



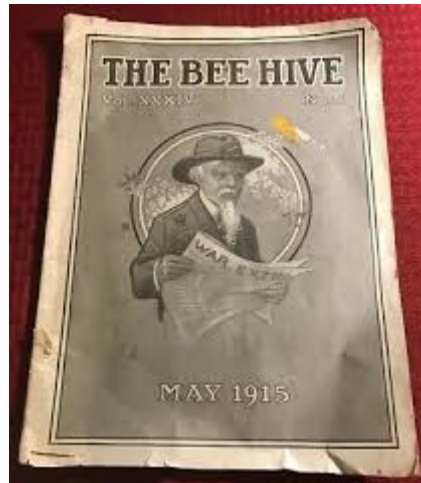
# THE TIVVY BUZZETTE

The Newsletter of Tiverton Beekeepers – September 2022

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*

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR!



Dear members of TBKA. On August 19<sup>th</sup> Jon our secretary received this email from our Chairman Malcolm Crook to the committee.

*"Dear Committee and fellow members of Tiverton Beekeepers*

*After much thought and consideration, I now feel it's time for me to step down as Chair of Tiverton Beekeepers and I feel it would not be helpful for me to stay on the committee. I have found it difficult to find the time to do a good job of chairing Tiverton Beekeepers due to ongoing family commitments, my part time work and my own beekeeping needs.*

*I will continue to be an active member of Tiverton Beekeepers and thank everyone for their support and help over the last few years."*

On behalf of Jon, and the members of the committee, I would like to express my thanks to Malcolm for all his hard work over the time that he has been our Chair.

He has steered the club through some significant challenges, not least of which has been the Covid 19 pandemic, whilst trying to balance his own personal life pressures. We are very grateful to him for his fun, light-hearted and good-natured leadership and I for one am pleased that he is not leaving the committee altogether as he has a wealth of knowledge when it comes to beekeeping and is an around good chap!

This of course leaves the club needing people to take on not just the role of Chair but also that of vice-chair and treasurer.

We have a committee meeting on September 8<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm at Uplowman Village Hall when this and other business will be discussed but clearly the future of the club rests on these roles being filled.

If you have an interest in taking on any of these vacancies, please feel free to contact Jonathan Davies our secretary [daviesj773@gmail.com](mailto:daviesj773@gmail.com) 01884 849377 or Tony Linsdell on 07412610502 who has been our Chair in the past and can offer further information or myself Hilary Sanders (Buzzette Editor) 01884 266297 or 07763347311

I think I would also add, that you do not need to be an expert in the craft of beekeeping to be on the committee or to take on the role of Chair or Vice-Chair. Some experience of the running of a committee, someone who can delegate some of the duties, who is a good communicator and has a desire to take the club forward from here would be useful but are not essential.

The role of Treasurer requires some experience in bookkeeping and accounts and there are people who can support you if you took this on.

If you already have some thoughts on what you would like from the club then perhaps you would be the person to volunteer. Have a think and perhaps contact Devon BKA for further advice or information?

I would also like to point out that prior to taking on the Buzzette almost 2 years ago I had no experience of putting together a digital newsletter and I still struggle with certain elements of Libra office writer (not Word) on my PC. Whilst doing this today I have tried for ages to add page numbers. You will note that one page is numbered, incorrectly and I cannot now remove it.

After several attempts and a few expletives I have decided to leave it there to serve as an example that you do not have to be perfect to be in any kind of role on the committee.

(This is of course also a test for you all to see if you read this and notice the mistake)

However, it has been a learning experience and I have always enjoyed new challenges and learning experiences so to sum up, please feel free to join us the rest of us in the committee on our respective journeys in beekeeping and beyond.

Hilary ( Editor)



## **Autumn dates for your calenders**

### **September**

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September**

**Branch Committee meeting at Uplowman Village Hall 7.30pm**

Please note this is a change of date and is **not** via zoom as per website as time of sending this.

**" Meet the bees"**

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September**

Taster day for potential beginners prior to the start of theory courses in the autumn.  
Course dates to be confirmed.

