia. (Genetic marking significance)
2. The nests found do not directly arise from each other, as a number of lone individuals are recorded each year, so indicating that multiple Asian hornets are arriving in the UK

from Europe. The supposition is that this is unlikely to be part of a natural dispersal but the importation of individuals by the movement of people and goods.

3. The nests discovered in the UK have been small (15 – 27cm) the majority less than 20cm, i.e. approximately the diameter of a volleyball or less. By September, the average hornet nest size in France will have 7 – 10 combs; Woolacombe had 7 and Tetbury 5 combs the rest 3 or less. The UK nests appear to be smaller than those found in France as it is suggested that the environment and climate are unsuitable for sustaining large, highly productive nests. Another suggestion is that the queens are founding their nests later in the season and so are not reaching their potential size.
4. In Europe, after the initial discovery, increasing numbers of foraging hornets and nests are found in the same region in subsequent years. In contrast, in the UK, after the initial nest discovery no foraging hornets or further nests were found so suggesting no 'hidden' populations in these areas. This situation is likely due to the relative geographic isolation of the UK and the management actions taken by the NBU, the use of BeeBase informing local beekeepers of the threat level, and AHATs.
5. Hence the response to sightings of foraging hornets, their accurate ID, use of trajectory tracking to locate nests and the destruction of nests lead by the NBU has been successful. The use of captured individual hornets sent to Fera Science has produced data on the reproductive status of the nest, the genetic identification of individuals and whether they belong to one or many nests so informing teams on the ground to know how many nests they are looking for. This information feeds into real time management decisions and increases the chance for slowing the spread of the hornet.
6. The conclusion is that the policy so far has been successful in preventing the uncontrolled expansion of hornets in the UK.

This research clearly shows that our efforts as AHATs, our branch teams and individual monitoring by members plays a crucial and successful part in the response to this non-native species. Hence our spring and autumn monitoring are a vital part of our honeybee husbandry and for the well-being of all the other native pollinators which the food industry ultimately relies upon.

(The full report "Managing incursions of *Vespa velutina nigrithorax* in the UK: an emerging threat to apiculture by Eleanor P. Jones et al; Nov 2020 can be viewed as an Open Access document at [Nature.com](https://www.nature.com))

Gavin Nuttall-Owen. AHAT Coordinator

AND FINALLY JESS, A MASSIVE..



From us all for all the work you have done both as secretary and editor of the Buzzette. For those of us taking over these tasks you have set the bar worryingly high. I only hope that in taking on the Buzzette I don't make too many errors. It remains for me to reveal the answer to the little brain teaser at the beginning. And wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Stay safe, all best wishes Hilary

Answer..



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