

# WARWICKSHIRE BEEKEEPER



April 2019

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- ◆ *Andrew reviews WBKA's Beyond the Basics Course*
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**How our Warwick & Leamington Beekeepers got Year 4 pupils buzzing about bees!**

Read more on  
**page 14**



## Letter from the Chairman

**D**ear Members,

It now seems that this winter will be relatively mild and our bee colonies will be stronger than they were when the fruit top and oil seed rape crops came into flower last year. They may also have 'surplus' winter stores in the brood combs, adding further pressure on space in the brood chambers, and with the likely consequence of swarming preparations beginning very early this year. Are you ready to meet this challenge? Make sure you have the necessary extra equipment built and ready to be deployed. Most swarm control methods are easier if you can find the queen quickly so make sure your queens are marked; do it now while there are fewer bees on the combs. I must sign off now in order to get my supers ready!!

***Best Wishes,  
David Blower***





## Editor's Letter

*Signs of spring are well underway and I am not only talking about the colours that flowers are finally bringing back to our grey lives! By now, most of our colonies should be sending the pollen squad out and preparing for yet another baby boom in the hive. Food stores are critical at this time, as there is more pollen than nectar available; I have been caught out finding my colony had devoured the fondant I placed before I could add more! Rest assured, I placed some more immediately—the little gals will need as much energy as possible.*

*I am excited to see that everyone is preparing for more training and development, a good way to shake the dust off the skills we haven't used for so many months. I am personally working towards the Basic Assessment and am already feeling like I've forgotten everything...*

*Finally, some branches have started their outreach activities, visiting schools and preparing for festivals and shows. It is great to see so many schools taking the initiative to encourage children to learn more about bees and generally nature. I hope this continues for generations to come.*

**Katerina Prokopiou**

**Do you have an  
idea, story or  
wonderful  
photographs  
to share?**

**Please share them  
with your Editor  
at  
[wbeditor@wbka.  
org.uk](mailto:wbeditor@wbka.org.uk)**

### **Please Note**

Items appearing in WB are not necessarily the view of either the editor or Warwickshire Beekeepers Association

## ON-LINE AND IN COLOUR

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Please contact your Branch Secretary to obtain the password



# What's On 2019

## April

**2** 19:30 Social Evening, Sutton Coldfield  
Park House

**6** 19:30 Nosema Clinic, Shipston-on-Stour  
Oxhill Village Hall

**7** 14:30 Early Spring Inspection & Equipment Preparation, Solihull  
Branch Apiary, Ravenshaw

**8** 19:30 Nosema Clinic, Solihull  
Methodist Hall,  
Blossomfield Road,  
Solihull B91 1LG

**8** Branch Monthly Meeting, Shipston-on-Stour  
*Speaker to be confirmed.*  
Cherington Arms,  
CV36 5HS

**12-** **BBKA Spring Convention**

**14** Full Day or Week-End tickets from £12 to £26 In-Advance (£15 - £30 On-the-Day).

Trade Show Only - £5 on-the-day  
For more details please visit the BBKA Website [www.bbka.org.uk](http://www.bbka.org.uk)

Harper Adams University,  
Newport, Shropshire,  
TF10 8NB

**15** 19:30 Branch Meeting, Coventry

Presentation on "How to make Wax Food Wraps"

All Saints Church Hall, Allesley,  
Coventry, CV5 9EQ

**18** Branch Meeting, Sutton Coldfield

"Bumblebees" by Ron Rock

Erdington Methodist Church

**20** 10:00 Pre-season Cleanup at Apiary, Sutton Coldfield

Sutton Park Apiary

**27** 10:00-12:00 Nosema Clinic, Birmingham

Winterbourne

**27 | 17:30 Initial Apiary Meeting,  
Sutton Coldfield**

Sutton Park Apiary

**27/ | 9:30-17:00 Introduction to  
28 | Beekeeping, Shipston-on-Stour**

See our website [www.sbka.org.uk](http://www.sbka.org.uk)  
for further details and to enrol.  
Cost £55 to include lunch and  
refreshments.

