Beekeeping

The Journal of the Devon Beekeepers' Association



Vol 92 No 8

October 2026

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Beekeeping

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Back Issues Previous editions of this magazine from 2018 onward, are available to download in PDF format from the DBKA website. Older editions can be obtained on request from: webmaster@devonbeekeepers.org.uk

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Front Cover Picture:
Reflections of a Beekeeper
While photographing a brood frame, the beekeeper has caught her own reflection in two nectar-filled cells
Photograph by Ruth Stainer-Smith

The next issue will be November 2026

Deadline Items for the next edition of the magazine must be with the Editor by 10 October 2026.

Your Branch Secretary or Executive Council Delegate can provide you with the log-in details for the members' area of the Devon Beekeepers' website.

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The Buzz Word

Warwick Newson - Chair DBKA



I am writing this month from Jersey, a small group of four Devon Beekeepers have come over for a week of YLAH track and trace training. We have all learnt a lot and have been successful in the various techniques which have improved over the years. I guess now would be a good time to remind everyone to be extra vigilant looking for yellow legged Asian hornets as they not only progress across the country towards us, but hitch hike on lorries, cars and camper vans with holidaymakers.

I hope you've all managed to survive the drought of the summer and the bees are going well into the winter and looking forward to a great season next year.

Warwick Newson *Chair*

Bees for Development

Why University Beekeeping Education Matters



Edwin Hara and Lenson Simumba

Beekeeping goes beyond just collecting honey. It plays an important role in supporting people's livelihoods, preserving forests, ensuring the pollination of crops, and creating business opportunities throughout the honey industry.

At Mzuzu University, Malawi, Edwin Hara and Lenson Simumba are helping students learn beekeeping both in the classroom and in the apiary.

From bee biology and hive management to honey processing and business skills, students gain hands-on experience that can prepare them for careers, enterprise and supporting beekeepers in their own communities.

Bees for Development

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Bees for Development is the global charity which makes life better with bees. We promote sustainable beekeeping to combat poverty, build resilient livelihoods and benefit biodiversity.

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Visit our website: **www.beesfordevelopment.org**

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Editorial

Robert Blackmore

October is considered by many to be the end of the beekeeping year. A time when we are preparing hives for the winter ahead. While we are thinking ahead, we also consider the experiences of the past year and the lessons to be learnt. The most obvious is the effects of the weather on our tried and tested practices of hive husbandry. We had a late autumn in 2025; a very prolonged, very wet spring; and a record breaking hot dry summer. Beekeepers are attuned to the patterns of nature with an eye to the weather, its effect on the behaviour of our bees and availability of forage. Most will have observed some kind of anomaly to our expectations of the regular pattern; something that has taken us by surprise. As I write this in the dying days of September, I have cowslips in flower in the garden. The cowslip is a flower that I completely associate with spring; flowering in the wild grassy areas before the grass grows tall, hiding it. I've not seen that before.



Photographs by Robert Blackmore

June - Bees on blackberry

The wild blackberry, or bramble, is one of the markers of the beekeeping year. For beekeepers, its flowering is associated with the end of the June gap, that period when there is often little forage for bees. It is not unknown for a few brambles to flower in June depending on variety and location, but this year saw it in full bloom, en mass, early in the month; the bees taking full advantage. By the middle of July it was in fruit, its deep roots somehow finding enough moisture to defy the drought and fill the berries. Picking blackberries for deserts and jams is an activity I associate with the end of summer and early autumn, but this year I was able to collect 2 lb (1 kg) of fruit without difficulty in July.



July - Blackberries

In August I observed my bees on blackberry again; not flowers but fruit. Over the period of a few days, bees were visiting a patch of over-ripe blackberries and appeared to be foraging on the fruit. If it had been wet or dewy I'd have assumed they were collecting water. At the time bees were certainly collecting water in large numbers from the ponds and from the bee-drinking tray of gravel that I was having to top-up twice a day during the

drought. However, the fruit was dry. The bees behaved exactly as they would collecting nectar from flowers. They appeared to be probing between the full bubbles of juice with their tongues. What they were doing and why I couldn't say, but I've not seen that before.



August - Bees on blackberry

It's tempting to describe the changes we are seeing around us as 'unusual' rather than a 'new normal'; the former suggests that it's an aberration that will reset to the 'usual', which is unlikely in the foreseeable future; the latter implies a step-change to a new way. The real worry is that rather than a step-change, it is a step on a progressive stairway to something we, the bees *et al*. cannot adapt to.

