



THE TIVVY BUZZETTE

The Newsletter of Tiverton Beekeepers – July 2021

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

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



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I begin to write this just after returning from Westpoint, Exeter, where I helped (a bit) with many others setting up the DBKA display tent for the forthcoming Devon County Show.

It is always a pleasure to join other Devon Beekeepers at these show events, because there is usually plenty of good hearted fun and laughter, and it just so nice to catch up with everyone again.

Please think about attending a show set up day, or even a take down day after an event. Your help will always be very welcome and there is always plenty of tea and eats to be had.

There is mention in this months BBKA News of a Beekeeper in Stratford upon Avon, who has sadly died as a result of anaphylactic shock caused by a bee sting. This is a reminder to us all, that although beekeeping is generally seen as a hobby, it can, on very rare occasions be dangerous in many ways. If you have or visit out apiarys, then possibly make sure that you tell someone their locations for your own safety.

Malcolm



July meetings

Tiverton beekeepers committee meeting July 8th at 19.30 hrs via Zoom

Tiverton Beekeepers' Branch Members Meeting Programme .

Summer 2021

Keith, Derek and Malcolm who are running the beginners practical sessions at the apiary and would love some help if anyone can spare a couple of hours to support the beginners in their learning and maintain the ability to socially distance in small groups. We have all been beginners at some stage or another in our beekeeping journey. Newbee's are, I'm sure the life blood of any group or club so this is a perfect opportunity to help ours and do a spot of revision at the same time in the craft.

They meet at The Apiary, Knightshayes from 1pm to 3.30pm. The beginners are divided into two groups and they have an hour each 1-2pm and 2.30-3.30pm to comply with Covid19 rules

Please feel free to just turn up and join in if only for a chat and some general bee talk.

Cake is always welcomed of course.

Happy Beekeeping.



Due to the present circumstances the Bee Marquee at the show is reduced in size, to save money, and this means there will not be a Stevenson Trophy this Year. Due to our Clubs previous good record in this event at the show we have been invited to make a display for people who may wish to take up Beekeeping in Devon. Details to follow. I understand that most of the usual events will continue e.g. Honey Competition, Honey Tasting, Honey Sales, Candle Making, Observation Hive, etc. If you have any specific questions, please contact Liz Westcott the Bee Marquee organiser via email lizwestcott@me.com.

Derek is still looking for volunteers to help at the show. Please get in contact with him if you are able to spare some time. From personal experience, it is always fun to be there and soak up the atmosphere and enthusiasm of the public and of course have a natter with fellow beekeepers.

Derek Evans, Display Organiser 01884 257726



24th July 2021

Non Stop Activity from 9.00am to 5.30pm
A true celebration of Mid Devon Life

Entertainment - Food - Shopping - Music - Farm Life

This will be another very important date to Tiverton Beekeepers which hopefully will still take place subject to the further lifting of restrictions. Malcolm has a stand planned for this and any assistance would be welcomed in setting up and stewarding for an hour or two.

The stand will be slightly smaller than previous years, (for this year only) but will still give us plenty of room to meet the public and also sell members honey.

Please contact Malcolm if you can lend a hand. 01884 821927



Around the apiary in July

By Keith Owers

Apis Mellifera on blackberry flower.

I have been on the lookout to photograph one myself but alas, I have not seen one honey bee on a blackberry. Malcolm mentioned that this might be because the pollen is not yet out. Here you can clearly see the black pollen. Hilary.

As I write this we have passed mid summer and heading for winter, but we have much to do before then. June has not been too bad weather wise. The bees have been able to get out and forage for pollen and nectar. Some colonies are not as we would like because the queen stopped laying, with the result that some hives are short of bees. Remember it is six weeks from an egg to a honey gathering worker. This situation is the result of cold wet weather in May when our bees could not get out to gather honey and nectar, the result is the queen was fed less with the result that she stopped laying to reduce the work load on the colony. This is what happens when the honey stocks get low. From what I have seen even small colonies were well supplied with nectar

Travelling around the lanes I note that the early strains of blackberry are in flower, clover is in flower as well providing our colonies with just what they need. Small colonies will have to work hard to build up to be strong enough to go through the winter. My best hives are the ones that had new queens last year. You cannot beat having young queens to head up your colonies.

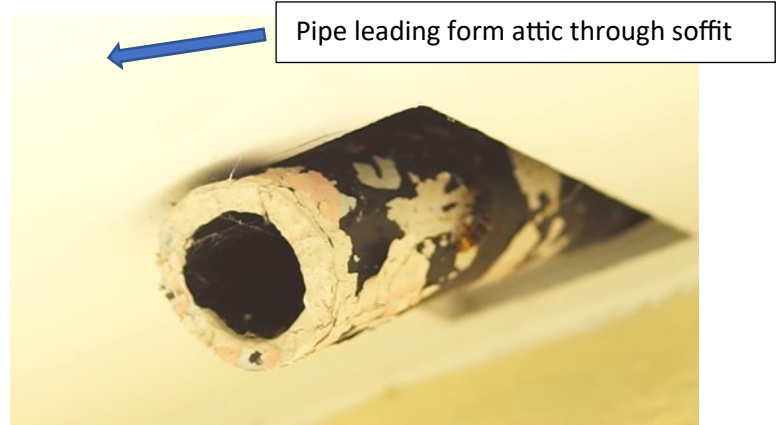
Time to check you have all you need for extracting at the end of the month. Some beekeepers may consider delaying taking supers off till mid August. The idea being to try and gather a little more honey. The problem with delaying extracting is that if you plan to treat for varroa later in August you do not help disease control. Varroa treatment in mid August is our best chance of having healthy bees for the winter.

Fingers crossed for fine warm weather next month to enable us to have a reasonable honey yield after a very difficult season, so keep putting those supers on if required

Jersey – The Asian Hornet frontline

As of the 18 June 2021 Jersey AHAT teams have captured 85 queens and found / destroyed 8 primary nests.

Nest number 8 was discovered in the soffit entrance to an attic in a bungalow. The nest was built probably 40 days ago as it takes this amount of time for the first cohort of workers to mature from eggs to adults. Successive generations would be produced in a shorter space of time as the workers take over the feeding from the queen.



John De Carteret, who supplied these images, managed to obtain the tricky operation as the hornets are extremely sensitive to light - shining a torch directly on to the nest in a dark attic is definitely not recommended!

Alastair Christie, Jersey's AHAT Coordinator, was able to dissect nest number 8 and found that the primary nest consisted of 2 combs. Comb 1 had 123 cells with 48 eggs, 42 larvae and 27 pupae. Comb 2 had 31 cells with 30 eggs. Eight worker hornets were also caught along with the queen.



Primary Nest



Comb 2 displaying eggs.



Comb 1: displaying eggs, larvae and capped pupae cells.



Enlarged image showing mature larvae with clear view of the anal glands that excrete a liquid mixture of amino acids and glucose that the adults feed on – trophallaxis.



Enlarged view of comb 1 outer edge clearly displaying eggs.



Reclaimed pupae showing stages of development.

All images: © Alastair Christie

The Autumn monitoring programme commences the first week of September but now is the time to start talking to members of the public about Asian hornets, their effect on pollinator population demise and looking out for stowaways in motorhomes, tents and trailers when returning from France and Spain should Covid restriction travel allow. The more people there are looking out for these insects the better chance we have of dealing with them.

Gavin Nuttall-Owen AHAT Coordinator ahat@tivertonbeekeepers.uk