



THE TIVVY BUZZETTE

The Newsletter of Tiverton Beekeepers – August 2023

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

The Chairman's Brood Box

By now some of you will have started your honey harvest and the rest of you will be planning on doing so. It seems to have been a short season this year with the weather being unsettled for most of April into early May & the sunny weather has been cut short by more rain, there's even a touch of autumn in the air already. However the bees have been very busy over that short period of time when they seem to have made plenty of honey. Just one word of warning - Wasps - you'll have seen them about already and I'm aware of 2 beekeepers who've had a hive decimated by them. Whilst you are preparing your hives for honey removal, the honey stores and bees are at their most vulnerable so be careful to make sure everything is wasp proof.

The Mid Devon Show recently took place, where as always, Tiverton Beekeepers had our display stand on show but this year there were many changes. Firstly, we moved location, thanks to the intervention of Alan Barrow, to a position in the Countryside Area between the ferret racing & the falcons. Secondly, we increased the size of our site so we had room for both our marquees. Thirdly and probably most importantly, Tracy Frankpitt took on the organisation and coordination of our display and activity. She kept in some of our traditional favourites such as our Stevenson Trophy display from the County Show, honey sales and the observation hive but she also added candle rolling, seed planting, famous beekeepers (David Beckham, Queen Camilla, Jeremy Clarkson and an old beekeeper in a rocking chair) & 'Ask me, I'm a Beekeeper' badges for our stewards. We had new signage and flags so everything was looking good on the Friday evening when our happy bunch of volunteers set it all up. Unfortunately the weather didn't play ball. By Saturday it was very wet with rain falling nearly all day. However that didn't dampen the spirits of our volunteer stewards nor the public who were made very welcome & encouraged to spot the queen in the observation hive, roll a candle and plant a bee friendly seed. Many of our volunteers have only just started keeping bees so their enthusiasm was infectious. It was with great surprise that, shortly after lunch, we were told that we had won First Prize for our stand in the prestigious Education Category and the judges were full of praise & congratulations for the way our whole stand was so informative. We were presented with a 'Special Show' rosette and the East Devon College Cup awarded to the show stand with the best educational or instructional content. It is brilliant

that Tiverton Beekeepers has been recognised for the work we do in educating and informing the public about the importance of honey bees (& others) to the environment. A huge thank you to all of our many members who have been involved including those who helped on the County Show display (so well led by Sue).

I would particularly like to thank Tracy Frankpitt without whom none of this would have happened and our new-bees Vicky, Steve & Adam, who were there on a wet and cold day. They were a credit to the Branch. We even had several cakes at the show for our volunteers to enjoy!

We will have a smaller version of this display at Plymtree Country Fayre on the 28th August and at Uffculme Show on the 3rd September. Please come along and support us.



Research

We have been approached by Dr Claire Bethune a Consultant Immunologist working at Derriford Hospital in Plymouth. She gave a really interesting talk about the effects of Bee Stings when she came to the Branch many years ago. She is currently undertaking research to determine who is likely to react badly to bee stings and who probably won't. Her research will need beekeepers who get stung on a regular basis to assist & may need a trip or two to Derriford.

Coincidentally whilst at the Show I was approached by James Wakefield, Professor of Integrative Cellular Biology at Exeter University who is researching regarding the possibility of *Galleria Mellonella* (Wax Moth) being a vector for disease in bees. He will be needing samples of wax moth larvae to carry out this research.

I'm sure most of you would be happy to be involved in one or both of these research programmes and I will update you as I get more information.

Introduction to Beekeeping

We are about to initiate our prospective new beekeepers on their Introduction to Beekeeping course which starts with a Meet the Bees session at Knightshayes Apiary on Saturday the 19th August. For this reason we will not be meeting at the Apiary on Sunday the 20th as we normally would do, however you are welcome to join us on the 19th to meet the newcomers and help introduce them to our bees.

Diary Dates.

Our winter lecture meetings start again in September at Updownman Village Hall on the third Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm. Lesley has arranged a varied and interesting programme of speakers which we hope you will find informative.

We have confirmed Updownman Village Hall as the venue for our Christmas Social this year on Saturday 9th December so book it in your diary now. Details of the evening will follow later.

Good luck with your honey extraction & happy beekeeping.

Tony. (Chair)



Apiary Teaching sessions for all members at Knightshayes

This includes beginners as part of their practical element of the beginners course.

Saturday August 5th 2-4pm

Open day and “Meet the Bees”

An Introduction to Beekeeping for those intending to start the beginners course

Saturday 19th August 12-4pm at The club Apiary Knightshayes



Next Committee meeting

Thursday September 7th 7.30 pm Uplowman village hall

The autumn programme of evening club meetings at Uplowman Village Hall begins

Weds September 20th at 7.30pm Dan Basterfield – New findings in the Honey Bee dance language.

