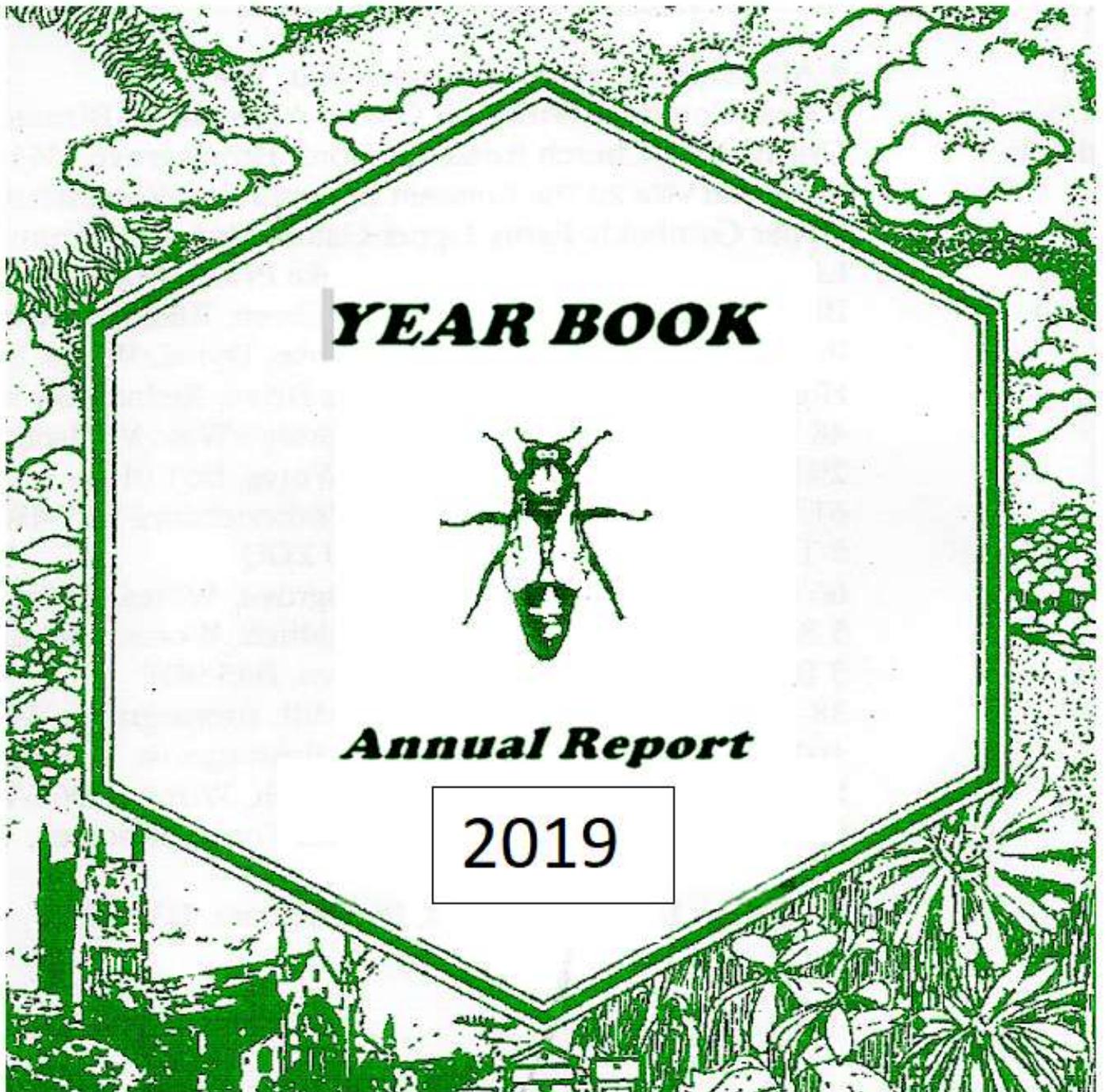


*WORCESTERSHIRE
BEEKEEPERS
ASSOCIATION*



Queen Colour of the Year 'Green'

WORCESTERSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Gives due notice of its

**ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY- SEVENTH
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

This will be held on

Saturday 6th April 2019

At 2.00pm

At Hanley Swan Village and Memorial Hall.

PROGRAMME

The chairman to be in accordance with rule 3a of the constitution.

- 2.00pm Assemble and welcome.
- 2.30pm Annual General Meeting (Agenda below)
- 3.15pm Refreshments
- 4.00pm The Marjorie Homer Memorial Lecture

‘Enhancing Pollination in orchards, to Improve Sustainability of Fruit Production’ to be given by Dr Kate Ashbrook.

Senior Lecturer in Animal Biology, University of Worcester

- 5.00pm Questions and Close of Meeting

* * * * *

The host branch for 2019 is Malvern & Upton Branch.

For Sat Nav users, Hanley Swan Village Hall is near to WR8 0DA. It lies South of Hanley Swan on the Welland Road

There is ample parking space behind the hall

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019

AGENDA

1. Apologies from members unable to be present.
2. To consider the Minutes and matters arising of the 136th Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 7 April 2018 at Chaddesley Corbett Village Hall.
3. To consider the Annual Reports and Financial Statement
4. To elect officers for 2019 in accordance with Rule 3b (i)):
President,
Vice President
Hon Secretary
Hon Treasurer.
5. To appoint Hon. Independent Examiner of accounts
6. To elect any County Honorary Life Member
7. A.O.B to be notified to the Secretary or Chairman before the meeting.
8. Presentation of the County Honey Show Cups and Examination Certificates

Close of Official Business

W.B.K.A. Executive Committee 2018/2019

President Martyn Cracknell (Evesham)

Vice President David Mills (Kidderminster)

Chairman: Geoff Winkworth (Malvern & Upton.)

