

West Wilts BKA News



News, the planned activities, and some advice for members of West Wiltshire Beekeepers Association



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This is your 'go to' section that will describe the things that you need to know about.

Good to know **page 3 – 28**

The 'fun bits': news and reports.

The honeybee above is foraging on Lobelia Speciosa "Starship Blue" – if they cannot reach the nectar they will sometimes cut into the base of the trumpet of the flower – clever aren't they?

Well, here we are and it's August! How has your summer been? I hope all your colonies are thriving? Did you have a successful honey harvest? As soon as honey is harvested, varroa treatment is on our minds, that and preparation for the winter. It doesn't seem possible, but we have to be planning well ahead for the health of the bees we care for.

Are you signed up to follow BBKA on Facebook and/or Instagram? The BBKA publish interesting snippets of advice and information on their website, it is quite a useful way of keeping up to date with developments in beekeeping.

Soon it will be September – both September and October are "Honey Show" months – our local club show will be at the end of September, Wiltshire Bee and Honey Day and the National Honey Show both in October. Time to get ready to avoid a last minute rush? Have a look at the schedules and pick out which classes you want to enter.

DIARY OF EVENTS

PLEASE NOTE - PROVISIONAL DIARY DATES FOR APIARY MEETS ARE ON PAGE 3

August 2025

"Taster Day" on 2nd August at the apiary – please contact Nina for additional details.

Bees & Honey Marquee Wednesday 13th - Thursday 14th August 2025 Turnpike Showground, Motcombe, Shaftesbury, Dorset, SP7 9PL Gates open at 8:30am

Bristol Bee & Pollination Festival. The University of Bristol Botanic Garden, Stoke Bishop, Bristol. BS9 1JG. 30th - 31st August 2025 - Bristol Beekeepers, Bristol Branch of Avon Beekeepers Association Registered charity number 271717

September 2025

Beeswax Candles Masterclass Saturday 6th and 20th September. Free to WBKA members. For more information email Sophie Butcher at chair@wiltshirebeekeepers.co.uk

West Wiltshire Branch Honey Show Saturday 27th September. Bratton Jubilee Hall, Melbourne Street, Westbury, Wiltshire BA13 4RW – more information on page 11

October 2025

Wiltshire Bee & Honey Day 2025: Saturday 11th October 2025. 10am to 4pm [Wiltshire Beekeepers Association Wiltshire Bee & Honey Day 2025 - Wiltshire Beekeepers Association](#) at The Devizes Corn Exchange, Market Place, Devizes SN10 1HS (incorporates the County Honey Show).

BBKA National Honey Day: on 21st October, each year **The British Beekeepers' Association celebrates National Honey Day**

National Honey Show 2025: Thursday 23rd to Saturday 25th October 2025 at Sandown Park, Esher, Surrey, UK [National Honey Show homepage - National Honey Show](#)

Need to know

Lectures

FORTHCOMING LECTURES

'Foraging is my happy place' on Tuesday 19th August 2025 with Tom Radford at 7pm. <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81233819992?pwd=DYMZxTlmJjpRCLJjYjvblxgybQQdSZ.1> more information on pages 16-17

'Beekeepers' Question Time' - Tuesday 15th July 2025 at 7pm. Can now be found on YouTube [Beekeepers' Question Time July 2025](#)

GOOD TO KNOW

Apiary News

Are you coming to the next apiary meet?

The remaining dates for this year are below.....

2nd August – (normal apiary session starting at the usual time. The "Apiary Taster" session starts a couple of hours earlier and then they will join other members).

16th August

30th August

13th September

Come and join us, we're looking forward to welcoming you to the apiary, finding out how your bees are faring, and working with our bees together.

(Don't forget to bring your cup for a drink!)



Some views of the apiary taken on 19th July 2025 (courtesy of Amanda Leworthy)



Apiary News



Honey is still available by the bucket (£6/lb) through Den Pictor our Apiary Manager. Please liaise with the Treasurer to pay before collection and contact Den via his WhatsApp account to arrange for collection from the apiary

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP YOUR CLUB?



There are **two** roles available on the committee.

Dan Young has worked hard to establish Asian Hornet Coordination and **Liz Gwinnell** picked up the membership Secretary role. Unfortunately, both committee members need to relinquish these roles due to other demands upon them.

