



# BEE TALK

Warwick and Leamington Branch of Warwickshire Beekeepers

## THE QUEEN AT KENILWORTH CASTLE

**1** 572 was the last time Queen Elizabeth 1st visited Kenilworth Castle as part of her summer "progressions" around the country prompted by the need to vacate her palaces to enable them to be deep cleaned to remove the accumulated "stench of human odour"! Robert, Earl of Dudley, childhood friend with matrimonial aspirations, went to extraordinary lengths with makeovers of the Castle and with the creation of a garden to impress her of his ardour. But all to no avail. As the entire court, servants and their families often accompanied the monarch, the cost was crippling and not only was he disappointed in love but was made virtually bankrupt in the process.

It is rumoured that Kenilworth Castle could have a royal visitor again very soon and we can reveal to you now that WLBK is playing a central role in this.

The Head Gardener of the recently restored Elizabethan Garden contacted us to find out what would be involved in hosting beehives in the castle grounds. Since out-apiaries are like hen's teeth in the Kenilworth area, we were there like a shot. The site he had in mind, an orchard just next to the Elizabethan Garden and on part of the visitor route, ticked most of the boxes. Reservations about the proximity to the public were assuaged by our experience of successfully managing a live colony of bees for the education of the public in the Jephson Gardens, - a public park in Leamington.

Kenilworth Castle is in the custody of English Heritage and, being very sensitive to keep things true to the Elizabethan period, wanted to know how bees were kept in Elizabethan times. Not even our most senior beekeepers could remember that far back, but research revealed a considerable amount of literature published during Elizabeth's reign on the



Kenilworth Castle's Elizabethan Gardens

subject. One interesting observation was that bees were held up to the population as shining examples of moral rectitude and societal organisation which should be emulated. Beekeepers were fascinated by the geometry of the comb, by the hierarchy and organisation of the bees, by the precise division of tasks, and by the absence of any sexual activity. Such chastity commended them to the church and monastic beekeepers. For moralists, it was all the better that the hive contained not merely these industrious paragons but their moral opposite. The belief that the colony was ruled by a "king" resonated with society at the time. That is until it was discovered that the "King" was, in fact, a "Queen" and far from being chaste, she was deemed to be "a base, notorious, impudent strumpet, with gallants by the hundreds"!

Of course, bees were kept in skeps during this period. English Heritage latched onto this. "Wouldn't it be nice to keep bees in skeps here? Wouldn't it just! But did we have anyone with experience of skep Beekeeping? Was this a request we could not fulfil? Not a bit of it. Up

to the mark stood Clive Joyce who volunteered to meet the challenge. A skep, the product of our skep making training course, complete with hackle was made and we are currently awaiting the apiary enclosure to receive listed building consent before populating the hive. Rest assured we shall be following progress of this initiative in the pages of future issues of Bee Talk but, in the meantime, listen out for the fanfare of trumpets heralding the Queen's return to Kenilworth Castle.

**Bernard Brown and Clive Joyce**

### WLBK HONEY SHOW

**SAT 25<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER  
KINGS HILL AUTUMN FAYRE**

**TURN TO PAGE 9 FOR TIMINGS AND SCHEDULE**

**GOOD LUCK AND SEE YOU THERE!**

# CHAIR'S SEPTEMBER MESSAGE

**M**y honey yields are down by about a third on last year, but I have completed my uniting and am back to my chosen number of strong colonies. This year, I count that a successful season. Whilst BBKA and WLBK apiaries have been closed, my bees have been used for assessments. They have had endless disease inspections, shook swarms, baileys and basic assessments performed on them- and are doing just fine. They are certainly the most inspected bees in Warwickshire. I'm pleased to say that we have branch Basic and Bee Health successes to announce at our AGM. Why not think about doing the Basic Assessment or Honeybee Health certificate next year?

