



# THE TIVVY BUZZETTE

The Newsletter of Tiverton Beekeepers – January 2021

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

*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*

## CHAIRMAN'S



Well the new committee is now up and running, and already there are some brilliant ideas coming out of it. A very big welcome to those new committee members, and thank you for your time and interest to want to join us.

The Coronavirus is a silent enemy to us all, and we never know when it will strike, and our real defence against it is the way in which we all behave, not because the Government tells us how to, but because common sense and care for others should be our main principle in many ways.

We are very fortunate that we now live in a very technical world so we can communicate in so many ways to keep in touch with family and friends. In the meantime, we are members of a strong team of individuals and if help is needed, then please make contact with me, and I will try and arrange assistance.

I am preparing a calendar for the year to include both social and apiary events, providing on Government guidelines, I may only need the help of one or two members, or when we are without restrictions, I will ask as many members as possible to help. We will continue to monitor the situation and get members together as soon as it appears safe to do so. In the meantime, I wish you all a very happy new year, and hope that you and your family members can stay safe. Malcolm



### **Tiverton Beekeepers' Meeting Programme 2021**

#### **January**

**Thursday 14th @ 7.30pm. Branch Committee Meeting via Zoom**

**Wednesday 20th @ 7.30 pm.** Branch Members' Meeting via Zoom - **'There's no such thing as a bad tempered bee'** - branch debate led by Malcolm, Tony & Derek with experiences of our members very welcome.

#### **February**

**Wednesday 17th @ 7.30pm** Branch Members' Meeting via Zoom - Lynne Ingram taking to us about the **Adulteration of honey** which is taking place on a large scale, sometimes within the UK but mainly through imported honey. This is a highly recommended talk. (Provisional).

#### **March**

**Wednesday 17th @ 7.30pm.** Branch Members' Meeting via Zoom. Following on from last month's talk, this month will focus on some tips & advice to help us process our honey to create a beautiful, desirable & saleable product

#### **April**

**Wednesday 21st @ 7.30pm** This meeting is normally dedicated to providing our members with a testing process to identify **nosema** in their bees, this year we hope to include more opportunity to examine pollen, bees & disease under the microscope. More details to follow.

#### **May**

**Wednesday 19th. Time to be confirmed** Normally by this time in the beekeeping season we will have started practical sessions at our Knightshayes Apiary but keep it on your diary just in case.

CONGRATULATIONS to William & Sarah Lines and Lesley Ayre who top scored in our Christmas Quiz in December. They were experts in such questions as What colour is bee blood?, Name Santa's Reindeer? & How many stars on the EU flag? A good night was had by all and thanks to all those members who joined in.

**Instructions on how to access Zoom are in the December Buzzette**



## Around the apiary in January

by Keith Owers

What a year! I for one will be glad to see the back of 2020. Here is wishing you all a better New Year to both yourself and your bees and good health to you all.

December has been rather a wet month with only a short cold spell. When the weather is cold our bees cluster and consume very little food. In mild winters our bees tend to go out for toilet breaks then have a look round to see if they can find fresh pollen, (always in demand). On returning to the hive the bees are cold and need to feed on their winter stores. There is very little pollen to be found in January, occasionally some late Ivy or early Hazel catkins. In gardens there is a little more to be found. I have five shrubs in flower at the moment. The real problem is the bees waste time looking for very little. It is wise to remember that in mild weather bees will consume more food than in cold weather. I start in earnest checking the hives in early January to see if they need feeding. This is not so easy when you only have one or two hives. There is no need to go removing crown boards just lift the back of the hive, if it feels heavy all should be well, if it feels light or you are in doubt feed. The preferred method of feeding is to use Ambrosia fondant, you can put a small amount in a plastic carton or put a similar amount in a polythene bag. The feed is then placed over the feed hole in the crown board. If the bees need the feed they will eat it, if they are OK they will leave it for another day. The polythene bag with a cut open patch over the feed hole will prevent the fondant from drying out. Checking the hives for weight should be done once a month or more often if the bees are eating all the fondant.

January is normally a quiet month around the apiary so a good time to deal with repair jobs. I will be getting my small hot water boiler on the go to sterilize my frames I have been scraping, 4 to 5 minutes in boiling soda water (1 kg of washing soda in 5 litres of water) will have them looking like new.

Good luck, the days are getting longer.

## Bulk Buying Scheme

Let's get 2021 off to a great start with TWO great bargains!!

One of the benefits of being a club member is to buy more for less.

By purchasing in bulk together, we can save 25% on the cost of foundation.

Also, we can make a considerable saving on first class frames.

DON'T MISS FRIDAY 8<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2021

**DEADLINE for a bargain!!**

Please find attached to this edition of your Buzzette an order form for Frames and Foundation (printed on the page below or an attached Excel spreadsheet).

Remember, you should try and change your Brood foundation every 2/3 years or less to reduce the chance of disease.

Happy Christmas and a Honey New Year!

Derek Evans

Bulk Purchasing Coordinator



Tiverton Beekeepers 2021		Foundation and Frames					
1	Member's Name						
2	Address						
3	Contact Tel. No.						
4	email address						
<b>Deadline for orders 10pm FRIDAY 8th JANUARY 2021</b>							
	<b>Foundation</b>		base	<b>Pkt of 10</b>	<b>Number of pkts</b>	<b>Cost</b>	
1	<b>BS National Deep (Brood) - Most popular</b>	<b>Wired</b>	<b>worker</b>	<b>£9.36</b>			
2	<b>BS National Shallow (Super) - Most popular</b>	<b>Wired</b>	<b>worker</b>	<b>£5.92</b>			
3	BS National Shallow (Super)	Unwired	worker	£5.03			
4	BS National Cut Comb Shallow (Super)	Unwired	worker	£4.18			
5	BS National 14 x 12 (Brood)	Wired	worker	£15.92			
6	Langstroth Deep (Brood)	Wired	worker	£11.81			
7	Langstroth Shallow (Super)	Wired	worker	£7.37			
8	Langstroth Shallow Cut Comb	Unwired	worker	£5.39			
9	Langstroth Shallow	Unwired	DRONE	£6.44			
	<b>Frames</b>	All frames made with <b>1st grade timber</b>		<b>Pkt of 25</b>			
10	<b>DN 4</b>	<b>Hoffman self spacing - Most popular</b>		<b>£25.00</b>			
11	<b>SN 4</b>	<b>Hoffman self spacing - Most popular</b>		<b>£25.00</b>			
12	DN 1	require plastic or castellated spacers		£20.50			
13	SN 1	require plastic or castellated spacers		£20.50			
14	Narrow plastic spacers (100/pkt)			£7.00/pkt			
15	Gimp Nails for the frames 500g box			£7.50/box			
16	Gimp Nails for the frames 125g pkt			£2.00/pkt			
	<b>BACS before collection or cheque on collection</b>			<b>ORDER TOTAL</b>		£	
To order	<b>EITHER:</b>						
	email to: <b>jender008@gmail.com</b>						
	<b>OR post the order to: 8, Brickhouse Hill, Tiverton EX16 6BG</b>						
Payment	<b>EITHER:</b>						
	<b>Preferred method:</b> BACS Sort Code <b>60-21-27</b> Account No <b>06514553</b> Reference <b>YOUR NAME</b>						
	<b>OR</b> If you do not have an online account you may pay by cheque						
	Cheques payable to " <b>DBKA - Tiverton Branch</b> "						
	Any problems contact Derek EVANS on 07977 922173						