The long hot summer we have had has had its benefits as well as its downsides. As a retiree living in rural Devon I have been grateful that I could hide away in a cool spot and not do very much when the heat was at its worse, pitying those who were having to work all day in the open air. I've enjoyed the non-growth of annual weeds, the scarcity of slugs and silence of the lawnmower, while cursing the necessity to constantly water precious plants. The prospect of donning a bee-suit in the heat I'm afraid meant that I spent less time at the hives than I would have liked, while the solar extractor worked overtime rendering down the wax from hives abandoned during the wet spring.

Here in the middle of the county, my rural idyll has been marred at times this year by the frequent rumbling overhead of those grey jets flying to-and-fro ferrying their lethal cargoes to the Middle East. A frequent reminder that all is not well in the world. The human tragedy of the current spate of world conflict is horrific and rightly foremost in our minds (*or at least is, for most of us*), but the environmental impact of the large-scale destruction must be hugely significant; all that material wrecked; the resources and energy to build it; the concrete, brick, metals, glass, plastics pulverised; the resources and energy to remove, recycle or rebuild; the fossil fuels consumed and destroyed. As I wash out my used yogurt carton for recycling, I look out over brown grass and fading trees, and another B1 rumbles overhead. I ponder the apparent futility of my action: What does it matter? What difference will it make?

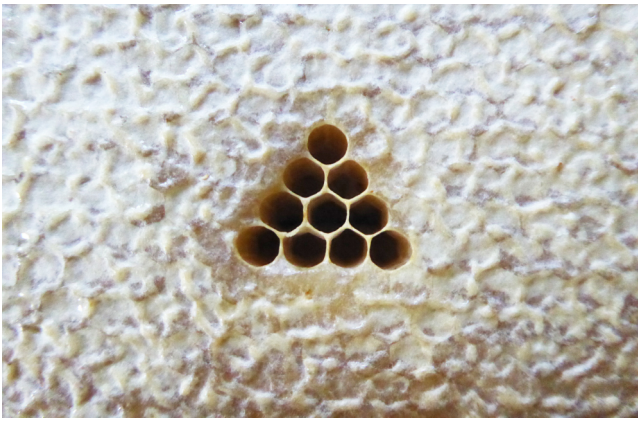
It matters when small actions are part of a greater collective action; when there is unity of purpose. It is then that it can make a difference. To achieve that, we have to accept being part of something bigger, which means we have to take responsibility, accept compromise and **act**. It is going to get us nowhere jumping up and down demanding 'they' do something about it, whoever 'they' are. Whatever the policies of the 'management' or needs of the 'society', nothing can be achieved without the engagement of 'the people'. We all value our freedom to express our individuality, to do our own thing in our own way, but sometimes we should recognise that there is a greater good that needs to be served, or we'll all suffer the consequence. That means taking time, making space to engage; maybe it can only be a little - a yogurt carton sized 'little', if you like - but, as someone once said, every little helps.

Before you switch off because you came here to read about beekeeping: The 'management' (*the BBKA in this case*) designated the week 7-13 September as **Yellow Legged Asian Hornet Awareness Week**, the aim, *to raise awareness of the invasive*

non-native yellow-legged hornet and the importance of reporting sightings. The 'management' (*the DBKA this time*) instigated a **County-Wide Monitoring Scheme** during August. Did you take part in the YLAH monitoring scheme? And what did you do for YLAH Awareness Week? Let us hear about it; whether it was a chat in the pub or a public display, I'd love to report what is actually happening not just the schemes and aspirations.

Finally:

On removing a capped frame of honey from a super this summer, I was faced with the sight of a neat equilateral triangle of empty cells in the middle of the frame … *and before you say it, No, it's not AI - there has been no photographic trickery here!* If there had been other empty cells I might have thought it was a random accident. Somehow this just seems too neat, too perfect and frankly I found it a bit sinister. **Is it a very tidy bee or are they trying to tell me something?**



Photograph by Robert Blackmore

Bee Geometry - an equilateral triangle of empty cells.

Your comments, criticisms and ideas are always welcome, whether for publication or not.
Robert Blackmore *Editor* **editor@devonbeekeepers.org.uk**

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A one-day event where beekeepers from the South West and beyond come together to *learn* and *share* their passion.
Whether you're a seasoned pro or just starting out, this is the place to be!

National Bee Unit

Annabel Lewis
Issues and threats



Rhona Toft
Varroa resistant bees



Lynne Ingram
Honey fraud



Sean Stephenson
Queen rearing



Richard Toft
Mead Making



Rachel de Thample
Ferment with honey & wax

What's in store?