Autumn is a good time to try something new; this year I am using Clive Joyce's poly bag method of feeding for the first time- saving both storage space and the need to clean feeders. Basically, Clive puts big, sealed bags of Ambrosia directly onto the brood box (with a super around) and makes a 7cm slit in top side of the bag- that's it. My bees are lapping up their Ambrosia and I get the satisfaction of feeling innovative.

This is also the month to look ahead to winter activities. After the upcoming Honey Show (you are entering, right?) Rachel has planned a programme of talks. We can actually meet IN PERSON! We can even use the branch library. We are planning the introduction to beekeeping course, Towards the Basic sessions (next March) and microscopy groups. The county lectures are looking great, too. Would you like to form a study group? We will be sending round a survey to ask what you'd like so we can put like-minded people in touch with each other. Our bees may be keeping a low profile- but that won't stop us reading, watching videos and meeting to talk about them.

I look forward to seeing you at branch activities this autumn, eating



The most inspected bees in Warwickshire!

cake together, borrowing books and chatting about our bees. These simple pleasures have become something to really treasure.

If you need help with your bees, contact me or any other member of the committee at ([warleambees@warleambees.org.uk](mailto:warleambees@warleambees.org.uk)). Our bee inspector is **Colleen Reichling** and her mobile number is: 07990 138898 ([colleen.reichling@apha.gov.uk](mailto:colleen.reichling@apha.gov.uk)).

**Jane Medwell**

## BEEKEEPING TASKS THIS MONTH

September is actually the start of the beekeeping year. The honey is off, the drones have been excluded and we will focus on the winter bees. We need those winter bees as well prepared as possible for their extended, important lives.

- Take off any remaining honey and extract it- you might need the apimelter and boiler- details on the website. Get the bees to clean any spun supers and do not store them wet- it invites wax moth.
- Do a disease inspection if you have not recently done one- only unite healthy colonies.
- Decide how many colonies you want to overwinter and unite any small colonies. This saves money on varroa treatments and feed. (If you freeze the unwanted queens, the microscopy group would love to have them).
- Do any remaining Varroa treatment to protect those winter bees and fill in your Veterinary Medicine Record.
- Feed so that your colonies have around 20kg of stores. Plenty of stores in the brood box is ten times as good as fondant later in the year. It prevents isolation starvation.
- Think about beginning the "big clean"- but maybe put it off for a while.

**Jane Medwell**

# GIZMO OF THE MONTH

**H**ow do you catch the queen to mark her? I know that 'proper' beekeepers don't need a 'catcher', but as I don't have those skills, I've tried numerous catchers to find one that is safe, effective and does not stress the queen. Finally I've found this one on ebay.

Pulling the plunger out, you place the centre hole gently over the queen on the comb, wait until she runs to the grid end, then slide the plunger past the hole. I tend to put my index finger between the outside end of the plunger and the body of the catcher, giving her space to run round till I'm clear of the colony.

There is a soft sponge on the inner end of the plunger, and when she stands on the sponge I slide the plunger until she is held gently against the grid with her thorax showing clearly. Marking her through the grid, I pull out the plunger a little bit, wait for the marking to dry, return to the colony, pull the grid off the end, and allow her to run into the colony. I don't clip my queens.

Three things I've learnt the hard way...

- You must remember to pull out the plunger before catching her.
- The plunger is fairly loose – so careful not to let it go all the way down or you'll squash her
- Take off the grid to let her out or the catcher will rapidly fill with worker bees!

Liz Bates



## MEMBERSHIP STATS

After the end of August very few new members join the branch so it's a good time to compare membership totals with last year's

Full Members – 218 [210\*];

Partner Members – 27 [32\*]

Junior Members – 1 [0\*];

Associate Members – 19[18\*];

Total – **265 cf [260\*]]**.

\* Last year's totals

As you can see, we are holding our own despite the difficulties encountered over the last year.

## UNWANTED SPLITS

This initiative, matching unwanted splits with those wanting splits, operated for the first time this year and resulted in 10 successful matches and 15 happy members. Happiness was spread even further than this as several were given on the basis that recipients made a donation to Bees Abroad. Whilst donations were at the recipient's discretion, from information received, this raised at least £300.