We thank them both for the time and effort they have spent developing these roles.

If you can help, don't hesitate to get in touch with the club secretary in the first instance for information- WWBKA Secretary: Secretary-WWBKA@outlook.com

Are you ready?

It's SHOWTIME (well – nearly!) there is plenty of time to get show ready if you are planning to exhibit.... Haven't done it before? Do have a go, it's addictive!

WW HONEY SHOW 2025

Saturday 27th September. Bratton Jubilee Hall, Melbourne Street, Westbury, Wiltshire BA13 4RW

CLASSES – please see notes on detail at the end of the class list

1. Beginner's class: one 454g (1lb) jar of honey, any type, colour, the entrant having no more than two year's beekeeping
2. Young member: one jar of honey any type (see note 5)
3. One 454g (1lb) jar: light run honey
4. One 454g (1lb) jar: medium run honey
5. One 454g (1lb) jar: dark run honey
6. Two (matched) 454g (1lb) jars of one of the following: light, medium, dark, granulated, or soft set honey
7. One 454g (1lb) jar: soft set honey
8. One 454g (1lb) jar: chunk honey
9. 'Black jar': one jar of honey to be judged on taste and aroma alone (See note 6)
10. One section in case (round or square)
11. Cut comb: minimum 227g (8ozs) (see note 7)
12. Frame of honey for extraction, shown in bee-proof display case
13. Bottle of dry mead (see note 8)
14. Bottle of sweet mead (see note 8)
15. Bottle of melomel (see note 8)
16. Bottle of metheglin (see note 8)
17. Bottle of cyser
18. Beeswax furniture polish (see note 9)

(WW Honey Show 2025 contd.)

19. Beeswax cake, minimum 227g (8oz)
 20. Three beeswax blocks, 27g to 30g (1oz) each
 21. Pair of beeswax candles, dipped or moulded, one to be lit by the judge (see note 10)
 22. Pair of hand rolled and decorated beeswax candles, one to be lit by the judge (see note 11)
 23. Display of beeswax flowers, colouring allowed (see note 12)
 24. 1-5 Stems of beeswax flowers. Container will not be judged (see notes 12 & 13)
 25. Two beeswax wraps (300m x 300m) square (see note 14)
 26. Display of six bee products on a tray, all different
 27. Any decorative or artistic exhibit, to include needlework this may include lace, knitting or crochet relating to bees or beekeeping, not to exceed 600mm x 600mm (see note 15)
 28. Any beeswax model, no colouring permitted
 29. Honey cake (see recipe – NO changes to recipe permitted)
 30. Six honey biscuits, recipe to be provided by the exhibitor
- Photograph Classes (see note 16)
31. Honey bee/s and flower/s
 32. Aspects of beekeeping

Notes

1. Only one entry per class per person is to be entered.
2. All honey and wax (except class 20, 21, 22 and 23) exhibited must be Bonafide produce of bees kept by the exhibitor.
3. All honey to exhibited in clear glass 454g (1lb) squat jars, labelled 1.25cm (1/2 in) from the bottom of the jar.
4. Gold coloured metal or plastic, screw on lids only. Chrome plated or coloured lids will be disqualified.
5. Young member under 16 years of age on the day of the show.
6. Sleeves will be provided on the day. Labels for this class are to be placed on the lid, sleeve, and jar.

(WW HONEY SHOW 2025 contd.)

7. Cut comb to be shown in a white or clear plastic container with a clear lid.
8. Mead to be exhibited in standard punted bottles with white plastic topped flanged corks, containing approx. 75cl. Melomel and metheglin, to have flavour label on the bottle. Class labels to be placed 1.25cm (1/2 in) from the bottom.
9. Wax polish to be in a standard round container, metal or plastic, warning labels not required.
10. Candles must stand upright in candle holders. Candle holders to be provided by the exhibitor and be appropriate for purpose.
11. This class is open to any age. All decoration must be beeswax, colouring is permitted.
12. Colouring, wire, and florist's tape may be used, but no plant material.
13. Open to anyone who has not won the beeswax flower section at the national honey show
14. Pure beeswax only, no other oils or resins to be added.
15. Work exhibited must be completed by the exhibitor.
16. Photographs may not be entered into both classes 31 and 32. Size between 10cm x 15cm (4in x 6in) and 25cm x 33cm (10in x 14in), unframed but may be mounted.