**Autumn Branch meetings at Uplowman village hall .  
7.30pm -9.30pm with a break for refreshments**

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September - Jason Wallis, Urban beekeeping

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October - Martin Hann and Claire Densley, Pheromone communication

### **South Devon Beekeepers Convention**

Sunday 23 October 2022 9.45 am to 4.30 pm

The Ariel Centre, King Edward VI Community College, Totnes TQ9 5JX

See information below

**See**

**16<sup>th</sup> November - AGM 7.30 pm Uplowman Village Hall Speaker tbk**

**Social evening in December tbc**

**South Devon Beekeepers Convention**  
**Sunday 23 October 2022 9.45 am to 4.30 pm The Ariel Centre, King Edward VI**  
**Community College, Totnes TQ9 5JX**

A day of talking about bees, beekeepers, beehives and beekeeping history. Renew the buzz with the opportunity to chat with your fellow beekeepers over a cup of tea and browse the traders' stalls.

Derek Mitchell

Nectar, honey, efficiency and humidity He's back, the man who told us to keep our bees warm! Derek's latest investigations have found that the current design of man-made hives not only impacts the foraging range and honey making efficiency of colonies, but also creates lower humidity levels that favour Varroa.

Juliet Osborne

Bees and how we care for them – in a changing environment Honey bees, bumble bees, other pollinators and even the Asian hornet. Flight patterns – where bees go and why. Recently she has been studying the motivations behind why people “care” for bees.

Clare Densley and Martin Hann

History of Beekeeping at Buckfast Abbey Clare and Martin run the beekeeping department at Buckfast Abbey, world-famous for its bees. Who better to reveal the inside story about Brother Adam and how he built up the Abbey's reputation?

Early bird price £11 if place booked before 12 October. Pay on the door by cash, cheque or card. (Normal price £13.50.) Under-18s and full-time students free. Further details and/or to book, email [s.devon.conv@gmail.com](mailto:s.devon.conv@gmail.com), or telephone 01803 866028.

Lunch arrangements to be finalised.

*Derek Mitchell, MSc*, is a physicist currently working on a PhD thesis in differences in heat transfer between natural and man-made honey bee nests at the University of Leeds.

*Professor Juliet Osborne* is an Applied Ecologist who has been studying the ecology of pollinators and pollination for 30 years. She led bee research at Rothamsted Research for 18 years.

The Ariel Centre is on the King Edward VI College campus in Totnes. It is five minutes' walk from the mainline railway station. There is ample free parking.

## **Tiverton Soroptimists**



Tiverton Soroptimists are part of an International group of Women who seek to support Women and children by educating, enabling and empowering them to have a better life, particularly in a sustainable future. We raise funds to do this for different Charities. We also help to bring an understanding of their difficulties to others in our local community. Recently we had a display in the market about Trafficking.

This year we are supporting UNITE Young Carers and Bees for Development.

UNITE Young Carers supports children who care for their parents, brothers and sisters, often going without things for themselves. Some children are as young as 7 or 8. They will all have duties to do before and after school leaving them little, if any, time to socialise with others and 'just' be children. To raise funds there will be:

### **A BEETLE DRIVE**

**on October 7<sup>th</sup>**

**at St James Church hall, Old Road, Tiverton**

**at 7.00pm**

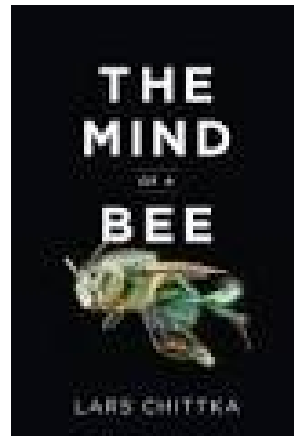
**Tickets £5 Adults, £2.50 children under 12, to include Light Refreshments**

**Tickets from Daphne 01884 255942**

*Derek and Jenny Evans*

## **“The Mind of a Bee”**

*by Lars Chittka*



1

*Exploring an insect whose sensory experiences rival those of humans, “The Mind of a Bee” reveals the singular abilities of some of the world’s most incredible creatures.*

Most of us are aware of the hive mind—the power of bees as an amazing collective. But do we know how uniquely intelligent bees are as individuals? In *The Mind of a Bee*, Lars Chittka draws from decades of research, including his own pioneering work, to argue that bees have remarkable cognitive abilities. He shows that they are profoundly smart, have distinct personalities, can recognize flowers and human faces, exhibit basic emotions, count, use simple tools, solve problems, and learn by observing others. They may even possess consciousness.