## COUNTY LECTURES

A season of monthly lectures via Zoom has been arranged by County beginning on 15<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30 pm with a title of *Himalayan Balsam – The Impact of Balsam on plants and pollinators*. For those of us who indulged in "Balsam Bashing" at our Dalehouse Lane training apiary, here is a chance to find out why this plant, so beloved of our girls, deserves such treatment.

Here is the link to register for this:

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Kp1C-fYFIROY5QdYZNvdv1g](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Kp1C-fYFIROY5QdYZNvdv1g)

## "WE'RE NOT AN ISLAND" SERIES

**I**n forthcoming issues of Bee Talk we will be running a series of articles entitled "We are not an Island". Members can have a tendency to be somewhat inwards looking and so we need to remind ourselves that we are part of a wider organisation. As little is known about the other branches, we plan to include a profile of each over the next few months.

The sort of thing we had will include a bit of the history of the branch, membership trends, any issues of beekeeping in an urban environment, notable members, exceptional branch initiatives or activities, training apiaries, training courses and honey show successes.

So keep your eyes peeled for these features or, in deed, if you'd like to pen one yourself or can point in the direction of who could pen something for us, we'd very much like to hear from you. It doesn't have to be very long, and pictures are always welcome. Our copy date is the 27<sup>th</sup> of each month.

Bernard Brown



Spotted outside Warwick Market Hall. Looks like some busy bees have been hard at work.



# LIVING WITH A BEEKEEPER

***"I've lost my lovely wife,  
She's gone: and that's for sure,  
She's contracted Beekeeping,  
And there isn't any cure"***

**Pam Ayres**



**T**hese opening lines from Pam Ayres' poem lamenting addiction to our craft has prompted us to wonder on the experience non-beekeeping partners have of living with some of our more engaged members, so we have asked two beekeeping widowers and two beekeeping widows for their experiences. This month it's Geoff Litterick on living with our training apiary manager, Maggie Curley.

"What is it like living with a beekeeper?" Bernard asked me. I told him my thoughts would need a whole edition of BeeTalk!

We have had bees for eight years now. In the early days, I used to think there were only three kinds of bees - bumble bees, honey bees and Maggie's \*\*\*\*\* bees - the ones that stung me - but since then I have learned there are over 270 species.

My first encounter with the art of beekeeping was being volunteered by my wife to be a Deliveroo driver from the Training Apiary. Little did I know that the "parcel" was to be three beehives full of bees. I have never driven so slowly in all my life and just hoped that no-one would run into the back of my car.

Why does she keep bees and how does she measure success? I am afraid that my financial background comes out and I say that surely success is measured by the size of the honey crop. This is not the reason.

The reason is that this is her contribution to saving the planet. Einstein is said to have worked out that if bees were not around to pollinate, mankind would die out within four years. I appreciate the value to nature of bees as pollinators but not when I have been stung yet again.

My wife has very good taste in décor in the house and this is now being applied to the hives in the apiary. Which Farrow and Ball shade shall we get for hive number 5 darling? Which leads on to her numbering system for the hives. Does anybody else's wife who has six hives in a row number them, 6, 3, 4, 1, 5, 2 or in my wife's case V1, III, IV, I, V, II (pretentious - moi!)

I learned early on that none of our 360,000 bees, clever though

they may be, has read the textbooks on beekeeping. As you all know, ask two beekeepers the same question on what to do about a particular problem and you get at least four answers. I am trying to persuade her just to ask one guru from the Branch and rely on the advice of that person.

Having had some of the essentials of beekeeping instilled into me, I now realise that losing your hive tool is not exactly a hanging offence but certainly in the same category as not washing the dishes properly or taking up too much of the duvet.

How do I get involved? There are three main tasks assigned to me.