Wednesday October 18th 7.30 pm Will Steynor – Time Saving Inventions for the practical Beekeeper

Wednesday November 15th AGM

Saturday December 9th Club Christmas Social Evening

Vacancy for Buzzette Editor

Tony has mentioned in previous issues of the Buzzette that I intend to stand down from being Editor of The Buzzette at the next AGM in November. I took it on in 2019 and its been fun but I think it is now time that someone else had a go.

A number of different people have had this role in the years that I have been a member of the branch and everyone has made it their own so don't be put off by whatever skills you think you may lack because when I started doing it I could basically type on a keyboard, copy and paste things and send emails etc. The rest I learnt by trial and mostly error with a teeny bit of imagination and creativity thrown in. I proof read articles that I am send and make minor alterations as I see fit, I contact people if there are things that need more clarity on and cross referencing dates etc. Sometimes I write articles myself. Sometimes I have made mistakes or get stuck on an IT issue, I get around it somehow or other.

William Lines kindly talked me through using ER2 for the first three or four months before I finally grasped it. "Thanks for your patience William. You were always do kind."

If any of you would be interested in having a go please feel free to phone me and have a chat.

Hilary Sanders 01884 266297/ 07763347311 (Did you spot the deliberate error?)



Bulk Buying Scheme

It's that time of year again and with some challenges with increased costs, I am now confirming the new prices for 2023. The collection date will remain roughly for the end of August and I will contact the members who have ordered as soon as everything has arrived with me.

The deadline for all orders will be Friday 11th August 2023

The range will consist of Jars, caps and Ambrosia Syrup, as last year and will include, standard 1lb honey jars, round jars at 1.5oz, 8oz, 12oz and hexagonal at 4oz and 8oz. All jars come with caps but you can order additional caps, for the honey jars only, if required.

HOW TO ORDER Jars and Ambrosia Syrup

The Order Form is attached and can be either sent by email or in the post to me.

I would be grateful if everyone could pay by BACS before the collection date and ensure they show their surname as the reference. This is the safest method of payment, however, we will still be accepting cheques if necessary on collection.

Ambrosia Syrup

People who have used this to feed to their bees in the past have found the convenience and results very beneficial to the bees. Most people used at least one can per hive. This depends upon the colony and the beekeeper. Most colonies require about 20 kg of stores to see them through the winter. This can be made up of their own stores (leaving a super full of honey) and/or giving them syrup, either Ambrosia syrup or your home-made sugar and water syrup (in the ratio 2:1).

The syrup comes in 12.5kg jerry cans and is ideal to feed to your bees after you have taken your honey from the hive and treated for varroa.

Product Information

Ambrosia® bee feed syrup is a liquid ready-made feed with a balanced sugar type spectrum (fructose, dextrose, sucrose), based on beet sugar of the purest quality. The high percentage of fructose and lower portion of glucose prevents the formation of crystals in the honeycombs. The high sugar concentration makes the syrup resistant to microbiological decay. The ideal combination of the sugar type spectrum ensures the bee's optimal use of the nutritional components. The nutrient concentration is approx. 72.7 %. 1 kg (or, 1 litre) ambrosia® bee feed syrup is 0.73 kg (1 kg) sugar crystals.

Ambrosia® bee feed syrup is particularly beneficial in the early and later winter feeding:

- its formulation comes the closest to natural Bee feed,
- effortless acceptance and utilization-less inversion work needed,
- conserves the bee's energy balance. Tests showered energetic advantages on a scale of 15 %.
- High resistance to microbiological decay leads to longer shelf life
- Hygienic, time-saving, and practical handling

Collections will be from the address shown on the order form but please let me know if you have any problems, my telephone number is 01884 849377. I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Cath Davies. Bulk Purchasing Co-ordinator

Asian Hornet Update

An Asian Hornet nest has been found and destroyed in Plymouth, thanks to a vigilant beekeeper.

The Asian hornets are too close for comfort. We need to be on our guard and have tools to hand to identify and report any sightings.