- Registration and refreshments from 08:30, close at 16:30
- Cutting-edge research and the latest insights on emerging threats to bees
- Fermenting with honey and wax, a cider makers approach to making mead!
- Exciting trade stands and great prizes with our exclusive raffle!
- A free ticket and gift for all junior beekeepers. Beginners' packs for those doing courses this year!
- And, of course, no convention is complete without a delicious pasty and homemade cakes to keep you fuelled for the day!

Tickets available on Eventbrite – http://bit.ly/4yeFeRv or QR code
cornishbeekeepersconference@gmail.com

Insulating Hive Jacket

by Andrew Stainer-Smith

Making a waterproof, insulating hive jacket with Cordura



The Problem

Rain, cold and draughts can penetrate wooden hives too easily. All types of wood absorb water and will cool the hive from the latent heat of evaporation. This is 540cal/gm.

Wooden hives may allow some draughts to pass between box junctions.

Jackets for sale bring benefits but do not extend upwards between the roof and box sides. Many attractively priced ones are targeted at Langstroth and Commercial hive dimensions.



Choice of Material

Cordura heavy duty thick waterproof canvas is suitable. This is a fabric (either cotton or nylon based) with a heat sealed polyurethane outside coating. It is marketed as awning material.

The inside layer is water absorbent, allowing any internally produced condensation to wick into the fabric and keep the wooden box dry.

The outside layer, although impervious to liquid water is semipermeable and allows water vapour to escape in dry weather.

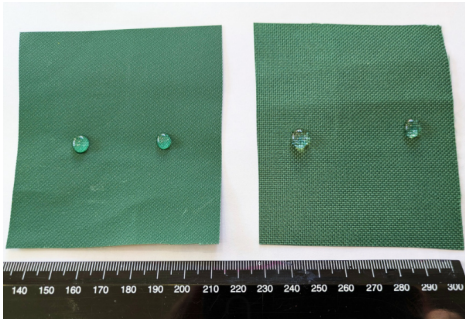
Cordura cuts with scissors. It is easily stitched on a sewing machine with a standard needle

Available from AE Market: **https://aemarket.co.uk/products/d600-fabric-material**

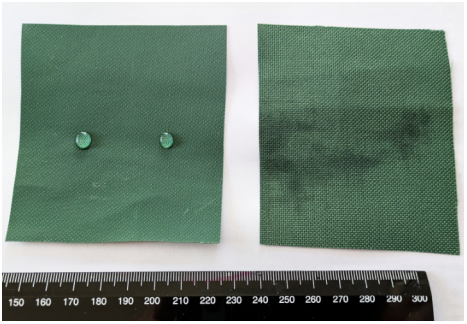
There is a test to confirm vapour permeability. This is partial permeability relying on the thin layer of plastic behaving in this way.

Put a piece of Cordura, absorbent side down over a 2/3 full mug of very hot water. Put a cold flat object like a stone or tile on top. Invert without spilling and leave for 3 minutes. Turn back upright and look at the side of the tile that has been lying against the waterproof side of the fabric. You will see small water droplets that have condensed from the water vapour that has permeated through.

Demonstration of the repellent and absorbent features



Water droplets immediately after applying to outer and inner sides of Cordura.



After 15 minutes water has been absorbed on inner side.

Making the Jacket



The jacket pattern that fits my hives.

Following are suggested sizes for a hive with a single national brood box and for a brood-and-a-half made up of a national deep brood box plus a shallow super. I find a brood and a half the most useful size. I also add layers of Celotex insulation board on top of the crown board which needs to be accommodated under the jacket flaps (*see photo next page*). You will need to adjust the sizes suggested depending on your hive and the thickness of any insulation you add.

Single Brood Box

Length

You need it a little more than the box dimensions of 4 x 46cm; loose enough to put on and off. I suggest you wrap the material around to confirm before cutting

188cm + 2x2cm seam allowances = 192cm

Height

Single brood box + floor + crown board + space for 1 thickness of Celotex + allowance for a lift to accommodate a circular feeder

64cm +2x2cm seam allowances = 68cm

Strengthening

I stitch an uninterrupted internal band of cotton tape where the flaps join the lower part



Flaps around a circular feeder. The feeder is fitted snugly in a hole in a layer of Celotex

Brood and a Half (Brood + Super)

Length

The same as for single brood box

Height

Brood + super + floor + crown board + I thickness of Celotex + allowance for a lift to accommodate a circular feeder

70cm + 2x2cm seam allowances = 74cm

Flaps The upper 32 cm is cut vertically into 4 flaps (*see photo bottom page11*)



I would add a crown board and another thickness of Celotex, on top of what you see here, before putting on a deep roof.

When in position I pin up the lower front edge to ensure the hive entrance is clear (*see photo top of page 10*).

Do be sure to have what appear to be very long flaps. They fold over the top giving excellent draught prevention. They can usually just allow for the unexpected need of an extra super or a more complicated feeding chamber.