Firstly, I was told that bees don't like three things - noise, vibration and the smell of newly mown grass. Guess who is sent out to trim the apiary!

Secondly, to collect any swarms in the garden. You see photos of swarms high up in trees but our best one was six inches above the ground. Even 5 ft tall Maggie could have reached that one.

Thirdly, when heavy lifting is required to pick up supers that are bursting with honey. On those occasions I am very happy to tell people about OUR bees and how WE have had such a wonderful harvest.

But there are many plusses to being a beekeeper's husband not least through meeting interesting and interested people and we have made many new friends through beekeeping.

Another plus, with which I am sure that most of us husbands will agree, is the silence that we enjoy when our wives are toggled up in their bee suits in the apiary and can't shout out more tasks for us to do in the house and garden.

It has also been good to see the interest taken by our grandchildren. They make a very good honey bottling team and Jamie has now adopted one of our hives.

Another pleasure is that I now look forward to reading the BBKA news and, of course, Beetalk.

So all things considered, being the husband of a beekeeper is not such a bad thing.

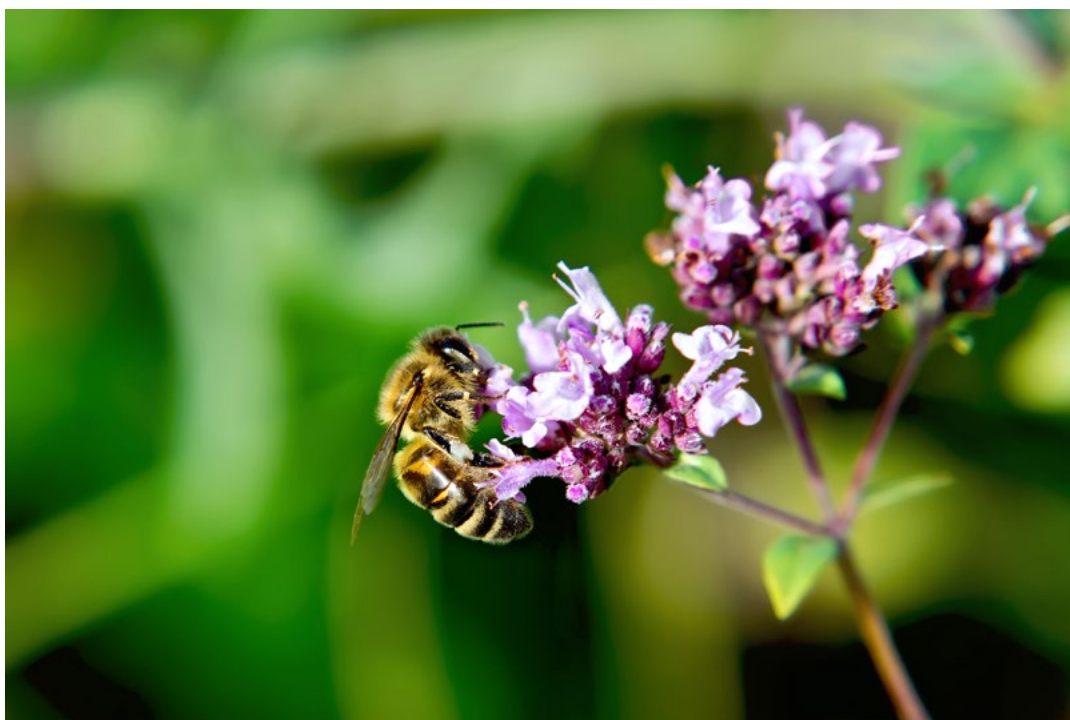
**Geoff Litterick**

# PLANT OF THE MONTH: OREGANO

**J**ust about coming to the end of its flowering season, the oregano is still attracting the foraging bees, as it has since mid-June. The bees simply adore it and when in full bloom, they work it from dawn to dusk. There was such a racket one day, I thought we had a swarm!