Hon. Secretary: Lorraine Chapman (North East Worcs)

Hon. Treasurer. Mr. Malcolm MacGarrow (Worcester)

Branch representatives on the executive committee

Evesham: Richard Higgins (Rebecca Day), Richard Toft
Gt. Witley: Mrs. Helen Knight, David Edmonds
Hagley & Stourbridge: Lyndon Corbett & Justus Klaar
Kidderminster: Ken Beddoe, Watty Sleightholme
Malvern & Upton: Fred Stephens (Bob Prosser), Geoff Winkworth
NE Worcestershire: John Gowar (Chris Tomlinson), Tim Vivian
Worcester: Mrs Victoria Jones, Richard Neary
Roy Round (co-opted training co-ordinator)
Rhona Toft (MSWCC committee rep)

Other County Officers

Sue Mullen (Membership secretary)
Nick Templar (County web-master)

Honorary Life Members

Mr. Mike Ashdown, Mrs. Ursula Brandwood, Mr. David Mills, Mr. W. Hancox,
Mr W. Sleightholme, Mr M. Cracknell.

Website: www.wbka.uk

Registered Charity: "The Worcestershire Bee Keepers' Association" - 245946

**MINUTES OF THE 136th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of
THE WORCESTERSHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION**

**HELD ON Saturday 7 April 2018
At Chaddesley Corbett Village Hall**

HOST BRANCH - Kidderminster

Welcome and Introduction

Sue Limbrey, the Chairman of Kidderminster branch welcomed 50 members to the meeting and explained the format for the afternoon. She introduced our guest speaker before handing over to Martyn Cracknell to chair the AGM.

1 - Apologies

The following members sent apologies for absence:

Anne Carter, Richard Murgatroyd, Watty Sleightholme, Alison Burton	Kidderminster
Sally Wadsworth, Richard Toft	Evesham
Carolyn Price	Hagley & Stourbridge

2- Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the 135th AGM as printed in the yearbook were approved as a true record of the meeting. Matters arising from the previous minutes (numbers refer to the previous minutes):

2i. Communication with members. A quarterly report was mooted, to inform members about discussions and decisions taken by the executive committee. Circulation costs of a paper version would be prohibitive, but draft minutes of the County AGM, a version of the yearbook and a summary of the December Executive meeting were posted on the County website in 2018.

When the new BBKA and BDI registration scheme is fully implemented it should be possible to communicate directly to members by e-mail with statutory notices, like the notice of the AGM.

ii. Some branch reports were missing from last year's yearbook. Two of them are attached here for completeness of the historical record. This year, a longer lead in time was given to secretaries. (and I checked my spam folder!! Ed.)

3 - Consideration of Annual Reports

All annual reports are in the yearbook. The following notes are supplementary to the yearbook.

President's Report - The President reported on the recent children's event held at Malvern showground called Countrytastic. Our display has grown year on year with observation hives, honey tasting, skep sniffing, candle rolling, lucky dipping, rubber stamping, screen printing and honey bottling. We were first encouraged to participate by John Gowar and it has become a fixture in our calendar, and we are always willing to include new ideas and volunteers.

Treasurer's Report - We received the sad news that John Hill, our examiner of accounts had died in February, shortly after reviewing our accounts. Condolences were sent to his wife on behalf of WBKA, and he will be sadly missed.

As our finances are healthy it has been decided to spend some money on a pop-up banner and flags for use at shows. No increase in membership fees are proposed.

A new membership system is being introduced by BDI and will be rolled out to BBKA membership. This will probably cause some difficulties in the short term but should be simpler thereafter.

National Honey Show Report - Rebecca Day had been missed off the list of those who had achieved success at the show She achieved a Highly Commended for her Class86 Instructive exhibit. Ken Beddoe also achieved a Highly commended for Class 36Two Square sections, and 2nd prize for Class153 dark Honey.

4 - Constitutional changes.

In section 3.b.ii, to replace the term 'Auditor' with 'Independent examiner' and 'audited' with 'examined', in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act

Proposed Malcolm MacGarrow, seconded Martyn Cracknell, Agreed unanimously.

5 - Election of Officers

The following officers agreed to stand for another year:

President - Martyn Cracknell

Vice-President - David Mills

Secretary - Lorraine Chapman

Treasurer - Malcolm MacGarrow

Accounts Examiner - tba (Keith Minett to be approached after the meeting)

They were proposed en-bloc by Tim Vivian and seconded by Neil Morris. The proposal was passed nem. con.

6- Election of County Honorary Members

David Mills proposed that Martyn Cracknell should be made an Honorary member. He has been County President for ten years and has made a major contribution to beekeeping in Worcestershire. Seconded by Sue Limbrey and passed unanimously.

7- Any Other Business

A healthy bee's day is under discussion for 2019 and NBU inspectors have been approached. All other aspects are still to be decided. On a show of hands, the members voted in favour a Worcestershire beekeeping weekend in conjunction with a Healthy Bees day. This will be taken back to the Executive committee. Nick Templar gave a review of the County website and encouraged members to use it and to communicate any issues to him. Between 200 - 300 prospective beekeepers showed interest via the website and their details have been fed through to appropriate branches.

8- Presentation of County Honey Show Cups

All honey show cups were presented as detailed in the yearbook.

The meeting closed at 15.40 and members were able to mingle over a buffet tea.

We then enjoyed an excellent talk on 'The Importance of Drones' from Lynne Ingram

Constitution of Worcestershire Beekeepers Association (2005 -as amended 2018)

1.
 - a The name shall be "Worcestershire Beekeepers Association", hereafter termed the Association.
 - b The aim shall be to support and promote the welfare and keeping of honeybees and the interests of beekeepers.
2.
 - a The Association shall comprise Branch Associations in the geographical area of Worcestershire (2004) together with their members as follows:
 - (i) Ordinary members - subscription for the following year to be set at the Annual General Meeting;