You must all be very aware of the colour to mark this years queens – but what about next year?



DON'T FORGET!

Members wanting to buy WWBKA clothing can now order directly from the suppliers as the link to ordering clothing is now "live" on the shop website.



All four Beekeeper Products (Fleece, Sweatshirt, Polo Shirt and Cap) are available to order from the OHM website using the following link: <https://ohmclothing.co.uk/shop/workwear/wiltshire-beekeepers/>

Alternatively, you can go onto the OHM website, click 'Workwear,' then 'Wiltshire Beekeepers' and you will find all the items listed there.

Please note that all queries will be handled by the shop.





Customer Support - Devizes | OHM Clothing Ltd and OHM Charities

01380 825355

Opening times: 10-5 Tuesday-Friday, 10-2 Saturdays.

Shop: 31 Sheep Street, Devizes, SN10 1DJ

Workshop: Unit 6, Axis Business Centre, Westmead Ind Est, Swindon, SN5 7YS

			
<i>Wiltshire Beekeepers</i> West Wiltshire Beekeepers Association Unisex Polo Top	<i>Wiltshire Beekeepers</i> West Wiltshire Beekeepers Association Unisex Sweatshirt	<i>Wiltshire Beekeepers</i> West Wiltshire Beekeepers Association Cap	<i>Wiltshire Beekeepers</i> West Wiltshire Beekeepers Association Unisex Fleece
£16.19	£25.79	£10.19	£33.79

An ideal birthday gift for your nearest and dearest?

Plant of the month – August

White Clover and Himalayan Balsam this month...



White Clover (*Trifolium Repens*): The RHS tells us ([Trifolium repens | white clover / RHS Gardening](#)) this plant will provide nectar and pollen for bees and many other pollinating insects.

It is described as "A creeping perennial that roots at the nodes. Between May and October, on long stalks, it bears rounded heads of creamy white flowers, sometimes with a hint of pale pink that fades to brown.

Leaves are trifoliate - or four leaved, if you're lucky! Leaves have rounded tips and often bear a white mark. Valuable to wood mice, bumblebees, and common blue butterflies."

Himalayan Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*): (Again from the RHS website) - [Himalayan balsam / RHS Gardening](#) Himalayan balsam is an annual plant with scented flowers in shades of pink and purple. Introduced to Britain as an ornamental garden plant, it is now considered a problematic weed, particularly along watercourses. Though an interesting plant and recognised amongst beekeepers for producing "ghost bees" Himalayan balsam is recognised as an invasive non native plant species and listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as a species of special concern... Consequently, there are restrictions on the growing, cultivation sale and transport of the plant in the effort to control spread. You can read more about it by following the link to the website above. A fast growing, tall, upright annual, the seeds of the Himalayan Balsam germinate in early spring. Sturdy hollow stems, often with reddish tints, grow to a height of about 2m (6½ft) during summer. Scented flowers in shades of pink and purple, and occasionally white, are borne from June to November.



Pollinator of the month – August. Elephant Hawk Moth.

Many caterpillars have a favourite food and elephant hawk-moths are no exception. Though they can be found feasting on a wide range of plants, including balsams and bedstraws, they're usually discovered on willowherbs and fuchsias. They're not always easy to spot, as they do much of their feeding at night.

When small, the caterpillars are well-camouflaged, often spending the day tucked under a leaf on their chosen plant. As they grow they start to commute instead, resting on the ground at the base of the plant in the day, travelling up the stem to feed when it gets dark.

(Source - [The elephant in the garden room | Shropshire Wildlife Trust](#))

Across the UK the elephant hawk-moth is found in a range of habitats including woodlands, parks, and gardens. The eye-catching adults are on the wing from May until August. They're easily attracted to lights, or can sometimes be spotted from dusk, feeding on open flowers like honeysuckle.



Do you “do” Facebook?

Do you “follow” BBKA posts?

I noticed the following recent post by the BBKA

“The world's first, and so far, only honeybee disaster response team, a nonprofit called Bee Platoon, is designed to protect honeybees and help beekeepers during natural disasters

<https://www.ucdavis.edu/news/protecting-bees-during-disasters>”

follow the link above to read more.....