**Saturday 27th**

Brailes Village Hall,  
OX15 5AS

**Sunday 28th**

Brailes Apiary site

**28 | 12:00-17:00 Nosema Clinic,  
Coventry**

Garden Organic, Wolston Lane,  
Ryton-On-Dunsmore, Coventry,  
Warwickshire CV8 3LG

**May**

**7 | 17:30 Weekly Apiary Meeting,  
Sutton Coldfield**

Every Tuesday  
Sutton Park Apiary

**12 | Beekeeping Taster Session (Non  
Beekeepers), Coventry**

*Tickets Required*

Garden Organic, Wolston Lane,  
Ryton-On-Dunsmore, Coventry,  
Warwickshire CV8 3LG

**19 | Training Apiary Visit, Coventry**

*Apiary visit by the Students of the  
Beginners Beekeeping Course*

Garden Organic, Wolston Lane,  
Ryton-On-Dunsmore, Coventry,  
Warwickshire CV8 3LG.

**16 | Branch Meeting, Sutton  
Coldfield**

*“Propolis” by John Charlton*

Erdington Methodist Church

**20 | World Bee Day**



# Beyond The Basics, February 2019

## *A Participant's Review on the County-ran course*

On a bright Saturday morning in February, some 20 beekeepers gathered at Solihull school. We had all achieved our Basic Certificate at various times and are all keen to do better for our Bees. We were there to start on 'Beyond the Basics' - a course provided by the county association.

The purpose of the course is to help beekeepers improve their knowledge and skills through planning and preparing for the General Husbandry assessment. The Association is keen on improving beekeeping and generally, the overall standard of bees in the county. Encouraging more beekeepers to do the General Husbandry is one way of achieving this goal.

The course follows the requirements of the General Husbandry syllabus, which helped us with planning our own learning and practice, in preparation for the required experience and setup involved in the assessment. The main elements we looked at were Hive Records, Nucs and their uses, Moving and Uniting Colonies, Swarm Management, Queen finding and marking, Queen Rearing, Hygiene, Diseases and conditions, and preparing honey and wax for sale.

By the end of the 2 days, I think we were all even more ambitious for our bees than at the beginning. It's always useful to take time aside to think about and share our beekeeping experiences with others. There were so many tips and stories from



Beyond The Basics Course Tutors and Participants

tutors and fellow course members as well as opportunities to practice procedures away from the apiary, that we couldn't help but get enthusiastic about our end goal: be better than basic beekeepers.

The things that stuck for me are: the importance of planning well in advance for the assessment (2 years and I will be ready); the different ways of keeping records (I'm changing my system from now); queen rearing (I'm going for it this spring!); and getting better at spotting diseases and conditions (aided by Dave's

lethal final quiz).

It's easy to carry on beekeeping in the comfort of the way we have always done, in our comfort zone. However, this course, together with the General Husbandry assessment provide us the opportunity to become better beekeepers. As a result of this course, there shall be happier and healthier bees in some 20 apiaries across our county!

**Andrew Packer**

## SOLIHULL NOSEMA CLINIC

**8 April 19:30-21:00—Solihull**

**Methodist Hall, Solihull B91 1LG**

Members are asked to bring a sample of exactly 30 bees from each of their hives. Take live (older) bees, preferably from the entrance. The bees can be collected by temporarily blocking up the entrance on a fine day and, when sufficient bees have collected, putting a large, flat matchbox over them and closing it without lifting it. Put them in the freezer to kill them. Keep the sample from each hive separate throughout and label it. The samples may be kept for some time in the freezer if this is more convenient. When dead, place the bees in one of the zip-lock bags provided (at earlier Branch meetings) and clearly labelled with name, apiary and hive number. If you do not have a sample bag, bring the (dead) bees in an envelope or match box and you can prepare them when you arrive. If you cannot come to the clinic, give your sample (s) to a member who will be attending.

The samples will be processed and examined microscopically for the presence and, if appropriate, the approximate level of Nosema. Members will be advised on possible courses of action.