- (ii) Junior members - under 18 years of age at 31 December of that year, to be half the Ordinary rate;
 - (iii) Honorary Life members - elected at a General Meeting.
 - b Subscriptions shall be due on 1 January each year and Branches shall be responsible for collection from their own members. Each year Branches shall forward to the County Treasurer by 14 March monies they have received in accordance with 2a (i) and 2a (ii) above including Branch Life Members by that time. Such monies received after that time must be forwarded by 31 August.
 - c Each Branch shall be responsible for its own financial management.
- 3.
- a Annual General Meetings shall be held, usually during April, at intervals not exceeding 13 calendar months with at least one during each calendar year. The Chairman for the Meeting shall be the President, retiring Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee, or a person elected by the Meeting.
 - b Each Annual General Meeting shall include the following:
 - (i) Elections for the following Officers: President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Vice Presidents may also be elected. One person may hold the dual office of Secretary/Treasurer. Written consented nominations, signed by both proposer and seconder, must be received by the Secretary not less than 7 days earlier.
 - (ii) If re-elected at consecutive General Meetings the Secretary and the Treasurer may normally hold office for up to 4 years.
 - (iii) Presentation of examined accounts for the previous year ending 31st December and appointment of an Independent Examiner of accounts for the next year.
 - (iv) Arrangement of the date of the next Annual General Meeting.
 - (v) Any changes to the Constitution which has been previously proposed in the correct way, (See 6. below).
 - c Each member as in 2a. Present shall be entitled to vote and the Chairman shall have a casting vote.
- 4.
- a The management of the Association shall be by an Executive Committee composed of:
 - (i) The Officers as in 3b.(i) above;
 - (ii) Two named representatives or named reserve representatives chosen by each Branch;
 - b The Executive Committee shall meet at least 4 times each year. It shall elect its Chairman and Vice Chairman for the year. It shall receive a financial statement from the Treasurer at each meeting. The Executive Committee may:
 - (i) Fill any vacancy which occurs in any Office during that year.
 - (ii) Appoint any sub-committee to act during that year.
 - (iii) Authorise and assist the formation of new Branches or the winding-up or amalgamation of any existing Branches.
 - (iv) Arrange meetings and or shows.
 - (v) Co-opt any member of the Association or appoint Special Officers for that year.
 - (vi) Refuse membership to any person without giving reason.
 - (vii) Incur financial liability up to a limit of £500 having due regard to the sound financial management of the Association.
 - c The quorum for the Executive Committee shall be 5 and the Chairman shall have a casting vote.

5.
 - a The Secretary of the Association shall send notice and agenda of an A.G.M. or Special General Meeting including details of any proposed changes to the Constitution to each County member not less than 14 days before the meeting and notice and agenda of each meeting of the Executive Committee to committee members not less than 7 days before the meeting.
 - b The Secretary must arrange a Special General Meeting within 28 days of receipt of a written request for such a meeting signed by 10 members or made by the Executive Committee and a Special Meeting of the Executive Committee within 14 days of receiving a written request by 6 committee members.
6. Any proposed changes to the Constitution shall be made at a General Meeting, shall require 28 days written notice to the Secretary to be given by 2 members and a majority of 2 to 1 of members present.

CONTACT LIST FOR 2019

County website www.wbka.uk

County Officers

County President: **Martyn Cracknell**
Honeylands, Abberton Road, Bishampton, Worcs, WR10 2LU
president@wbka.uk
Phone: 01386 462385

County Chairman: **Geoff Winkworth**
(until this AGM))
after this AGM the Chairman of the County executive committee will be a representative from Hagley & Stourbridge branch, until they hold the county AGM in 2020

County Secretary: **Lorraine Chapman**
secretary@wbka.uk

County Treasurer: **Malcolm MacGarrow**

County Membership Secretary: **Sue Mullen**

County Exam Secretary: **Martyn Cracknell**
Honeylands, Abberton Road, Bishampton, Worcs, WR10 2LU

President's Report

As I write this, the sun is shining strongly and the pussy willow catkins are full of pollen, but there is a chilling wind and the forecast is for it to become much colder. No bees are flying today, but three weeks ago it was unseasonably warm and queens might well have been stimulated into early brood rearing. This may prove to be a repeat of last year when mild spells were interspersed with bitterly cold blasts which the media dubbed as 'the beast from the east' I had terrible colony losses at home and surviving stocks were pathetic. I did not have a single colony suitable to show beginners what a normal colony should be like. Fortunately, in my sheltered apiary in Worcester, the bees wintered well and I was able to bring bees in, and concentrate on producing bees rather than Spring honey.

Colonies across the county must have been very slow to build up because we had very few calls to collect swarms and many people were left waiting for bees, well into the season. The BBKA and our County swarm collection system has worked well for the last few years, but when swarms were scarce this year, people travelled from out-County to pick up swarms that they had heard about on social media.

There have been quite a few changes to branch officers over the year and I would like to thank those who are standing down for their contribution and welcome their replacements. Members are often deeply involved in their branch activities whilst being unaware of activities in neighbouring branches or the centrally organised events. It is through your membership of the County association that you become members of the BBKA, and because we are a registered charity, we are able to reclaim covenanted tax on behalf of branches which is a significant income stream for them. Members of all branches contribute to the County events such as the AGM and County Honey show, and the displays at Countrytastic, Malvern Spring garden Festival and the Royal Three Counties Show and we are always keen to welcome new volunteers. These all require an army of 'behind the scenes' helpers as does our representation on outside bodies, our local examiner, membership secretary, webmaster, treasurer, secretary and executive members.

Later this year, we will be holding a Worcestershire Conference at Pershore College incorporating a Healthy Bees day with National Bee unit inspectors. We have engaged top flight speakers, a wide range of practical activities and some fun entertainment so make a date 31 August to 1 September

**See you there
Martyn Cracknell**

WBKA Secretary Report

At the start of the year Malvern Branch suggested that their Honey show staging needed replacing as it had become rickety, and asked if the County might contribute since it is used to stage the County Honey show at Malvern each year. The executive agreed to pay £300 towards the new system which was later used at the County Honey show and was a significant improvement. The display at the Spring Garden Festival at the Malvern showground is put on by each branch in rotation and this also incurs expense which may be a burden on branches. Accordingly, the executive decided that it would provide £200 towards show expenses, like laminated photos or screens, but it would be expected that any items with a repeat show value might be available to other branches for other shows. Worcester branch borrowed artefacts from the Beekeeping History Group in their exhibit of beekeeping throughout history which attracted many favourable comments.

Two advertising feather flags with the words 'Bees and Honey' on a background of honeycomb were produced and a self-supporting pull up poster giving general information about WBKA with beekeeping pictures. These are suitable for local shows and are available from The President, but they will be required for the Malvern Spring, the three Counties and the County Honey show.

Evesham branch have decided to stock 12oz. jars for their members as well as traditional 1lb.squats. This led to them requesting whether these jars would be acceptable at the County Honey show. After consulting the Show judge, it was ruled to be acceptable ONLY in the gift classes, novice class and

the Commercial class of six matching jars. This is in line with the policy guidelines of the National Honey show.