Gillingham and Shaftesbury Honey Show Schedule 2025

Staged alongside the North Dorset Beekeeper's Association display in the

Bees & Honey Marquee

Turnpike Showground, Motcombe, Shaftesbury, Dorset, SP7 9PL

Wednesday 13th & Thursday 14th August 2025

Gates open at 8:30am

Entries in this section close on Thursday 31st July 2025. This date will be strictly adhered to.

Entries can be made online via www.gillinghamandshaftesburyshow.co.uk/compete



Bristol Beekeepers, Bristol Branch of Avon Beekeepers Association Registered charity number 271717

Bristol Bee & Pollination Festival. The University of Bristol Botanic Garden, Stoke Bishop, Bristol. BS9 1JG. 30th 31st August 2025 Judge: Joyce Nisbet, Wrexham.

Schedule of Classes:

1. Two 454g jars of light honey
2. Two 454g jars of medium honey
3. Two 454g jars of dark honey
4. Two 454g jars of naturally crystallised honey
5. Two 454g jars of soft set honey
6. Honey jar label to fit a 454 g jar. To comply with all current legislation displayed on an empty jar with lid.
7. One rectangular container of cut comb honey of min. weight 180g
8. One shallow frame of honey ready for extraction
9. One jar of honey, to be judged on Taste Alone
10. One cake of beeswax of weight between 220 – 280g (exhibit on a white paper plate inside a clear plastic bag)
11. Three matching blocks of wax, each of weight 28g (+/- 2g) (exhibit on a white paper plate inside a clear plastic bag)
12. Two matching beeswax candles
13. Any decorative beeswax item except candle made by any method. (May include coloured wax and wire)
14. A Beeswax food wrap, minimum 30cm square, fabric and beeswax only, displayed wrapping an empty food container
15. One bottle of dry mead
16. One bottle of sweet mead
17. Novice class – two matching 454g jars of liquid honey
18. An item of art illustrating any aspect of bees or beekeeping

(Bristol Bee & Pollination Festival contd.)

19. One photograph, min. size 15cm x 10cm mounted on A4 card, of honeybee or beekeeping interest

20. Honey fruit cake made to recipe of your choice

21. Honey Fudge, made to a recipe of your choice

BBKA Show Rules (2016) apply unless amended by any of the following:

1. Entries to be made on the form online (<https://forms.gle/U3y6FYz8WrBw9e2R6>) not later than 5pm BST 27th August 2025. Cash payment on arrival with entries. Prior to the event, entrants will be sent confirmation of classes entered (by email). Labels for all entries & a pass for free access to the Botanic Gardens will be given on arrival. Late entries will be accepted on the day if space allows at the Show Secretary's discretion and charged double.

2. The event marquee will be open for staging exhibits from 4.00 pm to 7.00 pm on Friday 29th August and from 8.00 a.m. on Saturday 30th August 2025. All exhibits must be staged by 10.00 a.m. Judging will commence at 10.30 a.m. Awards will be presented on Sunday 31st at 3.30 p.m. Exhibits are to be collected at the close of the show on Sunday and only removed after being checked against entry list and when permitted by the Show Secretary. Early removal only with the permission of the Show Secretary.

3. Only labels supplied by the Show Secretary are to be affixed to each entry as directed (see 'Guidance for affixing labels' below). No marks of any sort are permitted on any part of the exhibit.

4. Candles are to be displayed erect. The judge may light one candle. Candlesticks must be used if required to keep candle upright. Free standing candles must be displayed on metal stands which must hold the candles safely in a stable position. Candlesticks and stands shall not be judged.

5. All extracted honey is to be exhibited in clear 454g squat jars with standard gold lacquered metal screw lids

(Bristol Bee & Pollination Festival contd.)

6. Mead to be shown in clear glass punted wine bottles with shoulders (approx. 75cl capacity). White plastic topped flanged corks must be used.

7. Only BBKA members exhibiting on the show bench will be permitted to supply honey or other products for sale during the show.

8. Bristol Branch will retain the two Bristol Queen trophies. The winners will have their names engraved on the trophies and they will receive special prizes to take away.

9. Classes may be cancelled or amalgamated at the discretion of the Show Judge and Secretary.

10. Where a display method or other detail is specified (E.g. on a paper plate in a plastic bag), this must be followed, or the entry disqualified.