For example, from December onwards, a pack of fondant can be fitted in a cutout in a double layer of Celotex (*photo above right*). The photo shows this setup of 2 layers with cutouts. One to accommodate the fondant and one for inspection. You can see the bees feeding.

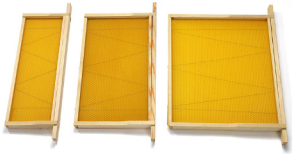
I leave jackets on until the weather reliably warms up. So far, no losses over winter.

Andrew Stainer-Smith **stainersmith@gmail.com**

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The Beekeepi

The activities of the beekeeper throughout the beekeeping yea
The Beekeeper will need to adj

July/August

- ✓ Remove main honey crop end of July, if possible 181
- ✓ Test /treat for Varroa, in 1st week of August 163
- ✓ Replace old queens as necessary
- ✓ Combine small, healthy colonies in preparation for winter 136
- ✓ Conduct full disease inspection, shaking bees off frames so brood pattern can be observed for signs of disease 156
- ✓ Protect colonies from wasps and other bee colonies by reducing entrances to about 2 bees wide 151

September

- ✓ Check stores & feed with sugar syrup if necessary, to make up winter stores to 20 kgs in total 75
- ✓ Remove Varroa medication as necessary
- ✓ Treat supers before storing to prevent wax moth damage and /or fumigate with 80% acetic acid or spray the frames with 'certan' or 24hrs in the freezer!



September/ October

- ✓ If entrances larger than 8mm, place mouse guards over the entrance
- ✓ Protect hive from woodpeckers & badgers as required 153
- ✓ Ensure satisfactory ventilation



March

- ✓ Remove old / unoccupied brood combs
- ✓ Insert a queen excluder & add first super



April

- ✓ Now is the best time to mark the queen 113
- ✓ Consider a shook swarm (147) or Bailey comb change (144) as a means of replacing many old brood frames that will contain disease pathogens
- ✓ When weather permits carry out full inspection asking Ted Hooper's' 5 questions:

1. Does the colony have enough space?
2. Is the queen present and laying properly?
3. Development (Is the colony building up in size? Are there any queen cells?)
4. Are there any signs of disease?
5. Have they got enough stores to carry them through to your next visit?

This 'Beekeeping Year' guide has been created by Beth Hawkes from David Packham's notes. The corres

The Beekeeping Year **guide was created by**
The corresponding page numbers of the BBKA Guid

ng Year

r will vary across the country (and from year to year).
ust for local conditions

Nov./Dec./Jan.

- ✓ Make occasional external checks
- ✓ Towards end of this period, establish there are sufficient (between 10 & 20 Kgs) store
- ✓ Some beekeepers can do this by hefting the hive 78
- ✓ Read hive notes to plan next year's activities e.g. queen and comb replacement
- ✓ Test Varroa drop early December & treat with oxalic acid solution if necessary, during a cold spell in late December early January
- ✓ Melt down all used brood combs and clean frames with washing soda ready for re-waxing as required in the spring



February/March

- ✓ Observe situation at hive entrance
- ✓ A quick peep to check stores might be done on a mild day
- ✓ Provide fondant / candy if stores low. Do not use syrup until weather is warmer 78
- ✓ Make sure water source nearby, preferably where winter sun can warm it
- ✓ Remove mouse guards late March 152
- ✓ On the 1st suitable day make rapid spring check on colony and check for Varroa
- ✓ Ascertain colony is queenright - A good indication is pollen being taken in by workers
- ✓ Once weather is warm enough, look inside colony - it is sufficient to see sealed and open brood - if a preponderance of drone brood (domed cappings) then queen may be failing or lost. Normally a colony will not start producing drones until late March /early April, so any drone cell indicate trouble
- ✓ It is not necessary & wastes time looking for the queen

May / June

- ✓ Add supers as required - after existing super is half full
- ✓ It is better to over-super at this time than under-super
- ✓ Continue routine inspections, including looking for queen cells 102
- ✓ If you have removed honey be warned there may be a gap in forage - you may need to feed with syrup

April to June 116

Swarm prevention and artificial swarming to ensure no loss of bees



July

- ✓ Your bees will be enjoying the main honey flow
- ✓ Continue to add supers as required

sponding page numbers of 'The BBKA Guide to Beekeeping' are in red for further information.

Beth Hawkes from notes by David Packham
e to Beekeeping are in red for further information

A Group Hug
by Graham Kingham

Festooning is a decorative chain, such as one with flowers or even a homemade paper chain at Christmas, if you are as mature as I am!