Executive meetings are held four times a year at the Community room, Waitrose store, London Road, Worcester. Anyone is welcome to attend. Forthcoming dates are June 7th September 6th, December 6th from 7 - 9pm. (all are Fridays)

County Treasurer's Report

Total 2018 Membership

		Full	Partner	Junior	Country	Hon Life	Total
67-11	Evesham	113			1	1	115
67-12	Gt Witley	39	2				41
67-13	H & S	54	1	1	10		66
67-14	Kidderminster	79	8	1	6	3	97
67-15	M & U	122	6	1			129
67-16	NE Worcs.	96	6			1	103
67-17	Worcester	58				1	59
		561	23	3	17	6	610

BBKA membership grades

Full Membership - for active beekeepers with hives - includes: -

- BBKA Capitation Fee which provides:
- Public Liability & Product Liability Insurance (cover up to £10,000,000)
- BBKA News
- Bee Disease Insurance

Partner Membership

Is for those living at the same address as a full member. They have BBKA insurance, but do not receive their own copy of BBKA news.

Country Membership

Is for former beekeepers or those who are interested but have no bees. They do not receive insurance but do get the BBKA news.

Junior Membership

Is for those aged under 18 on Dec. 31st 2019. Each junior should name an adult Full member as their mentor to ensure coverage for third party or public liability insurance.

Worcestershire Beekeepers Association - Accounts 2018

As at 31st December 2018

Final

Expenditure			Income		
	2017	2018		2017	2018
Capitation fees					
BBKA	11326.50	11231.50	capitation fees	14519.70	14187.90
BDI	2054.70	1808.00	M&UBKA	0.00	0.00
surplus to general account	1138.50	1148.40			
	14519.70	14187.90		14519.70	14187.90
Spring show					
members honey sales	2141.30	1887.95	honey sales	2361.00	2083.50
show secretary expenses	50.00	48.00	shortfall	0.00	2.00
surplus to general account	180.70	145.55	miscellaneous sales	11.00	
	2372.00	2081.50		2372.00	2081.50
Autumn show					
judges' expenses	90.00	90.00	honey sales	1506.50	2024.61
show secretary expenses	76.18	66.67			
prize money	15.00	15.00			
engraving trophies	92.50	120.00			
prize cards	0.00	67.00			
members honey sales	1346.65	1800.95			
members expenses	0.00	0.00			
judges' lunch	46.60	42.60			
surplus to general account	-160.43	-177.61			
	1506.50	2024.61		1506.50	2024.61
Gift aid					
gift aid to branches	2347.68	2922.88	gift aid from HMRC	3365.75	3897.17
surplus to general account	1018.07	974.29			
	3365.75	3897.17		3365.75	3897.17
General account					
engraving & medal	65.00	0.00	branches capitation fees	1138.50	1148.40
annual report & year book	87.00	155.00	spring show	180.70	145.55
meeting room	0.00	0.00	autumn show	-160.43	-177.61
AGM expenses	0.00	130.00	interest (NS&I)	23.20	35.87
honoraria	450.00	450.00	Webbs garden centre	600.00	560.00
feather flags & banners	0.00	366.00	members badges	0.00	16.00
MSWCC	25.00	25.00	donations	22.00	
M & U BKA show costs	0.00	300.00	gift aid	1018.07	974.29
Worcs. BKA show costs	0.00	200.00	3 Counties show	0.00	132.29
bee suits	300.00	0.00			
web hosting 1 & 1 (36 months)	0.00	172.37			
surplus for year	1895.04	1036.42			
	2822.04	2834.79		2822.04	2834.79

Assets			Accumulated funds		
Current account (HSBC)	7744.33	11757.27	brought forward	10669.18	12564.22
Unpresented items	-125.00	-3137.39	surplus for the year	1895.04	1036.42
NS & I Moore-Ede account	543.29	547.23			
NS & I Haynes bequest account	495.79	499.39			
NS & I investment account	3905.81	3934.14			
	12564.22	13600.64		12564.22	13600.64

COUNTY HONEY SHOW REPORT 2018

The Annual Worcestershire Beekeeping Association Honey Show took place at the Malvern Autumn Show over the weekend of 29th & 30th September, 2018. It was held in the Friesian pavilion with Worcester University and the Bumblebee Conservation trust, and a 'teas and cake' fundraiser for a special needs group.

As mentioned in the County secretary's report, the new staging was used and it proved to be a very successful design. Our location was advertised by the new Feather banners which may have contributed to the improved honey sales compared to the previous year. (2017= £1500, 2018=£2014), but the footfall still seemed less than we have enjoyed in the large halls.

We are permitted to sell honey by the show ground, and have previously sold wax blocks but this year there was a huge array of items for sale including miscellaneous sizes of comb honey at different prices, different sizes of honey jar, heather honey, candles, booklets and cosmetics. This makes checking stock in and out, too complicated and there will have to be restrictions on what is permitted in future and more uniformity in price per item.

Trophy winners are as follows;

C.H. HAINES CHALLENGE CUP re-presented and re-named in 1972 as the A.J. NEAL PERPETUAL CHALLENGE CUP presented to the member with highest aggregate in CLASSES 1 TO 15 inclusive - won by **Mr. Ken Beddoe** (Kidderminster Branch)

MR & MRS TOM BRADFORD TROPHY awarded to the exhibitor winning First prize in CLASS 2. - won by **Mr. Lyndon Corbett** (Hagley & Stourbridge Branch)

THE STONE TROPHY awarded to the best exhibit in the GIFT CLASSES - won by **Mr and Mrs B. Nicholls**. (Malvern & Upton Branch)

THE LEN WHITE CHALLENGE ROSE BOWL awarded to the exhibitor with the most points in CLASSES 5 TO 8 inclusive - won by **Mr. Ken Beddoe** (Kidderminster Branch)

THE ERNEST JEFFERY MEMORIAL CANDELABRA awarded to the exhibitor with the best exhibits in CLASSES 8 & 14 - won by **Mrs. G. Bolton** (Malvern & Upton Branch)

THE MR & MRS T. AMPHLETT MEMORIAL MEAD TANKARD awarded to the best exhibit in CLASSES 9 & 10 - A tie between **Mrs S. Voyce** (Malvern & Upton Branch) and **Dr. D. Salt** (Kidderminster)

