



THE TIVVY BUZZETTE

The Newsletter of Tiverton Beekeepers – September 2023

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

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The Chairman's Brood Box



Many beekeepers see this time of year as the end of the season, others look on it as the beginning of next season, in reality it is, of course, both the end & the start. The Branch extractors have been loaned out to members who are spinning their honey and as a result of our bulk buying scheme, so efficiently organised by Cath Davies, jars are being filled to store the honey and ambrosia is purchased to start the feeding process. Many members are treating their hives against varroa and uniting weak colonies with stronger ones to get them through the winter. As a beekeeper there is always something to do.

Introduction to Beekeeping

Looking forward to next year, on the 19th August we had our 'Meet the Bees' session at the Knightshayes Apiary, organised by Education Officer, Clive Rowe. Sixteen members of the public turned up to take the opportunity to don a beekeeping suit & have a look inside a bee hive for the first time. I expect we can all remember your own first time filled with equal measure of excitement & apprehension. This group of newbees were no exception, thoroughly enjoying their first experience of beekeeping. After their initial bee experience, they, of course, were introduced to the beekeepers' tradition of talking beekeeping whilst enjoying tea & cake - many of our members turned up to help and provided the best range, quality and quantity of cakes I can remember. It was a great afternoon for the Tiverton Branch and everyone who attended. All of the newbees, plus others who couldn't get there on this day, said they intended to sign up for our next 'Introduction to beekeeping' course which starts on the 27th September at Uplowman Village Hall.

Local shows

By the time you read this, this year's show season will be almost over. We will have been in attendance at Devon County Show, Mid Devon Show, Plymtree Country Fayre & Uffculme Show is around the corner. Despite the weather at times, it has been a very successful year for the Branch, thanks to the hard work & commitment from a large group of people. In particular we should thank Sue Francombe for leading the team working on our display at Devon County Show and Tracy Frankpitt for designing & coordinating our stand that we took to Mid Devon, Plymtree & Uffculme.

Finally, it is with great sadness that we have learnt of the death of John Knowles who had been a beekeeper & member of the Branch for many years. He served on the Branch committee helping at the Knightshayes Apiary and sharing his knowledge of microscopy with us. We send our heartfelt condolences and sympathy to Suzanna and John's family.

Vacancy for Buzzette Editor

We are still looking for someone to take on the role of Editor of this Buzzette. If you are interested in contributing to communication in this form for the Branch then please consider putting yourself forward, there will be plenty of help to support you. Please refer to last months edition for more details on this role or contact Hilary 07763347311/ 01884 266297

Tony Linsdell (Chair)

The Winter Programme of Club meetings

Hello! I am not sure where the summer has gone! It's been a mixed bag weather-wise. Now the bees are being settled down for the winter and the nights start to draw in, we can think about our branch meetings. I have arranged some speakers with interesting topics starting with Dan Basterfield giving us some interesting new knowledge on 'New findings in Honeybee Dance Language', on 20th September. The meetings, are on the 3rd Wednesday of every month from September through to April, with the exception of December. The Christmas Social will be on Saturday 9th December. At April's meeting we will be Nosema testing, where you bring a sample of your bees and after preparing them look at them under the microscope. I look forward to seeing you all in September.

Lesley Ayre (Programme Secretary)



Apiary Teaching sessions for all members at Knightshayes

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

Saturday 2nd September 2-4pm

Sunday 17th September 2-4pm

Branch Committee meeting.

Thursday September 7th 7.30 pm Uplowman village hall

The Autumn programme of Branch Club meetings at Uplowman Village Hall .