If you have, by chance, opened your hives after introducing a swarm with limited foundation, you might see the worker bees hanging down in a festoon, clinging to each other in a lace-like pattern. It helps that they have hooked feet, enabling them to cling to each other. Festooning is a normal behaviour for any cluster of bees lacking combs, and it is also used to form a swarm cluster.

The first conclusion you might arrive at is that they are building a new wax comb above. This could be correct; however, it may not be the reason for festooning, as scientists cannot agree on the reasons.



Image Graham Kingham

The workers curved feet.



Wurzburg University with the kind permission of Prof. Tautz

A worker bee is producing wax plates.The image was taken at Wurzburg University with the kind permission of Prof. Tautz.

The first main connection is with the production of wax combs. Workers spread out across the area, maintaining a temperature of around 35°C, which keeps the wax soft and pliable so the worker bees can manipulate the wax plates with their mandibles into honeycomb shapes. The workers' wax glands develop between the 12th and 20th days of development. However, they often remain after the comb is built. It has been suggested that festooning stimulates wax gland production, but repair work on the comb elsewhere seems to be done without festooning.

The next suggestion is that festooned bees help the colony estimate distances between frames. They will be flexible in form, either tightly or loosely packed together, normally in a single bee width.

An evolutionary approach to festooning is that, when in a new tree hole, the bees provide a net-like protective zone from predators whilst the colony's comb is being established.

The final theory is that a bee bridge provides scaffolding for the construction of the new wax comb, allowing new worker bees to move to the new comb surface.

Another time you might notice festooning is outside the hive, before swarming. Part of the colony will exit the hive and congregate outside as they wait for clearance to head

off in search of a new base.

An afterthought. Bees constantly exchange information through touch, pheromones, and antennal contact. Festooning chains may serve as a communication network, helping bees coordinate where to build comb and where workers are needed next, whilst working in total darkness.





Two examples of festooning between the frames in a brood box.

What is the difference between other huddling activities?

Festooning normally occurs between frames and is one bee deep. It mainly occurs during the comb-building stage, for the reasons stated above.

Clustering in the wintertime, they form a tight ball around the queen to share body heat and conserve energy. The bees are only tight in the mantle; they are spaced out and moving anywhere inside the cluster where it's warm.



A winter cluster of honeybees in a state of diapause, by kind permission of Randy Oliver.

by kind permission of Randy Oliver. Scientific Beekeeping.com



Image Graham Kingham

Bearding bees outside of the hive on a midsummer afternoon.

Bearding happens outside the hive on hot summer days, when bees pile up on the front of the hive in a thick, multi-layered mass, reducing their surface area to help cool the interior and improve airflow.



Image Graham Kingham

Swarming is another form of clustering in which a colony rests on a structure such as a tree branch while scout bees look for another home or rest overnight, with the queen protected and kept warm inside the huddle. They simply form an adjustable scaffold with their bodies hooked together with their legs, and contract when cold and expand and open upper vents if too warm.



A swarm of bees hangs on a tree branch.

Reporting Yellow-Legged Asian Hornet Sightings

Using the smartphone app is the preferred and most effective way

Email: **alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk**.

Online Form: **https://risc.brc.ac.uk/alert.php?species=asian_hornet**

Devon County Co-ordinators:

Simon O'Sullivan: **grannysmeadow@hotmail.com**

Judith Norman: **judith.norman@me.com**

Gerry Stuart: **gerrystuart@hotmail.co.uk**



Image: Haim Charbit/Pixabay

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Okehampton Away at Holsworthy

by Will Pyne

Okehampton Branch meeting at Holsworthy Branch Apiary at Dunsland on Sunday, August 16th

About ten Okehampton branch members joined about a dozen from Holsworthy Branch for an 'Awayday' meeting, arranged by Okehampton branch chair, David Wolley coordinating with Holsworthy's chair, Maggie Milledge. We arrived early on Sunday afternoon to be welcomed by Maggie plus other Holsworthy branch members. Holsworthy branch apiary is spacious with plenty of room for upwards of a dozen hives, mainly british nationals but also a 'Long Hive' housing about two dozen British National brood frames in a horizontal row under two crown boards (so about 3 feet in length). This was to be the second hive that we examined that afternoon.

We adjourned from Holsworthy's 'Club House', an old building detached from the main estate manor house – and therefore survived the ravages of a fire in 1967 that sadly destroyed Dunsland Manor House, shortly after restoration by the National Trust. After a short walk up a series of steps we were in the apiary; a beautiful spot with many oaks, chestnuts and other trees. For a few of us this was a belated and welcome return to Holsworthy's Dunsland apiary (we had an earlier awayday to Holsworthy branch at least ten years ago) and it has lost none of its understated magical charm).