THE HENRY CARMICHAEL MEMORIAL CAKE SALVER awarded to the winner of CLASS 11 won by **Mrs. G. Bolton** (Malvern & Upton Branch)

THE MOORE - EDE PRIZES awarded to the best TWO exhibits in CLASS 18 (Novice)

- 1) **Mr M. Woolley**
- 2) **Mrs. C Howard** (Great Witley Branch)

The overall **BLUE RIBBON WINNER** awarded to **Mr. Lyndon Corbett** (Hagley & Stourbridge Branch) for Class 16; six jars of Commercial Honey

Note on the Gift Class

These single jars of Honey are 'Gifted' to the Worcestershire County Association and are used by the Association in various ways;

- Some are given as a gift to the Accountants in lieu of payment when doing the year end accounts.
- Some are given as a gift to the Three Counties Showground organisers in lieu of the fact that the Showground permit honey sales from a non-fee-paying Charity stand. Other sellers pay a considerable charge to hire a sales pitch space.
- Some is used as tastings at non-chargeable Educational events such as CountryTastic.
- Some is sold at the Autumn Show to defray costs.

I would like to thank all the exhibitors for their entries, Mr Terry Ashley from Cheshire for judging and all members who helped with stewarding and general support.

David Edmonds (Great Witley Branch)
Hon Show Secretary

Report of the National Honey Show

The National Honey Show is held in October over a three-day period (Thursday - Saturday) and is the most comprehensive and prestigious honey show in the world. In 2018 there were 2022 entries from 261 exhibitors. As well as the honey show, the event attracts top international speakers who are experts in their field. There are a series of lectures for beginners, a series of lectures that will appeal to the majority of beekeepers and then a series of lectures on the latest honeybee research. If you want to gain new skills then there is a good choice of workshops. Free time between all the lectures and workshops can be spent in the excellent trade show which has a wide range of beekeeping suppliers. There are also evening social events, if you have the stamina.

You must, however, leave time to visit the honey show. The honey show is very impressive with a large number of classes. A small number of Worcestershire members enter the classes at the National on a regular basis but I would like to encourage more members to enter. It can seem a bit daunting at first but those who have won classes at the County Show have gone on to do very well at the National. The judging is done to the same standard. So here are the results from 2018.

Class	Place	Exhibitor
15, Shallow Frame and Nine jars	1st	Ken Beddoe
27, 2 jars Dark honey	VHC	Ken Beddoe
32, 6 jars from a branch apiary	1st	Kidderminster Apiary
33, 3 jars of different types of honey	2nd	Ken Beddoe
36, 2 square sections	1st	Ken Beddoe
41, Container of cut comb, free from ling	2nd	Ken Beddoe
53, Display of beeswax flowers	1st	Rebecca Day
60, Dry mead (one bottle)	2nd	Richard Toft
61, Sweet mead (one bottle)	2nd	Richard Toft
77, Honey beer 2 bottles	1st	Rebecca Day
85, Honey label	VHC	Rebecca Day
86, Interesting exhibit	1st	Rebecca Day
90, Practical invention	3rd	Watty Sleightholme
97, Colour print Macro	C	Rebecca Day
98, Black and white Print	3rd	Rebecca Day
99, Digital images/Foraging	2nd	Rebecca Day
102, Essay	2nd	Rebecca Day
151, 2 jars light honey	1st	Rebecca Day
151	3rd	Rhona Toft
154, 2 jars naturally crystallised honey	VHC	Rebecca Day
155, 2 jars soft set honey	1st	Rhona Toft
157, 1 section free from ling	HC	Ken Beddoe
168, Sweet mead	VHC	Richard Toft

As a result of these wins the Worcestershire contingent returned home with the following cup and trophies

Ken Beddoe Crystal Palace cup, Burnett Cup;
Rebecca Day Liz and Mike Duffin Cup, Moorcroft Bowl, Jack Holt Trophy;
Rhona Toft Francis Capener Trophy.

Hopefully this will encourage others to enter in 2019. The National Honey Show is very good value and a very enjoyable end to the beekeeping season. The 2019 National Honey Show is being held at Sandown Park Racecourse, Esher, Surrey from 24th - 26th October. Lots more information on their website www.honeyshow.co.uk.

Report of the County Examinations secretary

The following members took the Basic exam this year. It is a good idea to get together with a few others in the branch and help each other to work through the syllabus.

Peter Pearson	Evesham	Pass with credit
Rebecca Day	Malvern	Pass with credit
Jacqueline Hart	Worcester	Pass with credit
Anita Marles	Worcester	Pass
Erika White	Worcester	Pass

Meanwhile Ben Doughty of Evesham passed the new practical exam in Bee Health, and Bob Powell of Northeast branch passed another theory module.

Two members, Rhona Toft (Evesham) and Alan Woollhead (Northeast Worcs.), tackled the final practical challenge of The Advanced Certificate in Beekeeping Husbandry' and both passed to achieve the status of Master Beekeeper.

Congratulations on this fine achievement.

Exam syllabuses, past papers and fees are all to be found on the BBKA website.

Rhona had a further accolade as she was selected by the Worshipful Company of Wax Chandlers to receive their Annual Prize. This entailed being the Guest of Honour at a formal dinner held at this City Livery company's Hall in London, alongside the Lord Mayor of London.

Midlands & South Western Counties Convention

There was no MSWCC conference in 2018 and the number of contributing counties has diminished to five. (Derbyshire, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Swansea and District, and Worcestershire) Derbyshire has its own spring conference, and none of the others was prepared to organise one last year. In order to maintain a degree of continuity the MSWCC decided to sponsor a speaker at the Welsh Beekeepers 75th Anniversary conference held in Aberystwyth. There are no proposals to organise a 2019 MSWCC conference either. However, the MSWCC did indicate that they would sponsor a speaker at the Worcestershire Conference if it was organised. It is anticipated that Gloucestershire will organise a conference in 2020, which would be the 90th anniversary of the founding of this conference.

A Worcestershire Conference, incorporating an NBU Healthy Bees Day 'Better Bees, Better Husbandry, and Better Bee Health'

The members attending last year's AGM, were asked whether they would support a Worcestershire beekeeping weekend in 2019, and they indicated that they would enthusiastically back it. A sub-committee of the executive have therefore been exploring themes and speakers, demonstrations and workshops and have circulated a draft programme to all members. We have confirmed the national speakers, dates and venue and whilst some details remain, we are now in a position to invite applications. You will find a hard copy, and application form with this yearbook. We intend to post a full version with the programme on the county website soon.