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

Tiverton Branch AGM open to all members

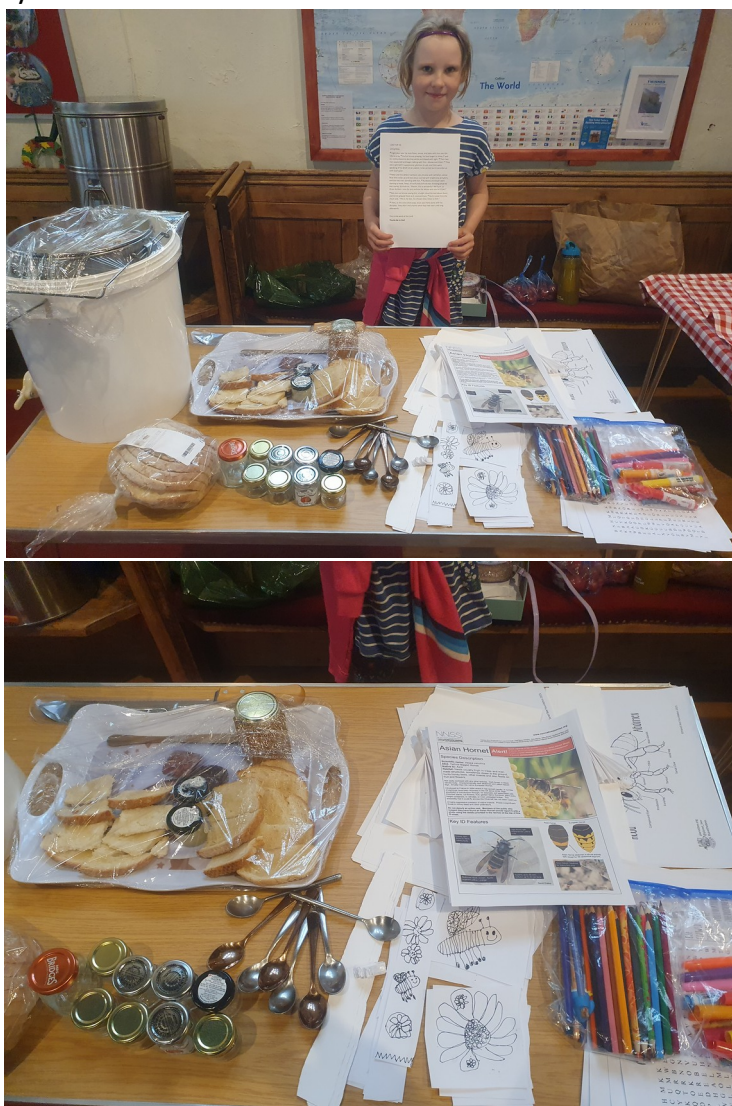
Wednesday November 15th 7.30pm Uplowman Village Hall

Saturday December 9th Club Christmas Social Evening

Bee Gentle

We are lucky enough to be the owners of a lovely hive of bees in our local churchyard in Sampford Peverell, currently, and fortuitously (given their location) they are headed up by the most mild mannered queen we have, her name is Clarissa, she is a 2023 queen, her predecessor unfortunately became a bit more aggressive than passive so has been relocated to an out apiary! Every year myself and either of my daughters who might be interested as well as my husband who is forced to come along for the ride (though loves it really) spin off the honey from the churchyard beehive following a service in the church. Local children are invited to attend and are able to taste honeys and jar small quantities to take away with them. This year we did this on Sun 13th August and it was attended by a small group of children from the village and their respective adults as well as members of the regular congregation. It feels like such a lovely thing to do as a way of maintaining good bee PR and celebrating the honey harvest but this time crucially it also afforded the opportunity to spread the word about the Asian Hornet especially amongst members of our Community who may not have social media or access to regular news feeds. Our daughter Clara (pictured) also produced some pictures for children to colour and other bee related activities for everyone to enjoy. It was a lovely morning and after this year where we had potential AFB (it wasn't thank goodness) it was a nice little way to celebrate the harvest and involve the community. If any local beekeepers fancy being involved next year do let me know and I can contact you as and when we have a super to extract from our lovely church bees.

Katy and Clara Danby



Now for a touch of Madness!