11. A Novice is a person who has never won a prize in any jarred honey class at an open honey show.

12. Points will be awarded in each of class as follows:

1st place - 7 points, 2nd place - 4 points, 3rd place, - 2 points

Prizes in all classes: 1st place - £7, 2nd place - £4, 3rd place - £2

13. Class 20: Honey Fruit Cake. The Honey Fruit Cake may be made to any recipe containing honey and fruit, which must be written on an accompanying card. The Honey Fruit Cake will be judged by a small panel of members of the public / show attendees, based on 3 criteria: 1. Appearance, 2. Overall taste as Cake, 3. How good is the specifically Honey

taste of the cake. (Show inside a clear plastic bag on a flat white paper plate.) A cake container shall be supplied by the entrant for overnight storage to avoid animal predation.

14. Class 21: Honey Fudge. Entry must contain a minimum of 10 pieces. The fudge must contain Honey and must not contain chocolate. Recipe used to be written on card alongside display for the judge. (Show inside a clear plastic bag on a flat white paper plate.) A fudge container shall be supplied by the entrant for overnight storage to avoid animal predation

Guidance for affixing labels

The Show Secretary will provide all labels. Labels will be numbered according to a coding system set by the show secretary. All entrants will have a unique entry number for each of their exhibits. An entry with two or more items, e.g. 2 Jars of Honey – both will have the same number.

1 Honey jars

One label per jar. Affix label approximately 15mm up from base just above curved section. Ideally label should be midway between jar seams.

Taste alone: also add labels as above on cover slip and also centre of lid.

2 Cut comb containers

Two labels, affix one midway to long face of container, the duplicate to right nearside corner of lid.

3 Frames Two labels, affix one to top right nearside corner of the vertical transparent

(Bristol Bee & Pollination Festival contd.)

face of the frame case and the duplicate on the top of the horizontal bar of the frame.

4 Beeswax cakes Two labels, affix one to edge of uppermost surface of cake, the other to edge of plate.

5 Beeswax blocks Four labels. Affix one to the side of each block and one on the plate.

6 Candles Four labels. Affix one at the bottom face of each candle and one to each candle stick or stand.

7 Decorative beeswax item One label will be provided, affix to the item.

8 Wraps

Two labels. One on the outside of the wrap and one on the food container.

9 Mead bottles

One label. Affix label approximately 15mm up from base just above curved section.

10 Art

One label. Affix to bottom right-hand corner of picture or any suitable location on other item of art.

11 Photograph

One label. Affix to bottom right-hand corner of mount card.

12 Fruit cake and Honey Fudge

One label. Affix to nearside of plate.

Awards

Bristol Beekeepers Trophies: The Snelgrove Trophy will be awarded to the Bristol Beekeepers Member who achieves most points in classes 1—16. Similarly, the Bristol Novice trophy will be awarded to the Novice Bristol Member achieving most points in classes 1 to 17. Rule 11 above applies to this.

The Bristol Silver Queen trophy will be awarded to the entrant gaining the highest number of points from classes 1 to 16 inclusive.

The Bristol Bronze Queen trophy will be awarded to the runner-up.

Points Ties for prizes may be differentiated by number of first prizes.

Winners of the Silver and Bronze Queen trophies will receive a special Bristol Blue Glass prize to take home. The trophies cannot be taken away. An award will also be given to the 'Best in Show' from any class.

Thank you to The University of Bristol Botanic Garden for hosting the event.



BBKA August Zoom Talk

The next in our series of Zoom talks will be 'Foraging is my happy place' with Tom Radford on Tuesday 19th August 2025 at 7pm. A recording of this talk will be available on YouTube for those unable to watch live.

Tom is a Forager, Content Creator, and advocate of supporting local and sustainable food. He's recently started keeping bees and is, among other things, advocating for the plight of wild bees and support for the beekeeping industry. He grew up in the New Forest, and there his love of nature and all things wild was born. Years of wandering those woods, climbing trees and generally getting cut, bruised, muddy and soaking wet defined his childhood. When he was 11 years old, he was given a copy of The SAS Survival Handbook by Lofty Wiseman, and that was his bible as a kid.

