

The Tivvy Buzzette

September 2025

Tiverton Beekeepers Newsletter



Chairman's Broodbox

Photo: Honey bees have a pollen fest at RHS Rosemoor in late August. FS



I hope your bees have been treated, if needed, well fed and prepared for the winter. The weather has suddenly changed with cooler temperatures and plenty of rain, the days are shorter so our Queens will be definitely be laying fewer eggs producing her winter workers.

I've recently taken a short break into the Peak District in Derbyshire so my Broodbox is a bit shorter this month. In fact I've concentrated on this month's committee meeting to give you a flavour of what your hard working officers and committee members do.

We welcome your views and suggestions on how we can improve what we do and achieve as a Branch. Please feel free to contact me or any member of our committee or even better please join us at the AGM.

Happy Beekeeping
Tony



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

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Masthead photo by Kat Smith: <https://www.pexels.com>

Committee Meeting Report

Thirteen members attended and four sent their apologies.

Malcolm updated us in the health of our President, Keith and David, a long time member.

Finance - Steve reported on the finances as we reach the end of our financial year and the good news is that financially we are stable. Recently we have purchased an Education Hive for use at talks, shows, schools and training events, a laptop for use by officers and to link with our microscopes and a display cabinet that we have purchased. Money has come in from honey sales at Mid Devon and Plymtree Shows.

Membership - we are very pleased that the membership has grown so that this year we have more members than at anytime in our history. 155 in total 131 of which are active beekeepers.

Apiary - Malcolm reported that we had extracted 129lbs of honey from our hives at Knightshayes - most of which was sold at the shows we attended but 60 jars were in reserve for next year's Devon County Show. Malcolm made a proposal that next year we need to be more professional in our approach, increase our hives to twelve (not including nucs), breed our own queens and not buy-in, determine how much honey we need and increase our Apiary management team. Lesley and Vicky expressed an interest and it was hoped other members would come forward as well. A vote of thanks was extended to Malcolm and Alan for all their hard work.

Education - Tracy confirmed that 32 people are signed up on the Introduction to Beekeeping Course but 1 still to pay. Hayes Bee Manuals are ordered and Leila has confirmed her dates. First session 24th September. New WhatsApp group to be set up by Tracy.

Group Talks - We now have the education hive which looks like it will be very useful - Sarah

Lines gave an excellent presentation at Meet the Bees day. Vicky has offered to pull information together for a PowerPoint presentation and we hope Frances will produce the presentation.

Improvers Course - congratulations were extended to our three members who had passed the BBKA Basic Assessment with credit. It was agreed that the Improvers Course would be run again next March - anyone interested please contact Tracy.

Branch Diary - Lesley confirmed speakers for September through until April 2026. The Branch Dinner will be on the 6th December with Vicky organising. Branch Annual Meeting is on 19th November. Ian to lead the members meeting on 17th September.

Shows - Both shows were well attended and enjoyed good weather. Despite not winning any trophies this year, it was agreed that the display and stand reflected well on the Branch and probably had more response from the public than in other years. It was hoped we could recruit more non-committee members to help at next year's events.

Welcome Pack - we would like to produce a welcome pack for new members and beginners. A pack from another Beekeeping Association was shared as an example. Charles will gather information together.

Social Media - Vicky would like more content to be sent to her.

Asian Hornet - Tracy reported that there had been 342 sightings this year with 86 nests located. 2nd generation hornets in Kent keeping bee inspectors very busy.

Bulk Buying - John and Richard reported that they intend to bring the process forward for anymore purchases.

Buzzette - praise for Frances for the quality of the Buzzette - deadline for articles by 20th of the month. More articles from members, please.

New Branch Polo Shirts - the new yellow polo shirt will be offered to members.

Correspondence - the BBKA were promoting local beekeeper honey and Tony has responded to their survey on behalf of the Branch.

AOB - a laptop had been purchased for various Branch uses and Jon, as Secretary, will be responsible for it. Charles indicated his interest in taking in the AHAT role from Tracy. Branch inventory check to be organised by Steve.

Next committee meeting on 6th November prior to AGM to approve accounts.

Frames - an indepth look



This image shows a frame with heavy deposits of pollen in it. The frame would have been in the first super sighted directly above the queen excluder. When the colony is up to strength it will naturally want to surround the brood with accessible food, so the workers have to store the pollen and nectar above the queen excluder. The frame was extracted for honey, and then the wax was cut out and rendered. If the frame had been stored like this for the winter, the wax moth would have thanked you and caused havoc. If only the lower part of the frame was filled with pollen then I would have cut it out leaving a thin strip of clean wax at the top of the frame as a starter strip for next season.

The next image shows a frame with the odd cell of pollen in it. This would have been from a super higher up in the colony. So once extracted, the wet frame would have been placed back on the hive for a couple of days,



and when dry, the cells of pollen would be removed before storing for winter.



The next photograph shows a frame of lovely sealed honey ready for testing and extraction. What I find interesting is that the frame was filled early in the season, but the colony has eaten part of the centre during the late May/June gap and refilled the cells when the summer flow began.

2025 Calendar

October

Wed 15th

Branch meeting

November

Wed 19th

Branch AGM

Meetings - 7.30pm Upplowman Village Hall.
Apiary Meetings - Knightshayes.

Below image of some of the Educational panels for talks and events.



The Buzzette

Last date for submission for the next issue is **20th October**.

Send your news and views to
buzzette@tivertonbeekeepers.uk



This last image shows why I like to use a frame spacing of 9 in some of my colonies. Much less uncapping to do, quicker extraction, more honey per super and with less cappings to deal with.

Enjoy your bees, Crooky



Club t-shirts

This year the committee agreed on the design of club shirts. Initially these were to be used at the shows we have stands on. The feedback we have had from them has been really positive and some members have contacted us to

see if they could order their own. So we thought we would reach out to all members to purchase their own tops if they wish!

The tops are 100% cotton and the design is embroidered on. Sizes are XS to 3XL Price £15
If you wish to order please email
Vjmorrish@outlook.com