Taking readers deep into the sensory world of bees, Chittka illustrates how bee brains are unparalleled in the animal kingdom in terms of how much sophisticated material is packed into their tiny nervous systems. He looks at their innate behaviours and the ways their evolution as foragers may have contributed to their keen spatial memory. Chittka also examines the psychological differences between bees and the ethical dilemmas that arise in conservation and laboratory settings because bees feel and think. Throughout, he touches on the fascinating history behind the study of bee behaviour.

A book recommendation from Paul Byrne



## Around the Apiary in September with Keith Owers

Apis Mellifera on Caryopteris x Clan. Heavenly Blue

Taken 31/08/2022 by Hilary Sanders

September is the start of the new beekeeping year, so there is lots to look forward to. Hopefully you have all taken your honey off and have started your varroa treatment, so you will be able to start feeding later in September. Before we start feeding it is a good plan to start sorting your super frames before storage. The better the condition the frames and wax are in, the more the bees will be inclined to fill them next year and they will be easier to extract. Frames that have had brood or pollen stored in them are difficult to extract and are better discarded. Any damaged frames or really dark wax frames are also best discarded before storage for winter.

In the wild bees living in a tree trunk make new foundation every year, leaving the old foundation to one side and moving on to the new for the queen to lay in and later for honey and pollen storage. The old comb will be consumed by wax moth leaving space for the following year to start afresh. We should be doing the same thing by discarding old frames and foundation. Discarded frames can be scraped to remove the wax then washed in hot soda water. [ 1kg washing soda in 5 litres of water] In our hives we do not want the wax moth doing it for us.

To be ready for winter we need to see that the bees have enough stores to keep them going till next Spring. A good colony will consume about 40 lbs of stores, you can estimate the stores in the hive but most beekeepers just guess. I tend to feed each hive with 5 litres of sugar syrup, then heft the hive, lift the back of the hive and guess if it is heavy enough. Not very scientific but it works for me. I am often asked can you over feed? In theory you could restrict the queen laying, but I have not met any one who has done so. If the hive is getting full I find the bees will stop taking the syrup. You can mix your own feed with sugar and water. What I do is to half fill a bucket with white granulated sugar and then add water to just cover it. Mixing it well of course and this works for me. Do not use brown sugar only use granulated white sugar. The bees do not mind if it is beet or cane sugar. A good alternative to mixing your own is Ambrosia syrup it is good and will not ferment if the bees are unable to wax over the cells should the weather turn cold but it is more expensive.

Keith Owers



## Asian Hornet News

The BBKA will be announcing that 5<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> September is the Asian hornet watch week. As published in the August 2022 edition of the Buzzette, our branch is undertaking a revised form of monitoring to that of the previous years.

Namely we will observe our insect population and let them go about their business in their ever declining populations. Should an observation be of concern (*"I think its an Asian hornet not a hornet mimic hoverfly or late season bumble bee"*) then using the Tiverton branch website (click on Contact us and the Is it an Asian hornet link) and complete the online form as completely as possible and attach an image of the observed insect. The link will instantly connect with our AHAT team of verifiers who will confirm or otherwise by return email. If it is a positive ID then the AHAT protocol will roll into action.

This course of action ought to be less time consuming to members without having to monitor traps and greatly reduce the impact of by-catch on other pollinator populations.

### Asian Hornet Action:

1. **SEE IT** Observe the insects around the hives; think it's an invader?
2. **SNAP IT** Use that mobile phone to get a clear image
3. **SEND IT** Send the image and the completed online form via the TBKA website

Let's hope for an uneventful watch week

Gavin Nuttall-Owen

AHAT Coordinator

## Monitoring in Jersey



Jersey AHAT teams are allowed to capture, mark hornets and release them to be able to track to a nest hence the mauve / purple splodge on the thorax; note the yellow legs being clearly visible in flight mode – capturing and releasing is illegal currently in the UK

This image, clearly showing the size differential between the common wasp (*Vespula vulgaris*) and the Asian hornet (*Vespa velutina*)