Tom always had a deep love of the countryside and nature for his whole life but never so much as when circumstances took him to Asia and whilst that was a great adventure, he missed home and used to watch shows like River Cottage and old Keith Floyd episodes which is where the seeds of his next project were sown. Returning to the UK in 2019 after six very homesick years in Singapore Tom had become a freelance video content director with an interest in making films. He vowed to get back to nature and make some films about his passion. Somehow this escalated into @EatTheCountry on social media which (and he's still not really sure why) currently has around 340k followers.

Foraging:

- Introduction: Tom's story, how Eat the Country got started and how it operates
- The rules around foraging and good foraging practice

(BBKA August Zoom talk contd.)

- Key identifiers for both plants and mushrooms with examples
- Examples of things to forage in different environments; Meadows, Woodlands and Coastal
- Some ideas for food and drink to make with foraged wild foods
- Wildflowers and pollinators; the situation with wild bees and flying insects and steps gardeners, allotments holders and possibly beekeepers can take.
- The Plan Bees initiative and how we are trying to disrupt the narrative and develop a grass roots approach to educating people about wild bees and spreading awareness.

Zoom

link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81233819992?pwd=DYMZxTlmJjpRCLJjYjvblxgybQQdSZ.1>

Meeting ID: 812 3381 9992 Passcode: 527929



Are you signed up to BeeBase?

Are you using the materials available on the site? This time of the beekeeping year beekeepers are thinking about getting their colonies into the best shape they can possibly be to get them through the winter. You can follow the link below to take you to the BeeBase page on the internet where you will find many useful and informative documents to help you deal with varroa mites

[How do I manage Varroa? » APHA - National Bee Unit - BeeBase](#)

APHA have a variety of fact sheets that provide information on how to:

- [monitor for Varroa in hives;](#)
- [use drone brood removal for mite control;](#)
- [use artificial swarming for mite control;](#)
- [use queen trapping for mite control;](#)
- [monitor for resistance to varroacides in mites.](#)

-you can click on the links to take you directly to the page

Make your own Wasp Guards and Mouse Guards

WWBKA member Tony Hill recently made his own wasp guards. I asked him if he would share his ideas and the process with our newsletter and he has kindly agreed. This, he says, isn't an original idea just his own "take" on making wasp guards.

Having looked at some of the wasp guards commercially available, Tony thought he could make them quite easily out of some electrical trunking. No measurements were taken – they were just made by "eye" and to the size required for the hive.

Tony tells us that the first two pictures show the tools used and materials.



Step 1



Step 2

First cut the trunking to the length required.

Then remove the trunking cover and drill 5 x 9.5mm holes, using a sharp knife to join the holes and "tidy up".

(Make your own Wasp Guards and Mouse Guards contd.)



Step 3



Step 4



Step 5



Step 6

(Make your own Wasp Guards and Mouse Guards contd.)



Step 7

After making the rear aperture he then moved on to the front.

Having seen, in the past, a square cut rear aperture, Tony went for a less complicated approach.

The holes in the front cover were drilled with a 3.5mm drill directly opposite the rear aperture as this is what confuses the wasps. They can obviously smell the scent through the small holes but are unable to gain access.

The wasp guards are now ready to fix over the front of your hive.

If you go on to make some mouse guards.....

Tony kept it simple for the mouse guard. He cut a 6mm wooden dowel in half, then drilled 2 x 6mm holes in the back of the trunking as shown. Inserting the dowelling reduces space for mice to pass through.

(Make your own Wasp Guards and Mouse Guards contd.)



Step 8



Step 9

Tony effectively stuck the wasp guards to the hive using double sided tape.

The process sounds economical - Tony reports the pre manufactured models retail at over £11 each and he made a dozen of different sizes for less than £7 and under 1 hours work. Achievable with the right tools and a little time and effort!

Many thanks to **Tony Hill** for sharing your endeavours – maybe other club members will have a go at producing something similar.....