Branch Schedule

Each year, the executive member of one branch, takes the chair for the next four executive meetings.

In the same year, that branch hosts the County AGM. They arrange the venue and date, and organise a tea for the those who attend, for which they charge a nominal amount to cover their expenses.

They arrange for a speaker to give a talk after the business of the meeting. The County contributes to the cost of the speaker from central funds. The county pays for the hire of the venue.

Two years later, that branch is responsible for a display at the Spring garden show at Malvern. We have an information area usually with an observation hive and a sales area for honey and hive products. We have this stand space free of charge, but in return we are required to put on an educational, entertaining or interesting exhibit for the enjoyment of the public. The stand is indoors, or in a dedicated marquee with security guards. A £200 budget is available from central funds to help defray show expenses. Reusable props to be available for other shows on request.

The Malvern Show runs over four days so there will be a need for stewards to man the stand, talk to the public about bees, and sell the honey. It is a good day out and you get a free ticket for a couple of hours on duty on the stand.

The responsibility for these events rotates around the branches in the following order;

	<u>A.G.M</u>	<u>Spring Show</u>	<u>Exec.Chairman</u> (from June to AGM)
2018	Kidderminster	Worcester	Malvern & Upton
2019	Malvern & Upton	Northeast Worcs	Hagley & Stourbridge
2020	Hagley & Stourbridge	Kidderminster	Evesham
2021	Evesham	Malvern & Upton	Great Witley
2022	Worcester	Hagley & Stourbridge	
2023			
2024	Northeast Worcs	Great Witley	Kidderminster
2025	Kidderminster	Worcester	Malvern & Upton

Branch activities are usually posted on the County and the branch websites. Some events may be limited to branch members where the space or equipment is limited, but generally members are welcome at the events of another branch. If in doubt, ring the secretary. If you wish to borrow equipment or buy jars or foundation at a preferential rate, it is usually expected that you are a member or an associate member of that branch. If you are seeking ideas for meetings or speakers it is a good idea to see what other branches have arranged and get an opinion on the quality, and price.

County Resources available to borrow.

Large yellow Banner with Worcestershire Beekeeping Association in black (D. Edmonds)

2x Feather flags Honeycomb background, Bees and Honey (M. Cracknell)

Pull up banner, Worcestershire Beekeeping Association with pictures and text (M. Cracknell)

Trellis to mount show materials in a tent. (Worcester branch)

Several branches have pull ups which they may be willing to loan, and some branches have observation hives (though most of these are privately owned by members). If your branch has display equipment that is available to borrow by other members please let me know so that I can add it to the list in future.

M. Cracknell

BRANCH REPORTS

Branch 11 Evesham

Chairman: Henry Dickinson

Secretary: Martin Blakeman

Treasurer: John Alexander

Web Address: www.eveshambeekeepers.org.uk

The branch had another successful year with a buoyant membership and healthy finances. Mike Montague (programme secretary), Richard Higgins (apiary manager) and Pete Steadman(webmaster) have indicated their intention to step down and we thank them for their years of service.

Mike had prepared a varied programme of events to appeal to both beginners and more experienced members, many of the events using the apiary which is such a useful asset. Tori Richardson has relaunched and updated the branch website. The branch attracted quite a few associate members from other branches, who can benefit from the local supply of equipment, jars, etc.

Some of the events attracted a disappointing number of members, in particular the honey show, and the Bee safari which was held in spectacular surroundings, with a sumptuous feast, courtesy of Cal. Springer and an excellent demonstration on a formidable and slightly intimidating colony by Richard Toft.

Branch 12 Great Witley

Chairman **David Edmonds**
Secretary: **Helen Montgomery**

Treasurer: **Chris Watts**
Web Address: www.greatwitleybees.org

The GWBKA supports and encourages beekeeping in the area covering Eardiston to Ombersley, Clows Top to Hallow and the surrounding villages. Our year-round monthly informal meetings on the first Thursday of every month stimulate discussions on all topics bee-related and are attended by members of all levels of experience to provide tips and advice on looking after our bees. In 2018 we organised several activities including a Bee Safari and the GWBKA honey show as well as an introduction to beekeeping course.

Our successful Bee Safari in early June was led by the engaging and knowledgeable duo of Richard and Rhona Toft from Pershore and took us to three of our members apiaries in Clows Top, between Holt Heath and Shrawley and in Little Witley. It covered topics such as how to encourage a modest-sized healthy colony to increase in size to eventually make a new colony; How to take a nuc from a colony bursting with bees and containing several charged queen cells. We also discussed the local comparison of honey yield in areas rich or poor in oilseed rape fields.

In early September, we held the GWBKA honey show at one of our member's farm, where our members competed in many different categories from light and dark liquid honey and creamed honey through to educational exhibits, photography and honey cake, bread and biscuits, split across three classes to reflect experience (experienced, novice and junior).

The GWBKA also offers a selection of resources that are available to its members such as vaporisers to treat hives with oxalic acid through to honey extractors which certainly came in handy with the bumper honey harvest experienced by many in 2018.

In 2019, we will be running our introduction to beekeeping course which was attended by three new members in 2018 who all happily set off into the world of beekeeping with shiny new packages of bees to set up new colonies at the end of the course. We also looking forward to a 2019 Bee Safari and the GWBKA 2019 honey show.

Branch 13 Hagley & Stourbridge

Chairman:	Jerry Payton
Secretary:	Paul Cooke
Treasurer:	Paul Bennett
Web Address:	<u>www.hsbka.org</u>

This report was erroneously omitted from the 2018 yearbook and is included here for historical completeness

“During the beginning of the year we met in Stourbridge with talks on The Asian Hornet and Swarming. We again ran a beginner’s course in beekeeping which was fully booked.

The practical season usually starts after The Beekeepers Annual Dinner in Kidderminster and the Apiary Clean-up but by May only one meeting had gone ahead due to the endless cold wind from the east. Finally, we were able to resume practical sessions at the branch apiary and Virginia Webb held a Bee Tea at her home. We kept members up-to-date by email, texts and Facebook.