Our first task of the afternoon was an examination of a very productive standard british national hive – a national brood box, supporting five supers above. Colony size and weight meant this was a two-person job, which was undertaken by accomplished Holsworthy branch members, Maggie, Chris and Kev. The height and weight of several of the supers to be removed required at least two beekeepers to safely and successfully complete the task, carefully working their way down to the single brood box supporting all this activity. And a complement to Holsworthy apiary manager's dedication and concentration on ensuring calm and manageable bees in this training apiary; no stings that I can recall. Once we finally reached the brood chamber, there for all of us to see was the marked queen; displaying a somewhat worn white spot (2026's colour).

We then moved on to examining the long hive, under the supervision of David. This was housed in a new box, purchased from Cornish suppliers, **Heather Bell**. The hive was designed to accommodate standard national brood frames (not the 'Kenyan' long hive style of design with angled sides). The long hive size was built to allow the use or two standard national crown boards to cover the length of the hive, so 22 national brood frames altogether. A word of caution here – the honey crop is in brood size frames so make sure you have access to an extractor that will accommodate them! The hive stand for this long live, made by Holsworthy branch, was practical, designed to accommodate temporary hanging of removed frames across support beams on the stand during inspections. David favours a single entrance in the top bar hive, rather than two entrances, having found that this works better. The hive showed 'brood in all stages' (BIAS) – and we were welcomed to handle and inspect individual frames.

Our afternoon's work completed, we left Holsworthy's lovely apiary, descending the steps back to the clubhouse to enjoy tea and 'bring and share' nibbles, in the mid-August sunshine. Thankfully the day was slightly cooler than of late, making performing inspections in full protective gear reasonably comfortable. Our branch chair, David thanked Maggie and our Holsworthy hosts for a worthwhile and interesting afternoon of beekeeping. Holsworthy branch's bees are certainly doing well despite - or maybe benefiting from? the unusual hot weather of this year and last. We then wended our various routes home to Okehampton passing through Dunsland's beautiful natural parkland as we left.

A Record Show for Okehampton Branch

by Will Pyne

The Bees and Honey marquee and honey show at Okehampton agricultural show on Thursday 13 August 2026.

What a successful show for Okehampton Beekeepers. With 163 entries altogether, despite the unpromising omens; the preceding wet and horrible winter, depressing for beekeepers and bees alike, followed by an extraordinary summer of exceptionally hot and dry, distorting the expected rhythm of the seasons and drought conditions affecting the nectar flow.



All Photographs by Robert Blackmore

The marquee



The author with his cardboard bees

For the second time in five years, we judged it too hot on the day to risk live bees in the observation hive, using instead a cardboard print of a sheet of brood (including of course the queen) hanging in the observation hive. Cardboard queens are easier to spot as they do not move around, but most of the magic for our younger visitors (and some of us older ones) is sadly lost.



Honey judge Jack Mummery assisted by Lynette Rogers

Returning to our bumper year of entries; these included 18 entries for 'Taste and Aroma' and 17 entries in the Photography class, and congratulations to Simon O'Sullivan for achieving 'Best in Show' for his medium honey entry.

Weather on show day itself was a bit 'over the top', (hence the need for cardboard bees). Overall numbers attending were beginning dwindle a bit by 4pm, when we held our prize giving. This was expertly undertaken by our chair, David Wolley, despite competition from the music stage next door to our bee marquee. Among the cups awarded was the newly introduced **Craig Cup**, commemorating two of our members, Malcolm and Nicci Craig, who sadly recently passed away. Malcolm and Nicci both served Okehampton show beekeeping for many years with Malcolm serving as show secretary and Nicci at his right hand, handling administration. Both are sadly missed.



Judging cookery classes



Silverware



Pollinator-friendly plant sales



Candle rolling



Sales and honey tasting



Mead and flower arrangement entries

Finally, well done to our show secretary, Suzanne for managing another successful show and achieving a record 163 entries during a very odd year when many of us experienced devastating colony losses. Well done to all of those supporting our show by entering the various classes, enabling our show to qualify for the 'Blue Ribbon' (by a 'street') and playing a part in this year's success.