Honey Recipe of the month – August Orange Honey Cake topped with Pecan Streusel



Streusel Topping Ingredients

- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 2 tablespoons vegan butter/margarine, softened
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans

Cake Ingredients

- 1 1/2 cups honey
- 1 cup hot strong tea
- 3 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 3 teaspoons baking powder
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 small orange, with peel, cut in quarters and seeds removed
- 1 cup white sugar
- 3 eggs
- 3/4 cup vegetable oil

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
2. Mix the honey and tea together and leave to cool.
3. Combine the flour, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon and nutmeg, set aside.
4. Blend the entire orange in a food processor, add sugar and eggs, process until well mixed.
5. Transfer to an electric mixer, add oil and beat well. Alternately add the flour mixture and cooled honey-tea mixture, beginning and ending with the dry ingredients.
6. Mix together all of the streusel ingredients until crumbly.
7. Pour the batter in to two well greased loaf pans lined with parchment paper.
8. Sprinkle streusel topping on. Bake for 1 hour (mine took 1 1/4 hours); use the skewer test to see when they are "done".
9. Cool cakes 30 minutes before transferring to a wire rack to cool completely.

(Honey Recipe of the month contd.)

My thoughts on the Orange Honey Pecan Streusel cake....

The addition of a whole orange (minus any seeds) liquidised in the recipe resulted in a good flavour. When properly cooled the loaves were moist and easy to slice. To reduce the cost of the cakes I expect you could use walnuts instead of pecan nuts - or make the cakes without the streusel.

If I chose to make this again, unless I planned to use the loaves immediately, I would probably make enough streusel topping for one cake and freeze the other loaf in slices. I think it likely the streusel topping will become a bit gooey on top in the freezer. Other than that, I might "tinker with the ingredients to make just a single loaf.

To be honest I was a little apprehensive when I decided to make this cake. It seemed complicated and other than "two loaf tins" there was no reference to the size of tins to bake it in. In the end I used 2 loaf tins - size 21 x 11 x 6.5cms



Read on for a light-hearted trip around the apiary alphabet – if you can do something similar – let's hear from you!

A is for club **A**piary, the place where we meet
and **A**merican foulbrood – we're unable to treat.

B is for **B**rood – in all stages is good
(their eventual destiny defines their food).

B is for comb exchange - **B**ailey's the name
Keeps your colonies healthy – stay in the game
You can hold disease at bay –

I'm advised best to be done on a mild spring day.

C is for **C**apped **C**ells and **C**arnolian bees,
It's for **C**omb and for **C**yser (send your recipes please).

D is for **D**rone, the stingless male bee
The French designed **D**adant hive and swarm control (**D**emaree),

D is for **D**ummy board – used to fill up your hive
It will keep the bees happy, for this we must strive.

E is for **E**gg (only one per cell please)
- more than that, take care, you might have drone laying bees.

F is for **F**anning, (keeps the hive temperature right)
And guides the bees at the entrance when returning from **F**light.

Frames can store **F**orage as nectar, pollen and honey,
Collected more easily when conditions are sunny.

F is for **F**eeder, **F**oundation and for **F**low - have your supers all ready
In late spring/early summer, the **F**low can be steady
In the winter you could feed your colonies with **F**ondant,
If you do that, in Spring you might feel less despondent.

G is for **G**loves – (not leather, disposable please
- they make it harder to control hive disease).

(Apiary alphabet contd.)

G is for guards against wasps and mice-
keep them out of your hive they aren't very nice.

H is for Hive - what sort have you got?
- **H**oney, **H**ygiene and **H**ornet - (Asian? We hope not!)

I is for **I**ncrease in activity – a first sign of Spring
Looking for forage – there'll be bees "on the wing"

J is for royal **J**elly- larvae fed for three days,
then only the queen gets it after this phase,
and **J**ars for your honey –

fill and label carefully to recoup some money!

K is for **K**-wing a symptom of disease,
and **K**oschevnikov gland when a sting is released.

L is for **L**arvae (each bee at day three)
For **L**anding boards, **L**ids and for **L**abels –
Essential for selling honey to put on tables.

M is for **M**ating flight, **M**ead, and **M**etheglin for your show,
and **M**arking your queen – do mind how you go.

N is for **N**ectar, straight from the flowers
Worker bees collect this (and pollen) for hours and hours.

N is for **N**urse bee, **N**asonov and **N**osema –
don't forget Bailey – exchange your comb "Reg'lar"

O is for **O**pen mesh floor –
other than that, I can't find any more!

P is for **P**ollen to make bee bread for brood
Unique to bees it's a real "superfood."

(Apiary alphabet contd.)