A species of plant from the mint family, *Origanum vulgare* is often referred to as Wild Marjoram. It is a perennial with pink to purple flowers and small spade-shaped, olive-green leaves. It spreads very readily so beware if you don't want your borders taken over by it as mine are this year. I haven't got the heart to pull it up yet but will have to be a bit brutal come the autumn.

Well known as a culinary herb, the dried leaves of Oregano have been used for centuries in Mediterranean dishes. It was only when soldiers returned from the Second World War in Italy with a taste for The essential oil, which is extracted from the leaves of the plant, is



sold over the counter in health shops as a dietary supplement. It is purported to have a number of health benefits but to date there have been no clinical trials to support the claims. It is interesting however that one of the main components of oregano oil is thymol, the very ingredient we use in some of the varroa treatments. Do you think the bees know something we don't know?!

**Maggie Curley**

## MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

**M**ost of you will know that I asked for volunteers to help with painting our former training apiary portacabin, located at the junction with Dalehouse Lane and Stoneleigh Rd on the edge of Kenilworth. Whilst the number who responded was not brilliant, the quality was first-rate

We started on the second weekend of August when several folks set to work rubbing down, angle grinding rust patches with appropriate attachments and patch painting with a rust inhibitor. The next weekend we only managed just one day, Sunday, as rain stopped play on the Saturday. Four people and myself set to with paint brushes and rollers and so much work was completed that we decided to retire at lunch time. As can be seen from the photo, all that was left to do was a few minor little bits and the cleaning up.

Many thanks to all those who turned up, some by filling in the



online form, others via email and some just ringing me. The help was gratefully appreciated and the result speaks for itself.

**Mick Smith**



# POLLINATORS AT RYTON POOLS

**R**yton Pools Country Park has aspired to keep bees for some years, but for various reasons it has taken until now, with a donation of a colony from a WLBK member, to bring it to fruition. Ryton is predominantly a grassland site and much of the habitat management we have undertaken over the last ten years has centred on wildflower enhancement in the grassland areas and significantly enriching our hedgerow habitats. In the case of the hedgerows, we have sought to increase the range of species present in the hedges (many of which provide a succession of blossom from late winter well into early summer). Over the last six years we have planted and/or improved approximately two miles of hedgerow in the park.

We have two main projects in operation, namely Higher Level Stewardship and a Biodiversity Offsetting scheme. The latter involves grassland enhancement work over a thirty year period in one of the grazing meadows. It is managed as a hay meadow and we are, this year undertaking the second of three overseeding measures to add floristic diversity. This is within a few metres of our apiary, so should be a great resource for foraging honey bees!

Pollinating insects are a major focus of our conservation effort, with specific work being done to improve nectar sources throughout the growing season. One of our Assistant Rangers, George, is a talented and enthusiastic entomologist with a particular interest in bees (solitary and social). He has done great work in progressing our understanding of the range of bee species present in the park.

Our beekeeping journey owes much to another Assistant Ranger, Liann who is, herself an experienced beekeeper. Liann supplied us with our equipment, and provides vital expertise and guidance, while other members of our team undergo training.

As a country park we will be looking to use beekeeping as a vehicle for visitor education through interpretation and events, as well as honey/wax crafts etc. Ultimately, we would also like to sell products from the Ryton Pools apiary in the shop.

**Craig Earl**

**Ranger at Ryton Pools and new member of WLBK branch**



**Ryton Pools' Pollinator Trail is an aspirational project and so doesn't yet exist. However, we do have a bee wall (above), which is a haven for solitary bees, and our hives do keep our beekeepers busy (below).**



