



Devon Beekeepers Day

September 26th

A day of lectures, of meeting up with old friends, lots of honey bee talk, pastie lunch and probably the best selection of cake to be seen in the county. What more could you ask for?

Boniface Centre, Church Lane, Crediton EX17 2AH

Booking is now open through Eventbrite

Your speakers:

Lynne Ingram NDB

Lynne has kept bees for over 30 years, and runs 10 colonies in Somerset. She is a Master Beekeeper, holds the National Diploma in Beekeeping, and is an examiner for the BBKA written and practical exams. Lynne is involved in educating beekeepers, running study groups and curating the popular Somerset Lecture series. She is a knowledgeable and engaging speaker.



The Truth About Honey?

Honey is the second most adulterated food in the world. This talk lifts the lid on the how, why and wherefore of honey fraud and adulteration, and the shocking impact it is having on the livelihoods of beekeepers around the world. We look at why this fraud continues, and what can be done about it. We also take a look at what is happening in the UK.

Chris Parks

Chris Parks lives on an organic farm in the Vale of the White Horse. His work ranges across arts and crafts, education and ancient technologies, folk music, storytelling, celebrancy and therapy. He works with schools, wildlife trusts, local authorities, mental health projects, special interest groups, communities and families. He researches beekeeping heritage, folklore and history and lectures to beekeeping associations. Chris keeps bees in many different types of hives, ranging from log hives to a bee house and he specialises in skeps, all styles being treatment-free allowed to swarm and never fed sugar. During the pandemic, Chris worked with the bee-themed podcast **Living Bee**. Chris works with the charity **Bees for Development** teaching skep making, mead making and skep-beekeeping.



Beeswax Through the Ages

Beeswax a major factor in the development in the evolution of the genus *Apis* and their ability to raise brood and expand stores, has long been a boon to humanity. Dubbin your boots, wax your hair put on your lipstick for a hike through beeswax history. From ancient medicines, magic charms and early metallurgy, through cobblery, saddlery and upholstery, to holy luminance royal seals and taxes, towards anatomical models, modern science and space exploration.

Ollie Visick

Ollie is a postdoctoral researcher with seven years' experience working with bees. His PhD research generated the first quantitative data on the size and status of free-living honey bee populations in the UK. He has also developed field-based approaches for assessing the quantity and quality of natural nesting cavities in trees, contributing to our understanding of how habitat loss may influence free-living populations in Europe.



Wild Honeybee Colonies - Density, Survival and Limiting Factors

This talk starts by exploring the density and survival of honey bee colonies in the wild, providing an overview of previous research in Europe and my PhD in southeast England. I'll then talk briefly about the project we are running in the South West, concerning the evolutionary origin of wild honey bee colonies. Lastly, I will discuss the factors limiting colonies in the wild, particularly the availability of suitable nesting cavities in trees.

Lesley Jacques NDB

Lesley became an accidental beekeeper after a swarm arrived in her garden in 2011. She very quickly became fascinated by the bees she was tending, and committed to learn more about them, working her way through the BBKA Module and Husbandry exams. She was awarded her Master Beekeeper qualification in 2022 and gained the NDB in 2024. Lesley is Vice Chair of Cheshire Beekeepers' Association as well as being a founder member of Mid Cheshire Beekeepers. Lesley is an examiner for the Basic and General Husbandry assessments and is actively engaged with the Association's advanced and beginners' level teaching programmes. As a scientist by profession, she takes a particular interest in the biology and botanical aspects of beekeeping, and in conveying this to others. Lesley lives in Cheshire with her husband Tony, and manages four apiaries with more colonies than she admits to.



Where do the bees go?

Anyone who keeps bees eventually develops a curiosity with the origins of their honey – where the bees forage, and what do they return with that gives the honey such variety of colour and flavour, as well as the different pollens that we see stored in the combs. Understanding where the bees are foraging requires good observational skills, and sometimes a bit of backyard botany to help interpret the evidence. This can help us develop a wider appreciation of the landscape around us, the forage plants that are available at different times of the year, and to make a better-informed guess at which of those plants our bees may be visiting.

This presentation looks in detail at some of those flower species that are important to our honey bees, how we determine our bees' foraging grounds and the origin of our honey.

During the lunch break you can meet up to talk bees or drop in to the hall and listen to our short presentations from our stand holders

Booking is now open through the **Eventbrite** link sent out to all members or go to the DBKA website www.devonbeekeepers.org.uk for the link.

If you would like to bring along a cake on the day it will be much appreciated.