Okehampton Honey Show Results:

Class	First	Second	Third	Highly Commended
1. Light Honey	Mathew Commin	Robert Blackmore	Lynette Rogers	
2. Medium Honey	Simon O'Sullivan	Mathew Commin	Suzanne Maxwell	Lynette Rogers
3. Dark Honey	Lynette Rogers			
4. Set Honey	Judith Taylor	Mathew Commin		
5. Cut Comb	Mathew Commin	Emma Benjamin		
6. Frame	Emma Benjamin	Lynette Rogers	Sheila Mathews	Richard Crocker
7. Mead	Liz Westcott	David Wolley	Suzanne Maxwell	
8. Candles	Emma Benjamin	Lynette Rogers	Liz Westcott	Robert Blackmore
9. Beeswax Cake	Lynette Rogers	Andrew Stainer-Smith	Suzanne Maxwell	Emma Benjamin
10. Beeswax Blocks	Andrew Stainer-Smith	Bruce Purdie	Suzanne Maxwell	Emma Benjamin
11. Labelled for Sale	Lynette Rogers	Liz Westcott	Suzanne Maxwell	Mathew Commin
12. Taste & Aroma	David Wolley	Hilary Thomson	Gary Owen	Suzanne Maxwell
13. Novice Class	Emma Benjamin		John Hooper	Jess Owen
14. Photography	Emma Benjamin	Tony Mathews	Robert Blackmore	Sue Baxter
15. Floral Display	Hilary Thomson	Sue Baxter	Suzanne Maxwell	Sheila Mathews
16. Fudge	Emma Benjamin	Vivian Hodges	Aileen Downing	Lynette Rogers
17. Oatie biscuits	Ruth Stainer-Smith	Suzanne Maxwell	Mary Bennell	Emma Benjamin
18. Chutney	Lynette Rogers	Liz Westcott	Vivian Hodges	Mary Bennell
19. Lemon Curd	Lynette Rogers	Vivian Hodges	Ruth Stainer-Smith	Mary Bennell

Prize and Cup-Winners:

Heard Trophy	Lynette Rogers	**Furze Cup**	Mathew Commin
Craig Cup	Mathew Commin	**Foreman Trophy**	Mathew Commin
West Trophy	Simon O'Sullivan	**Clifford White Cup**	Lynette Rogers
Cookery Cup	Lynette Rogers		

Blue Ribbon Emma Benjamin *Beeswax Candles*
National Honey Show Certificate Emma Brenjamin *Winner of Novice Class*
Highest Points in Show Lynette Rogers
Best Entry in Cookery Classes Ruth Stainer-Smith

BIBBA

18 Winter Courses at Nine Venues Across UK.

Between November and March, BIBBA will be running two full-day weekend courses across nine regional locations, tutored by experienced & practical beekeepers Karl Colyer and Roger Patterson:

Early Years: Transition from 'frequent troubleshooting' in your first few seasons to managing colonies with proactive understanding and confidence.

Sustainable Bees & Queens for Everyone: Discover straightforward methods for you and your local BKA's to raise robust, locally adapted bees & queens to reduce your reliance on imported stock.

There is something for all beekeepers.
Full details, venues, and booking: **https://bibba.com/**

BIBBA (Bee Improvement and Bee Breeders Association) is dedicated to improving and conserving *Apis mellifera mellifera*, the native honey bee of Britain and Ireland (aka European Dark Bee), and to encourage beekeepers to keep locally adapted honey bees in areas where *Apis mellifera mellifera* doesn't exist.

Local bee improvement groups: Exeter, North Devon and South Devon

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NORTHERN BEE BOOKS
VISIT **northernbeebooks.co.uk**

BOTTOM-UP BEEKEEPING: Learning from debris on the hive floor by Ray Baxter
with editorial support from Ann Chilcott and pollen contributions by Christine Coulsting

A groundbreaking look at hive debris as a window into colony life and health – offers insights not found in any other text.

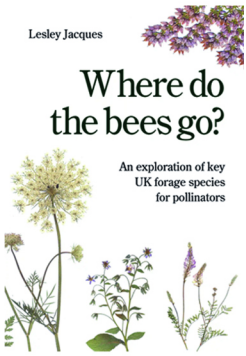
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by Lesley Jacques, NDB

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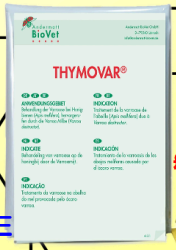
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each feeder holds 3.5 galls/13.25 litres syrup, has 2 feed holes/cups, and protective lid. Feed holes are ribbed to give the bees good grip. Excellent condition, several available at £15 each.

