



# THE TIVVY BUZZETTE

**The Newsletter of Tiverton Beekeepers – November 2023**

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



## The Chairman's Brood Box

Here we are in November which means that we are at the end of our beekeeping year. The bees are settling down for winter giving beekeepers time to start thinking about how to do better by our bees next year.

Our Branch at Tiverton and the Devon Beekeepers Association will be reflecting on what has been achieved in the last year and what challenges we can look forward to next year.

Please come along to support the Tiverton Branch at our Annual Meeting on the 15th of November at Uplozman Village Hall - we currently have a great team on our committee, but we are always looking for more help and ideas, our meetings are always fun. We are still looking for a replacement for Hilary as Buzzette editor, we can't afford not to replace her, I can't image life without the Buzzette, can you?

If you are interested in what is going on with beekeeping across Devon, then you may like to join the Devon Association's AGM on the 9th of December - it is still held via Zoom, so there is no travelling involved.

Vicky has been working hard to ensure we have a warm supper at the December Christmas Social evening on the 9th of December at Uplozman Village Hall - more details later in this edition of the Buzzette. The Branch will provide some soft refreshments, tea & coffees but you are welcome to bring your own drink which can include alcohol.

We hope to see you & your partner there.

A big thank you to Tracy & Ian for representing the Branch at the Uplowman Creation Day on the 8th of October which was very successful with, as usual, lots of interest in beekeeping & the value of bees to our environment.

Happy beekeeping  
Tony

## News from The Club Apiary

Hello everyone Malcolm and I would like to thank all the members that came to the apiary sessions this year. We have made several changes in the way it is run and managed. I believe that beekeeping should be fun & enjoyable and that the best way to learn is hands on.

This year we covered quite a wide range of subjects but still only touched the surface of beekeeping, therefore it will be good to see as many of this year's beginners come back to help with next year's apiary sessions and do more advanced beekeeping.

So please if there is anything you would like to do let Malcolm or myself know and we will try to fit it in bees & weather permitting. The apiary is looking good now and the bees appear to be strong. We will hopefully come out of the winter with 6 or 7 hives.

It is now a good time to check your equipment to make sure it is good for next season. Check your bee suits and hive tools smokers etc. Perishable items need to be checked more often.

Good Beekeeping  
Alan





**Branch Committee meeting.**

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

**Tiverton Branch AGM open to all members**

Wednesday November 15<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Uplowman Village Hall  
Tracy Frankpitt will be showing us how to make and use an Asian Hornet trap.

**Christmas Social Evening**

Saturday December 9<sup>th</sup> 7pm Uplowman Village Hall

## Tiverton Branch Christmas Social Evening



You and your partner are invited to the TBKA Christmas Social - a chance to meet other beekeepers and have an enjoyable social time.

On Saturday December 9th at 7pm at Uplowman Village Hall.

The Branch will provide some soft refreshments, tea & coffees but you are welcome to bring your own drink which can include alcohol.

The choice of menu (CM) is lasagne or veggie lasagne, with coleslaw, potato, rice and green salad with garlic bread followed by a choice of puddings.

The cost is £15 per person.

Please let Vicky know your options and that you have paid, by November 15th by emailing [Vjmorrish@outlook.com](mailto:Vjmorrish@outlook.com)

Bank details as follows.

Tiverton branch beekeepers Association Registered Charity

sort code 60 21 27

account no. 06514553

Please include the following reference. CM followed by your surname.

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## It's over and out from me!



Thank you to all of you who have sent me articles over the years to include in The Buzzette. Hopefully one of you readers will take this role on and have fun making it their own just as I have done.

Hilary Sanders (Editor)

## Around the Apiary in November with Keith Owers



*Photograph from "The complete step by step book of Beekeeping" by David Cramp  
Hilary Sanders*

### Why do the bees sting me?

Bees sting for a reason. To the bee it means death, when a bee stings it means the end of its life as a damaged bee cannot return to the hive.

Unlike wasps, bees have a barbed sting. So, when they pull away, they are damaged. The question is, why did the bee sting in the first place. The answer is what was the beekeeper doing?

Getting in the bee's way or disturbing the bee's accommodation? All too often the beekeeper, stands in the flight path of the returning bees. When looking or inspecting a hive it is best to stand behind or at the side of the hive. If you intend to inspect the hive, consider beforehand. Is the weather suitable, not too windy or raining, or too late in the day.

Be careful to remove hive parts and cover board without jarring the hive and when removing frames make sure they are free before lifting them out.

Avoid shuffling or moving the frames if possible. Decide if you really need to look at all the frames? The less frames are moved, the better. Try and be gentle in your movements as rapid rushed movement will upset the bees and they will retaliate. They will also sense if you are in a rush or stressed because we will be giving off pheromones and bees are highly sensitive and will know this and will likely react. So try and be relaxed and calm.

If you are checking to see the queen, that is okay, but you do not have to see the queen to know that she is there and that all is well. If you can see eggs and young brood, you know the queen is there. The use of the smoker is not always necessary, but it is good practice to have one on the go.

### Have the bees got sufficient stores?

If you want to know whether they have enough food, why not just heft the hive rather than look in the brood itself. This is slightly easier if you have more than one hive to compare with. I assess this in the following way:

Having removed the roof (because you may have different rooves all of which may have different weight), I lift the back of the hive with one hand and assess the weight, this comes with practice and experience.