Extracting the branch honey on 22 May went smoothly. There was no Oil Seed Rape growing near Iverley this year, so for the first time in memory, we extracted 106lb of a very different and delightful honey.

The summer crop was taken off at the beginning of August after postponements due to rain, we eventually extracted the summer honey on 9 August. We took 63 pounds from Iverley and nothing from our site at Wolverley.

The branch honey extractor was loaned out nine times in 2017 and we arranged for the complete replacement of all our Commercial hives with Deep Nationals from David Pearce from Taunton. We have good stocks of honey jars, Apiguard and Nitrile gloves on sale to members.

We have had exceptional interest in the 2018 Training Course.”

Branch report for 2019

Hagley & Stourbridge Beekeepers held its usual pattern of Winter and Summer meetings with Winter talks on Wednesdays on subjects like The Bumblebee

Conservation Trust, The Nature of Wyre Forest, our Apiary Hive Changes and The Asian Hornet, all at New Road Methodist Church.

We held an eight-part beginners training course in February attended by twelve candidates followed by ten practical sessions.

Work continued throughout the New Year on our nine colonies of bees, they were treated for Varroa with the Trickle Oxalic Acid method. All the full-sized hives were wrapped with insulation and some were fed candy where needed.

We clipped and marked our Queens in 2018 and transferred most colonies to new Deep National Brood. The Spring honey crop was exceptional considering that the bees had so much foundation to draw out.

We ordered ten new made-up hives complete with flat frames, from David Pearce who lives in Bathealton near Taunton as well as purchasing various other equipment such as 11 packs of National deep brood foundation, bee suits, 20 boxes of extra-large blue nitrile gloves and two new hive stands.

The branch Honey extractor has been hired out four times and the Solar Wax Extractor has been used extensively during June and July.

We are trying to reduce the equipment we own by selling unused items on wbka.net.

Generally, Apiary Meetings were well attended, the honey extracting for beekeepers with only a few supers was successful with five beekeepers coming to take part, thus saving the mess at their homes.

Despite us changing over to Deep National hives this year we extracted 30lb of Oil Seed Rape Honey in late May, followed by ninety-three pounds of Summer honey at Iverley, ninety pounds at Wolverley and sixty-two pounds from our bees at Kinver. Our Iverley honey crop may have been bigger but one of the hive stands collapsed and threw everything down the bank, and one of the hives at Wolverley refused to move into its new Deep National or collect any honey so the Wolverley honey came from just one hive. The hive at Kinver had five supers on, but regrettably the bottom two supers were rape honey and had set. So, our total summer crop was two hundred and forty-five pounds.

The Bee Tea at Virginia Webb's house was very well supported indeed despite it clashing with the England World Cup football match.

A great year beekeeping!

Branch 14 Kidderminster

Chairman; **David Mills**

Secretary: **Kim Holmes**

Treasurer: **Neil Proffitt**

Web Address <http://kbka.joomla.com>

This report was erroneously omitted from the 2018 yearbook and is included here for historical completeness

Our beginners' course, run again this year by Apiary Manager Ken Beddoe, has 14 participants who, after 10 indoor meetings, will get hands on practice at the branch apiary. Two winter meetings, 'Hit the Season Buzzing' and our Spring Workshop, got members thinking about the year ahead.

In February, our stall at Kidderminster Greener Living Show, run by our new Events Co-ordinator Zoe Skidmore helped to foster public interest in beekeeping, and we will be following this up with a stand at Far Forest Country Show in August, where we hope to have a new observation hive in operation. Our education co-ordinator, Sheila Lawes, continues to be in great demand for her talks in schools. Our web-site, now refurbished under its new host, gets a large number of visits, and its Facebook group is well used, being especially popular with our newer beekeepers.

Apiary meetings start with a maintenance working party and then monthly sessions until August, when we will repeat our popular British Bee Grand Prix. The Autumn Workshop, dealing with preparation for winter and for showing, will follow the format we found successful in the winter, with people circulating round tables where particular topics were dealt with.

Following the Joint Honey Show in September, autumn indoor meetings will include a talk by Rosemary Winnall on The Nature of Wyre, and another still to be arranged, and the year will end with the Branch AGM in November and the Christmas Party in December.

2019 report

It is pleasing to be able to report that last year was another very successful year for the Branch

Ken Beddoe ran another fully subscribed beginners' course at Franche Baptist Church, with further teaching at the Branch Apiary when the season started. A full programme of indoor and out apiary meetings took place, plus spring and autumn workshops. The branch also had a stand at the Greener Living Show at Kidderminster Town Hall in February.

On 7th April the Branch hosted the County AGM at Chaddesley Village Hall, when the guest speaker was Lynne Ingram, who gave an excellent talk on the importance of drones.

Members of the Branch did well at the Joint Honey Show at Hagley, and also at the County Show, and it was good to see that some newer members were entering the classes.

At the AGM in November Susan Limbrey stood down as Chairman, a post she had held for 5 years,

We shall miss her wise counsel at committee meetings. David Mills also stood down as Treasurer and in his place, we welcomed Neil Proffitt. However, David did not escape, as he is now Chairman.

The events subcommittee has put together a very full programme for 2019, which starts with indoor events, and then moves on to out apiary meetings - some at the branch apiary and others at members apiaries, followed by an autumn workshop to encourage members to enter the honey shows and to prepare their bees for the winter. As for the honey season, there was only a small crop in May, following the poor spring, but like other areas, we were very surprised, and delighted, at the number of full supers at the end of July.

Our thanks go to the very enthusiastic members of the committee, and particularly to Kim Holmes our Secretary who keeps us all so well informed throughout the year. The branch is indeed in good heart. Membership remains steady around 95, with a few losses, replaced by those who attended the beginners' course.

15 Malvern & Upton Branch

Chairman

John Moseley

Secretary:

Linda Edkins Blackett

Treasurer:

Steve Carrott

Web Address:

www.mubk.org.uk

We have enjoyed another varied and successful program of events this year.

Our new training course was full of enthusiastic beginners of all age groups including a very keen junior. They proved to be a dedicated set of novices who tended our newly resourced and designed apiary with admirable care, putting into practice the wealth of factual knowledge learnt during their theory sessions. We are delighted that most of them now have their own apiaries, a success both for the training team and for our well organised swarm team.