Mr Bumble the Appless Beekeeper

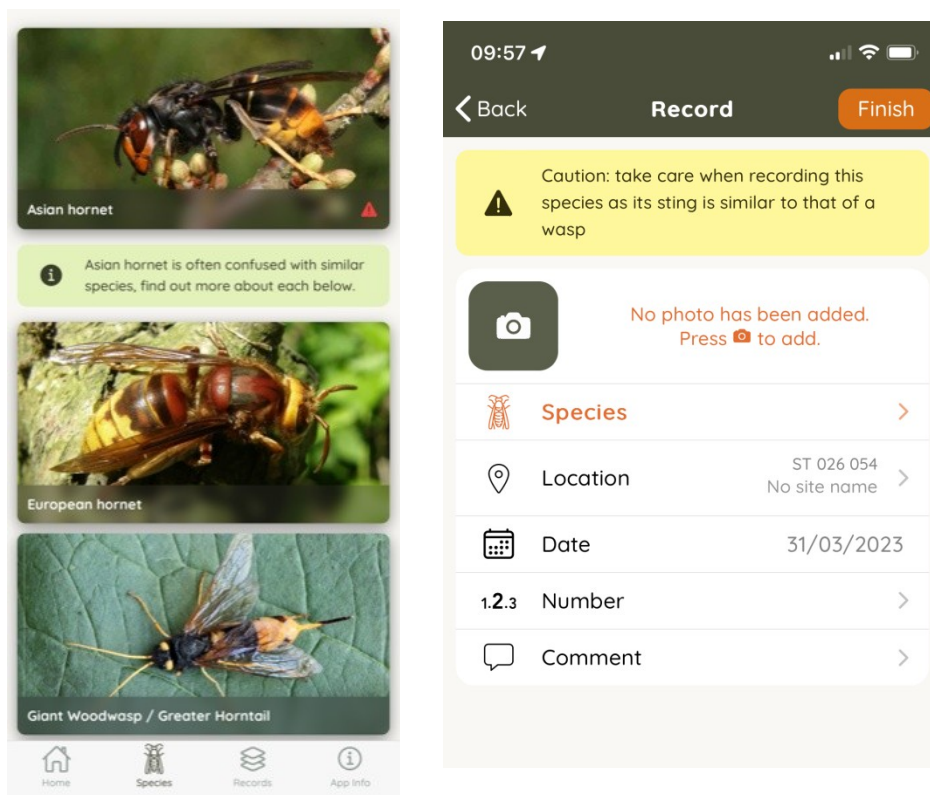
One sunny morning Mr Bumble went out to inspect his bees. He put on his best bee suit, lit his smoker and grasped his hive tool.

On arriving at his hives he noticed a large sinister looking insect hovering at the entrance to one of his hives.

"Oh heck", he thought. "I think that might be one of those hornets that Tracy and Louise bang on about. Now let me think. What did they say it looked like? Something about yellow legs and an orange face. I really could do with a picture of one right now so I can check."

"Ah! There is the Asian Hornet Watch App. There are photos of Asian Hornets and other species that resemble it on there. I've got my phone with me. I'll download it now."

Mr Bumble then spent a few minutes locating the app in the app store and another 30 minutes trying to download the app without wifi or a decent signal. By the time he had the app downloaded, the Asian Hornet had returned to its nest.



Don't be like Mr Bumble, Download the Asian Hornet Watch App today.

Louise Scott and Tracy Frankpitt Tiverton Beekeepers Asian Hornet Co-Ordinators





Around the Apiary in August with Keith Owers

Apis Millefera on Borage 30/07/22 Hilary Sanders

July was not been a good month for our bees. There has just been too much rain. Colonies have maintained themselves but they have consumed what food they have brought in and August can be a bad month for wasps so be prepared and reduce their entrance. This will make it easier for the guard bees to protect the colon

As soon as supers have been removed for extraction, decide what treatment you are going to use against Varroa. Treating now will give you stronger bees that need to go through the winter, remember your autumn bees need to live for approximately six months.

As the weather cools the queen will reduce and may stop laying till the weather warms up again. Most varroa treatments can only be used once your honey has been taken off. If you are in doubt whether you have varroa, uncap some drone larvae and take out the grubs and you will see them feeding on the poor things - don't feel bad about it, they are all going to be thrown out by the bees at the end of the month.

For best advice on what to treat look up the National Bee unit, but do not delay as time and temperature is important. It is good practice to change your treatment every year. I will be using Apiguard this year.

We will be looking to feed our bees for the winter next month. Once you have taken your honey off, your bees will probable have enough food in the brood chamber to keep them going, especially if they have had uncapped supers and frames for them to lick out. Feeding can start as soon as varroa treatment has finished.

We recently bought 2 boxes of Apiguard. Enough for 10 hives but as you can't split boxes when you buy them, we will have enough left over to treat 4 hives, so if any of you with 1 or two hives would like them text me Hilary 07773347311 Price will be £5.40. We alternate treatments each year and these expire in 2024 so they will be no use by the following year for us.