I wrote a piece a few months ago about this subject and was kindly passed a newspaper article by someone. Here is what it had to say on the subject. Hilary (Editor)



Bear has sore head after going on a 'mad honey' bender

A disoriented brown bear cub, believed to have achieved its peculiar glazed state by consuming excessive levels of "mad honey", has been rescued in northwestern Turkey (James Callery writes). Video taken in the Yigilca district of Duzce Province shows the bear in a trance, perched on the back of a trailer. She

is reported to have whined and wobbled on Thursday as she sat in the back of a pick-up truck after being rescued from the forest. She was also struggling for breath.

The bear had gorged on a form of rhododendron honey called *deli bal* in Turkish. It can have an hallucinogenic effect if consumed. Dozens of people a year in Turkey



The bear cub needed treatment after being found in a trance-like state after too much of a type of honey that has hallucinogenic properties

are admitted to hospital for mad honey poisoning. The bear was taken to a vet and will be released into the wild soon.

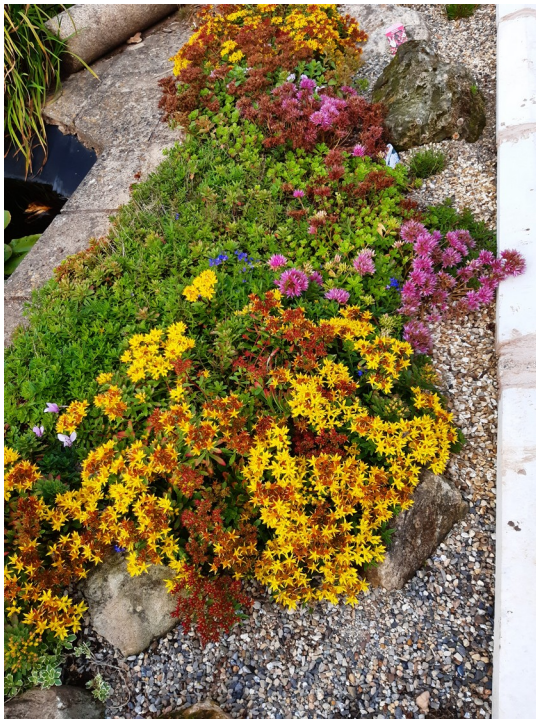
The agriculture and forestry ministry said: "Our baby brown bear, who is exhausted in Duzce, is in good health, and our teams continue their treatment."

The cub was found by Yasin Oztas, a forester. He explained that villagers had seen a mother and her two cubs passing through the area the day before.

He added: "While we were carrying out our forest protection control activities, we saw a bear cub lying on the ground in a lethargic way." The group had been scared but they quickly realised that the cub was unwell.

A forestry official said: "Our rangers found this ecstatic bear cub. We think it's had a little too much honey ..."

The ministry asked Twitter users to come un



Around the Apiary in September

with Keith Owers

We recently renovated our rockery. The yellow is Stonecrop/ sedum . *Phedimus kamtschaticus* and the red is Sedum Spurium dragons blood. They have been covered in honey and bumble bees in the past week or two.

Hilary (Editor)

August is almost over and autumn is fast approaching. I trust you have all had reasonable harvests, maybe not the best but hopefully not too bad.

Helping with a friend's extracting, it was interesting to see that the honey on the first super which had been full, had a large chunk eaten out and then refilled with a slightly different coloured honey, showing that the bees must have eaten it when they were hungry.

September is the time to treat for Varroa before you start feeding for the winter. Some beekeepers like to leave a super on for the bees, but this is not something that I ever do. Feeding the bees with sugar syrup works well and is much cheaper than feeding your hard earned honey and hopefully your bees will have quite a bit of their own honey stored in the brood box.

Your supers can now all be cleaned and stored in the dry for winter.

Wax moth can be a problem in the supers but if you have a good look in the corners and wrinkle them out / scrape them with a hive tool to make sure there are none hiding, better still, in January have another look.

The brood frames are best cleaned as there will be frames that have had brood in them.

More about cleaning frames next month.

Finally, keep the hive entrances small to prevent wasps robbing the honey.

All the best, Keith.