Always aware of the need to improve knowledge and practice we offered a comprehensive range of experiences for our intermediate Beekeepers with visits to contrasting apiaries in our area, and also a series of events aimed at providing help for Beekeepers wishing to expand their knowledge. The Nosema and Bee Diseases evening was well attended as was the Q&A and Preparing Honey for Showing evening,

and we had a very informative talk from the country's leading expert on Pine Martens' Dr Johnny Birks. We are grateful to those members who hosted our annual Bee Safari and to the Seasonal Bee Inspector who attended. It takes a lot of team work to make an event like this successful, but it is worth the effort because it is a chance for members to meet the SBI, see an expert inspect a hive, as well as enjoy a mouth-wateringly good BBQ afterwards. We are a sociable group. Our annual dinner is always well attended but our BBQ's are legendary!

We also encourage members to take the formal beekeeping exams and this year one of our members achieved BBKA Preliminary Beekeeping status.

We are always looking for ways to increase the profile of beekeeping as a pastime. This year we manned information stands at local events like the Beauchamp Community Fayre and The Malvern Plant and Seed Exchange. We are also very fortunate to have a dedicated number of members who are prepared to go out to schools and local groups, spreading the message that bees are an essential species and that beekeeping is fun.

A major success in raising our profile has been our re-vamped website, full of information and ideas. It has also been invaluable in reaching out to members, and we hope its new forum will be widely used in the future.

Our Honey Show is usually the jewel in our calendar crown and 2018 was no exception with increased numbers of entries in most classes. Winners at the show went on to win at other local shows, including the Malvern Autumn Show. One of our members went on to win at the National Honey Show, with prizes in several classes including 4 firsts!

The final event in our packed year was the AGM, loosely disguised as a cheese and wine/quiz evening. A well-attended, good natured affair - just how we like it.

We are now looking forward to what 2019 will bring.

16 North East Worcestershire Branch

Chairman

Chris Broad

Secretary

Edmund Payne

Treasurer:

Bob Powell

Web Address:

www.bbka.org.uk/local/northeastworcestershire/

NEWBKA has two apiaries, at Avoncroft Museum of Historic Buildings and the Jinney Ring Craft Centre.

Avoncroft had a very successful year building up from two to five thriving colonies. We carried out a Bailey Comb Exchange in April. The local Bee Inspector visited at the beginning of May and happily gave the hives a clean bill of health. We have sold 50lbs of honey through the museum shop with another 50lbs still to be bottled.

The Jinney Ring apiary also had a successful season starting with a lot of ground clearance and tree maintenance to improve the site. Bailey Comb Exchanges, a shook swarm and check for Nosema were carried out. We had a successful visit from the Royal Society of Biology. There was a statutory visit from the National Bee Unit Inspector primarily looking for EFB and SHB for which we got the all clear. We are pleased to report that he was very impressed with the apiary layout and its suitability as a teaching facility.

The New Beekeepers' Course has been redesigned and upgraded for 2019 and we are looking forward to its introduction. We are pleased with the progress made by the association and are very grateful for all the input from our members. We look forward to an exciting 2019.

17 Worcester Branch

Chairman

Paul Dunne

Secretary

Victoria Jones

Treasurer:

Tristram Elmhirst

Web Address:

www.worcesterbeekeepers.co.uk

2018 was warmer than average for the UK, although the temperatures struggled to match the conditions that we experienced in 2017. We were subjected to some severe weather events in late February and early March, but May, June, and July were all much warmer than average.

We welcomed eight new members to the world of beekeeping in 2018 and our Branch complement of active beekeepers remains at around fifty in number.

Activities throughout the season included our regular round of apiary and local interest visits and we were entertained by guest speakers. Worcester Branch provided the attractive display at the RHS Spring Show, presenting the theme of "Beekeeping Through the Ages" and we are justly proud of a Gold Award for our stand at the Gheluvelt Park Flower Show, as judged against RHS Show standards.

Our bees at the Branch training apiary responded well to the favourable start to the active season and we were able to build our stock throughout the year to carry six colonies into the autumn/ winter close of 2018. 2019 foretells an increase in the capacity of our apiary and improved storage space.

Once again, we offer congratulations to our candidates for their successes in the BBKA assessments and Module qualifications. Thanks to all for their participation in these and our wider activities!

Dates for your Diary

Sat 6 April	2pm. WBKA County AGM Hanley Swan Village Hall
12 to 14 April	BBKA Spring Convention, Harper Adams. (Trade show only open on Saturday 13th)
18 April	Countrystastic, Malvern showground
9 to 12 May	Spring Gardening Festival, Malvern North East Worcs Branch Display
14 May	Closing date for entries to Three Counties Honey Show
18 May	Gloucestershire BKA Bee Auction, Cheltenham Racecourse
14 to 16 June	Three Counties Show, Malvern with Bees and Honey Marquee
11 August	Gheluvelt Park flower show, Worcester
26 August	Pershore Plum Fayre 31 Aug to 1 September Worcestershire Beekeeping Convention, Pershore College. 'Better Bees, Better Beekeeping, Better Bee Health', incorporating a NBU Healthy Bees Day
Saturday 7 September	Joint Branches Honey Show (Kidderminster with North East Worcestershire and Hagley & Stourbridge).
28 to 29 September	County Honey Show, at the Autumn Show, Malvern Showground
30 September	Closing date for applications to sit BBKA modular exams in November
24 to 26 October	National Honey Show, Sandown Park Racecourse, Esher, KT10 9AJ
9 November	BBKA Module exams
Mid November	Central Association of Beekeepers, Annual Conference, Woodside Hotel, Kenilworth
10 February 2020	Closing date for applications to sit BBKA modular exams on 21 March 2020

Don't forget to book your place!!



**WORCESTERSHIRE BEEKEEPERS
ASSOCIATION**



**Animal &
Plant Health
Agency**

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

**THE NATIONAL BEE UNIT (WESTERN REGION)
PRESENT**

**'BETTER BEES, BETTER BEEKEEPING AND
BETTER BEE HEALTH'**

AN AUTUMN BEEKEEPING WEEKEND

AT

PERSHORE COLLEGE

31 AUGUST & 1 SEPTEMBER 2019

Financial support is gratefully acknowledged from

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