P is for **Propolis** (**P**ollen, resin and beeswax)-

keeps draughts out the hive and fills up the cracks-

And **Proboscis** – (a bee tongue that acts that acts like a straw)

Pheromone, **P**agden and **P**orter escape – I can think of lots more.

Q is for **Queen**, at times hard to find,

and **QMP** (**Q**ueen **M**andibular **P**heromone, a chemical sign).

R is for **Royal** jelly and **R**ecords - remember to write,

and **R**obbing - put your wasp guards on tight,

S is for **S**warm - prevent if you can, use Pagden or **S**plit –

And **S**moker or **S**ac brood, **S**upersedure and **S**kep.

T is feeding and strengthening of social bonds called **Trophallaxis**

The spelling of this word requires some practice.

T is also for the instrument known as a hive Tool

I keep losing mine – I feel such a fool!

or **T**rickle **T**reatment in winter – when no brood is in sight

and **U** is for **U**ncapping comb and colonies you can **U**nite

V is for **V**arroa - the parasitic mite, check four times a year – and **V** is for **V**irgin –

(Sixteen days from egg to emerging).

W is for **W**aggle dance demonstrating the location of forage -

Well nourished bees might ensure honey for your breakfast porridge.

W for **W**asp guards - get them on early and right –

In a strong hive bees won't give up without a fight.

Glands in pairs numbering four is **W** for **W**ax

I really do hope you'll remember these facts.

W for **W**orkers - spring and summer numbers increase and thrive -

All essential with drones and a queen for a functioning hive.

(Apiary alphabet contd.)

X - perhaps we could put e**X**cluder here –

I think that I will, but it's cheating I fear!

Y is for the Asian **Y**ellow legged hornet

Use the app on your phone, don't forget to report it

I can't find anything bee related to rhyme with **Z**

So, I'll finish this ditty and put it to bed!

I hope you've enjoyed my offering for this newsletter

Let me print your submission if you can do better.

Elaine Mairis

The threat of the Asian Hornet is never far from our minds. [Beekeepers call on the public to help fight record Asian hornet invasion | British Beekeepers Association](#)

Last summer beekeeper Mick Brian discovered an Asian hornet in his garden in Plymouth which eventually led to the destruction of two nests: "We watched in stunned silence as the insect singled out a honey bee, carried it to a nearby leaf, and began to dissect it." Their habit of hawking (hovering) outside the hive stops the bees from collecting nectar and pollen to feed themselves. Diane Drinkwater added: "Asian hornets are wreaking havoc in Europe and we fear if they get a foot-hold in the UK our honey bees and many other insects will be decimated here too. They are the greatest threat to beekeeping since the Varroa mite was discovered more than 30 years ago."

BBKA trustee Julie Coleman, who lives in Kent where many of the hornets discovered last year were found, said there are likely to be several reasons behind the huge rise in cases: "The fact that we seem to have a cluster around the coast in Kent, also Dorset, Plymouth, Weymouth and Hampshire makes me think they are coming across on the wind. And there could have been an overwintered nest in Kent which has sent out hibernating queens in the autumn."

It is important to take care not to approach or disturb a nest. Asian hornets are not generally aggressive towards people but an exception to this is when they perceive a threat to their nest. People who suspect they have seen an Asian hornet should report it immediately using the phone app 'Asian Hornet Watch' or the online [reporting form](#).

Beekeeping supplies.



For Your Beekeeping Supplies

Your local supplier providing a service for:

- All Thorne's supplies
- BBWear suits – try before you buy
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Diane Sleigh

The Apple Garden, Buckland Dinham, Frome, Somerset, BA11 2QP
what3words poetry.unto.driveway

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Services available to members

The following services are provided by West Wilts BKA to members:

Bee Bank (for sale or purchase of queens, nucs and colonies). Contact the Branch Secretary at Secretary-WWBKA@outlook.com

Bookers Wholesale Customer Card. Contact the WWBKA Secretary: Secretary-WWBKA@outlook.com

Equipment loan (microscopes, extractors, etc.): Contact the Branch Secretary at Secretary-WWBKA@outlook.com

Library: Contact our Librarian (either direct or through the Secretary)

Swarm Collection Register: Contact Branch Swarm Coordinator (David Raines on 07711 018440 and david.raines@hna.uk.com).

Find us on  :West Wiltshire Beekeepers Association