**Poster depicting the pollinators at Ryton Pools.**





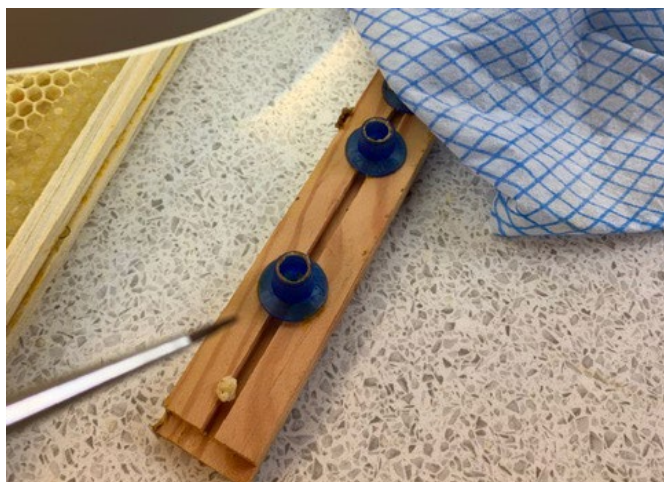
# ADVENTURES IN QUEEN REARING

I'm not sure whether other beekeepers feel the same as me, but Queen rearing seems to be one of those tasks which only more experienced beekeepers than myself tend to do. Until this year, my idea of queen rearing has largely been confined to doing colony splits or artificial swarm procedures. However, in late Spring a small group of us attempted our first foray into raising our own queens, under the excellent supervision of Ray Summers.

We used the Ben Harden method of Queen rearing, whereby eggs are grafted into small cups, which are then placed into a special frame. This frame is then placed well above a strong colony of bees, along with frames of brood and food (nectar and pollen), and large dummy boards to confine the bees. This confinement and lack of queen pheromone helps to trigger the swarm instinct and encourage the bees to raise queen cells from the grafted eggs. The photo below shows the Ben Harden queen rearing set up we used.



The photo below shows the cups into which the grafted eggs are placed using a fine paint brush under a magnifying lens. The damp cloth prevents the eggs drying up during the process.



Ideally, the eggs for this procedure should come from a colony with all the desirable characteristics that we wish to promote in the Apiary (calm temperament, low swarming characteristics, good honey producers etc.). In our case, due to an increase in swarming caused by the poor Spring weather, our choice was somewhat limited.

Our first attempt resulted in 1 (out of 10) healthy queen cell which we moved into an individual Apidea mini mating nuc along with 250 ml (ie. a mug full) of young bees, and some fondant. The nuc was then left for a month or so for the virgin queen to go on mating flights and then to start laying. Below is the three of us with our first queen cell!



Our second attempt was much more successful and we had a few more queen cells which we duly took home in the Apideas to wait for the mating flights to take place.

We also had some spare comb with eggs which we affixed vertically to the frame (see photo below). This is called the Alley Method and for us, it was more successful than grafting, and resulted in several queen cells a week later.



The final results were very mixed and in two cases the new queen absconded before I had chance to move the new colony into a poly nuc. This seems to be a common problem, which apparently can be avoided by better monitoring by the beekeeper!

Unfortunately, our Queen rearing sessions were then curtailed by a diagnosis of European Foulbrood in our area. However, we do plan to have another attempt next year. Overall, the sessions were very rewarding and I am less daunted than I was. However, given the sensitivity of the mini mating nucs, I will probably use bigger poly nucs next time, as they have more space for the new queen to expand into, and hopefully less prone to the queen absconding.

A big thank you to Ray Summers who did an excellent job in running the sessions.

Alan Deeley

# EDUCATION NEWS



We have a few bits of education news for members this month:

1. Despite the limitations of having to work via WhatsApp, Zoom, and Facetime and having to take written exams in invigilated on-line sessions members have achieved excellent results in the recent round of exams and assessments. The scorecard reads: Basics – 4 passes including one Distinction and one Credit Module 3 (Pests Diseases and Poisoning) 3 passes, all with Credits Module 6 (Honey Bee Biology) 1 Pass. The lack of opportunity to get together for training discussions has spawned a number of on-line training resources that will support future education and training.