Contact: Brian Sharp (North Devon) - email: **bjjsharp@outlook.com**

For Sale

50 litre (approximately) plastic honey settling tank plus additional 22 litre (approximately) straining extension.
Offers
Email: **jps2008@hotmail.co.uk** - Exmouth

For Sale

Stainless steel hot water uncapping tray for sale. 85cm x 42cm x 13cm. New element, plug and lead, not thermostatically controlled. Any sensible offer considered. Collection only from East Devon
Email: **bob.muckett@btinternet.com**

To advertise in this magazine please contact the Advertising Secretary
Michaela Eckenberger: **ads@devonbeekeepers.org.uk**



Events

A Bit of a Do, Cornwall Beekeepers, Truro 17 October
National Honey Day: 21 October
National Honey Show 2026, Sandown Park: 22-24 October

Useful Addresses

Yellow Legged Asian Hornet reporting - Use the app (*preferred*) or email:	**alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk**
British Beekeepers Association (BBKA)	**bbka.org.uk**
BBKA Find a Local Swarm Collector	**bbka.org.uk/find-a-local-swarm-collector**
National Bee Unit (NBU)	**nationalbeeunit.com**
Devon Apicultural Research Group (DARG)	**www.dargbees.org**
Dave Cushman's Website (Beekeeping)	**www.dave-cushman.net**

Devon Beekeepers' Association Facebook Group

https://www.facebook.com/groups/882323142418671

Branch Contacts and Websites

Click to email Secretary	*Click to go to website*	*Telephone*
East Devon	*eastdevonbk.co.uk*	
Exeter	*exeterbeekeepers.org.uk*	01392 832956
Holsworthy	*holsworthybeekeepers.org.uk*	
Newton Abbot	*newton-abbot-beekeepers.co.uk*	
North Devon	*northdevonbees.org*	
Okehampton	*okehamptonbee.co.uk*	07776121938
Plymouth	plymouthbeekeepers.org.uk/	07772 656279
South Hams	*shbk.org.uk*	
Tavistock	*tavistock-beekeepers.org.uk*	
Tiverton	*tivertonbeekeepers.uk*	01884 849377
Torbay	*tbbk.co.uk*	07721182094

Diary Dates

Members may attend meetings of any Branch, but it is advisable to check the details with the Branch Secretary first. Contact details are on page 26.

October:			
Tursday 1st	19:30	East Devon	Who Dunnit? The case of the winter losses Speaker: Dylan Gussman Kilmington Village Hall
Thursday 8th	19:30	Okehampton	Update members on the current situation concerning Asian Hornet incursions in the South West, including latest info on nest discovered at Street (near Glastonbury) in Somerset. Whiddon Down Village Hall
Monday 12th	19:30	Holsworthy	YLH Update, The Stables, Chilsworthy, EX22 7BH
Wednesday 21st	19:30	Tiverton	David Packham. Talk in person on 'Stratagies for Healthy Colonies'. Uplowman Village Hall
Thursday 22nd	19:00	Exeter	Dan Basterfield: 'Preparations for a better season'- Whitestone Parish Hall
Tuesday, 27th	19:30	Torbay	Talk by Clare Densley & Martin Hann - Winter Preparation at the South Devon Food Hub
November:			
Thursday 3rd	19:00	Plymouth	Talk by Martin Hann and Clare Densley "How to keep calm and carry on when things don't go as planned" Blindman's Wood Scout Centre
Thursday 5th	19:30	East Devon	Branch AGM plus DARG and Bait Hive Study. Speaker: Richard Simpson. Kilmington Village Hall
Thursday 5th	19:30	Tiverton	Branch Committee meeting, Uplowman Village Hall
Saturday 7th	14:00	Torbay	AGM, South Devon Food Hub, speaker Sue Minter, The Healing Garden- pharmaceutical and herbal plants. (Why it's important that plants can't move).
Monday 9th	19:00	Holsworthy	AGM followed by talk on Different Systems for Feeding Bees, The Stables, Chilsworthy EX22 7BH
Tuesday 10th	19:30	Torbay	Graham Kingham - **Drones, a misunderstood bee** at the South Devon Food Hub
Thursday 12th	19:30	Okehampton	Okehampton Beekeepers AGM - election of Branch Committee for the coming year - followed by Bee themed quiz (with prizes for winners).Whiddon Down Village Hall
Wednesday 18th	19:30	Tiverton	Branch AGM, Uplowman Village Hall
Saturday 21st	14:00	Newton Abbot	AGM, followed by tea, cake and a natter.
Wednesday 25th	19:00	Exeter	AGM and Will Steynor: 'Queen Rearing on a Small Scale' - Topsham Rugby Club

Items for inclusion in the diary should be sent to : **ads@devonbeekeepers.org.uk**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Both our Sale & Open Day and the National Honey Show are set to be bigger and better than ever this year, demostrating exciting new products, including the **HiveKeepers Micro Honey Harvester**.



SALE & OPEN DAY
AT HEAD OFFICE & FACTORY, LINCOLNSHIRE
SATURDAY 10TH OCTOBER

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AT SANSDOWN RACE COURSE, ESHER
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