



THE TIVVY BUZZETTE

The Newsletter of Tiverton Beekeepers – November 2022

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

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From the Editor



In the absence of a Chair or Vice Chair it falls to me to give you all an update on the club. Following on from our last committee meeting in October there was no one who has put themselves forward for these positions. Unfortunately, there is also a need at the AGM on 16th November for a Treasurer and someone to take over from Gavin as our lead on Asian Hornet. As mentioned last month, and my apologies for labouring this point but the concern is that like the piece of art above, Tiverton Beekeepers Club could be relegated to history c2022. So please consider putting yourself forward.

Hilary (Sanders) Editor

16th November - AGM 7.30 pm - Uplowman Village Hall

As well as the usual business part of the meeting, we will be holding a honey tasting session so bring along a jar of your 2022 honey to share with fellow members for discussion and enjoyment!

The meeting will be a "bring and share" event so bring along some food and drink to enjoy with fellow members in a relaxed social environment and take the opportunity to catch up with your beekeeping friends.

A formal invitation with Agenda will follow in due course from our secretary Jon



Feed back from recent meetings and events

October's Members' Meeting.

It was sad to see that only nine members were able to make the October meeting which was a real shame as Martin Hann and Clare Densley, working in tandem, provided a real treat for beekeepers. Their subject of Pheromones was a complex but intriguing look at how bees communicate without being able to 'speak' to each other. There are many glands on the bees' bodies that leave messages which leave different signals in various situations, even larvae and the wax cells provide information for other bees to react to. Not only did we learn about Pheromones but we had the benefit of two of the region's most experienced beekeepers who were more than happy to share their knowledge with us over tea and cake. Many thanks to Lesley for organising an informative & enjoyable evening.

South Devon Beekeepers' Convention.

It was great to be able to return to Totnes for this annual event which had been disrupted due to Covid. Many beekeepers from across the County & Cornwall turned up to listen to three interesting but very different presentations.

First up was Derek Mitchell from Leeds University, a physicist currently working on a PhD thesis in differences in heat transfer between natural and man-made honey bee nests. Derek's curiosity about honey bees and heat started when Elaine, his wife, bought their first hive in 2010 when his physics and engineering training told him that what they had been told about honey bees and the hives wasn't the complete story. This curiosity has resulted in his groundbreaking research into honey bees about hive insulation, humidity, condensation & air flow in the hive. He certainly changed my view and I'll be trying some of his recommendations.

Next up was Professor Juliet Osborne, 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 but then moved to the Environment and Sustainability Institute (ESI) at the University of Exeter (Cornwall campus) in 2012.

Her research has used a combination of novel technology, field experiments and models to predict the effects of changing threats on bee survival and subsequent pollination. Her team is also known for developing computer models of honeybee colonies and bumblebee populations. In the last three years her group has also started exploring the relationship between humans and pollinators.

Finally, Clare Densley and Martin Hann told us about the fascinating history of Buckfast Abbey bees & Brother Adam. Clare has been keeping bees since 1992 and in 2008, when she got the chance to become assistant beekeeper at Buckfast Abbey, she thought that she had 'died and gone to heaven'. Martin has been keeping bees since 2008. He was a seasonal bee inspector for the Southwest region for six years but he now works full-time alongside Clare. Both are self-confessed "Beeks" and share a passion for understanding the nature of the honey bee and colony life.

Tony

Correspondence sent to Malcolm Crook which might be of interest to you.

I am Darren from Bishops Bees. We are a honeybee farm based in North Devon, primarily selling queens and nucs. We also run some beekeeping courses and supply specialist equipment. Over the winter period, we often manufacture equipment and beekeeping supplies.

We are due to start manufacturing another batch of insulated steel roofs. As we will be forefilling an order for Quince honey farm, I thought it would be worth contacting you in case your association or members would like to order some. If there is an interest in ordering roofs from you and your members, I can offer discounts on a group order, as detailed below.

The integrated insulation of our roofs is beneficial to any hive. The PIR insulation, as used in modern buildings, prevents heat loss through the top of the hive. This helps the bees maintain a stable environment in both summer and winter. Manufactured from thick gauge steel sheet, these roofs are robust and long lasting. In a time of increasing costs, these are very economical when compared to alternatives.

Roof Details and Pricing:

Orders of 1-49 roofs - £30inc each

Orders of 50-99 roofs - £26.75inc each

Orders of 100+ roofs - £23.50inc each

Available sizes:

National/Commercial – Internal dimensions – 480mm x 480mm x 40mm deep (65mm deep externally) with 25mm PIR insulation

Langstroth – Internal dimensions – 520mm x 430mm x 30mm deep (45mm deep externally) with 15mm PIR insulation

Dadant – Internal dimensions – 520mm x 450mm x 30mm deep (45mm deep externally) with 15mm PIR insulation

All roofs are made from 0.9mm galvanised steel with continuous welded corners. All welds are over sprayed with zinc galvanise for corrosion protection and long service life.

We are looking to order materials at the end of October/Start of November. If you would like to place an order, please let us know at your earliest convenience. Once your order is agreed, we will require a deposit to secure it.

Of further interest to you may be some of our more specialist courses. We offer both queen rearing and queen breeding courses. If there is a lot of interest at your association in these, an association day can be arranged. In addition, we run a 2-day instrumental insemination course. More details on these courses can be found on our website. If you have more specific learning requirements, please contact us and I'm sure that we can arrange something.

Darren Molyneux

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Around the Apiary in November

Keith Owers



Apis Mellifera on Ivy

This last month has been very mild with good days in the high temps. I have been pleased to see good pollen loads being brought in to my hives for consumption or storage. Flowers are in short supply but the ivy is doing well. A good clump growing near me has been interesting to watch. Bees have been the main visitors with a few wasps and one or two flies, plus a friendly hornet. Ivy is the most important Autumn flower for many insects including bees, bumblebees as well as hoverflies. The flowers are rich in nectar and pollen, and may still be in flower in December.

Hefting your hives you may find young colonies are still a bit light, queens tend to go on laying longer hence the bees are still feeding young and not storing your feed. Not to worry, change to feeding fondant and they will be fine.

I am still waiting for cold weather before putting my mouse guards on. The problem with mouse guards is that they tend to knock the pollen off the hind legs of our bees.

Now is the time to retreat to the shed to start cleaning equipment.

See you at the AGM.

Keith Owers

And finally free...sugar from Tesco Cullompton

Norman Sanders, aka Hubby, recently took over from Malcolm (Crook) the job of collecting the broken bags of sugar that Tesco would otherwise throw out, for use by the club to feed our bees. This is all white sugar, not brown which must not be fed to bees.

We live in Kentisbeare, if anyone is passing by, although last week we took it along to the club meeting for people to take if they wanted any and will continue to bring to meetings when we are going to be there.

If you need any, give me a call on 01884 266297 / 07763 347311

Hilary (Editor)