2. Education is a core part of the Branch's mission and happens both informally and in more formal situations. At the informal level it's almost certain that every session in the training apiary results in people leaving it knowing something that they didn't know when they went in – box ticked! The more formal assessments as exemplified above are another part of the whole. But the educational reach extends beyond the core membership and engages a wider audience. As an example we have been working with The Midland Counties Co-op Headquarters on the Warwick Science Park. The Co-op has its own beekeeper, Lee Franklin, and we have supported Lee in the management of the two colonies they have on site. The Co-op sees bees as an allegory for their mission as a co-operative

institution and Lee and I presented the story of the company's bees via a Zoom conference to over 100 Co-op employees from across a wide range of their sites and offices.

There were some very interesting and engaging questions and a lot of interest – in both the bees on site and the issues surrounding bees on a national scale. It's likely there will be a sequel!

3. 'Going International' As a consequence of being in touch with a fellow student from my University days – who happens to be an Orcadian – by the time this goes to press I will have done two presentations for the Orkney International Science Festival – both are bee and (unsurprisingly) microscopy related. The invite to present has put me in touch with beekeepers in Orkney where they are very keen to remain free of Varroa. So that's something I didn't know before!

4. In the next Bee Talk we will report on initiatives with two Schools in Warwick that are developing their 'EcoSchools' credentials. The schools are in different stages of development with one up and running with experienced staff (and a student already with her Basic) and the other planning for a start next Spring. Watch this space.

Barry Meatyard

## BEE BLUNDERS – CONTINUED

This month's classic clanger is a very recent one. We have been part of a Queen rearing group this season with the members employing a range of different techniques. We agreed that we would swap newly raised queens between us, partly to see the success of each method as far as the queen's performance was concerned, but also to increase the genetic diversity of our stocks.

So, the afternoon before queens were to be swapped, it was off to the apiary to open up the hive from where we were donating the queen and, much to our relief, there she was, strutting about as though she owned the place, which, of course, she did. We managed to catch her quite easily, but getting her into the butler cage was a very much trickier operation. After several attempts we managed to wrestle her into submission and in she went. She was on her own but we didn't want to risk stressing her even more, nor indeed her escaping by introducing some courtier bees, safe in the knowledge that she would be introduced into her new hive the next morning.

Came the exchange, all was looking good.

Upon arrival at the recipient's home, she was moving about in her solitary confinement and placed in the airing cupboard until morning.

The next morning there was no movement at all. Aargh! The lid was opened and there she was, on her back, sunk into the fondant and kicking furiously. She was completely stuck.

Moving immediately into paramedic mode, the fondant plug was levered out with the queen attached and, with a cup of water and a very fine artist's brush, extracted by painting her very gently with the water till her wings unstuck. At this point she was still very gluey but manage to stagger about. She was coaxed onto a finger and painted some more with water until she was able to flex her wings and wander about a little more freely, so she was returned to the transportation cage looking rather pathetic and very sticky, and cage plus queen hastily introduced into the queenless colony.

So, we found out the hard way that queen bees do not know how to groom themselves – not even a little bit – and why you should add some attendants to an introduction or transportation cage.

These two beekeepers demonstrated that a bit of dedication for the welfare of this queen can lead to a happy ending

The recipient bees quickly started feeding her through the walls of the cage despite her smelling of humans and, a few days later, having eaten through the fondant, there she was, plump and beautiful, strutting around the hive AND laying.

Ivan A Perry



# BRANCH HONEY SHOW INFO

**T**he WLBK Branch Honey Show, which is being held on **25<sup>th</sup> September** at the Kings Hill Autumn Fair, will be a special celebratory event to make up for last year and it's going public! So try to enter, if you can, and make it a really well supported event.

**Staging of entries:** 10am-10.45am (We are in the large glasshouse to the left of the Four Seasons building)

**Judging:** 11am-1pm

**Show open to public:** 1pm onwards

**Presentations:** 3pm

**Removal of exhibits:** 3.30pm

**Show Judges:** John Home

**Show Manager:** Chris Cox, Secretary: Helen Essex, Show Manger

**Stewards:** Ann Foden

**Show Photographer:** Paul Stephenson

The show is open to all paid up members of the branch. Staging will take place between 10am and 10.45am with judging starting at 11am. Whilst all possible care is taken with the exhibits the Branch Committee cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage.

There is an entry fee of one jar of honey or cash equivalent of £5.00 (independent of how many classes you enter). Honey will be donated to Myton Hospice and cash to Bees Abroad. There are no cash prizes.

## SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

1. 1lb (454g) jar of light honey
2. 1lb (454g) jar of medium honey
3. 1lb (454g) jar of dark honey
4. 1lb (454g) jar of naturally granulated honey
5. 1lb (454g) jar of soft set honey
6. 1lb (454g) jar of heather or heather blend honey
7. A beeswax candle of any type or size mounted in a non- combustible holder. The candle may be lit during judging
8. One container of cut comb honey - 200g min
9. One frame for extraction
10. One cake of beeswax- 150g min
11. Bottle of dry mead
12. Bottle of sweet mead
13. Novice Class for those who have never won a first prize for their honey in any honey show- Novice Mazer  
  
1lb (454g)jar of honey- liquid, granulated or soft set
14. Cottager Class for those with fewer than 5 hives  
  
– Jack Taylor Plaque  
  
1lb (454g)jar of honey- liquid, granulated or soft set
15. One honey cake (recipe below) - Nancy Wilshire Rosebowl
16. 1lb (454g) jar of honey to be judged on flavour only.
17. One decorated screw top 1lb jar lid .
18. One photographic print (colour or mono chrome) mounted on card no larger than A4 of a subject related to bees or beekeeping.
19. Gift Class- an item made from product or products of the hive suitable for a gift for a special occasion
20. Best in show-The Bernard Collins Troph.  
Awarded to the member judged to have the best exhibit in the show from Classes 1-16

### NOTES:

Extracted honey must be exhibited in clear glass 454g standard squat plain jars with gold metal lids.

Mead (minimum one pint) must be exhibited in clear glass bottles of round section without fluting or decoration of any kind and closed with a cork stopper with a white plastic flange. A base and cover will be provided for staging honey cake (class 15). Black display boards are available for staging classes 8 & 10. Frames holders are available for class 9

Jars and bottles should be labelled with approx 20mm from the bottom of the jar to the bottom edge of the label.

No more than 2 entries are permitted per class per entrant. Entries to be the product of the entrant.

**The Thorpe Cup** will be presented to the exhibitor with the most points in the show excluding Class 20. Points are awarded as follows;

1st =4pts, 2nd =3pts, 3rd =2pts, 4th =1pt.

## HONEY CAKE RECIPE

150g (5oz) butter

175g (6oz) clear honey

1 tablespoon water

110g (4oz) soft brown sugar

2 eggs

200g (7oz) self raising flour

- Put butter, honey, water and sugar into a saucepan and heat until fat melts, stirring all the time.
- Leave to cool to blood temperature.
- Gradually beat in the eggs.
- Add sieved flour and mix until smooth.
- Pour into a greased and lined 180mm (7inch) tin.
- Bake for approximately 1 hour until risen and firm to touch. 180°C/ gas 4. Timing is only a guide as appliances may vary.

Entry forms are available on the branch web site, or if you cannot use this method please contact Helen Essex on 07804666912. Closing date for entries Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021.

# HINTS & TIPS: HONEY SHOW PREP

- Ensure the jar is full! There should be no daylight visible, when the jar is held up to eye level, between the surface of the honey and the lid when in place.
- Wipe the rim of the jar to ensure the thread is free of honey so the lid unscrews readily. Replace the lid if it is sticky on the underside.
- Aroma is important so don't take the lid off just prior to the show.
- Give the jar a good last wipe before placing it in the class, to ensure it is clean and free from fingerprints.

## HELEN ESSEX

If you have any hints or tips that you would like to share, please send them to Helen on [h.essex@virgin.net](mailto:h.essex@virgin.net)

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