For more information or any help contact Nicola Content on 01676 248 435 or [Ncontent1@aol.com](mailto:Ncontent1@aol.com) or any Committee Member.

For more Nosema clinics in the county, please refer to the **Calendar on page 4**.

# All in a month

## COVENTRY & DISTRICT

[www.covbeebbranch.co.uk](http://www.covbeebbranch.co.uk)

The weather remains so cold that there are few days when the bees can be out getting in food or pollen. The Training Apiary bees continue to be hefted and at the last visit a block of about 200g of Candipollen was put on each hive. In addition to that a single strip of Thymovar was put on the top bars of each hive, to knock down a few Varroa mites before it's time to add supers to the colonies.

The AGM was well attended – disappointingly there were no nominations for the posts of neither ‘Chairperson Elect’ nor Treasurer Elect’. This is going to cause problems for the branch at the end of 2019 unless we can find some Volunteers.

John Fell gave a good presentation on the work done at the new Branch Apiary site and outlined some options. The attendees voted to give approval to spend up to £10,000 on this move, subject to any spend being approved by the Branch Committee. The Branch Committee have yet to decide on a specific option for the accommodation at the site – Do we move the existing cabin or do we buy new metal sheds is one of the fundamental questions to be addressed. Which is selected will be based on a mixture of cost, what can actually be delivered to the site, due to some restricted access, and also what kind of base/foundations will the different

items require. A lot of planning work is still to be done. Meanwhile, work on the track and car park area has been progressing steadily.

*Dave Bonner*

## RUGBY

The Rugby Branch AGM was held on 20th February, resulting in only a few changes: Cathy Moore has resigned as secretary, and Martin Wibberley has taken over the role; we thank Cathy for all her hard work over the years and welcome Martin to the role and; Margaret Holdsworth has kindly agreed to continue for one further year as Chair. Apart from these two changes, the Rugby Branch committee in general, has remained unchanged.

A new award has been identified by the Branch, this is to be known as the ‘Bruce Roberts Award’. This is to be awarded annually to the branch member that the committee feel has been the most innovative and interactive new beekeeper within the Branch. The first member to ever receive it was Martin Wibberley. Congratulations! The award was presented at the AGM by Dr Bruce Roberts, whom the award is named after. Bruce, who has now decided to step down from active beekeeping, has been one of the main great sources of Beekeeping knowledge in the Rugby Branch for many years, generously cascading his experience to us all. It was a special treat for us to witness Bruce hand

across the very first award. We wish him well and hope he visits us whenever he can.

The Branch is also involved with numerous Rugby schools through the Honeybee education projects, which are part of the curriculum in the key stages programmes. We are keen to interact with local schools to further support their studies and are always happy to welcome volunteers.

Additionally, if there are any members interested in helping with our annual events promoting Pollinators and Honeybees in the community, please approach a committee member who will be able to offer more information. You do not need to be steeped in years of beekeeping experience to be involved, just eager and happy to communicate with the public and have fun supporting the event.

Last weekend, three of our super Beekeepers headed out to the Branch apiary, and gave all the equipment a major clean and overhaul. Well done boys' the weather was grim but the warriors worked and smiled throughout.

**Gail Plester**

## **SOLIHULL**

Most of us are fully or almost prepared for this season with essential equipment ready for those unexpected moments such as swarm control. The hives at the apiary were hefted and only a couple needed a top up feed of fondant. Fortunately our bees made good use of the warm weather at the end of February

bringing in both orange and grey pollen. Our March meeting was well attended. Jane Medwell (Master Beekeeper) delivered a thought provoking presentation entitled "Getting Ready for Spring". Notably the spring preparation begins in August when we should be reviewing the overall performance of each colony, identifying which ones should be united and carrying out disease inspection including treatments.

The National Bee Unit have produced an excellent leaflet, "Best Practice Guideline No. 6 : Spring Checks", which is well worth a read. All NBU publications can be found on the [BeeBase website](#).

**Channy Collins**

## **SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR**

A wide-ranging discussion was held at the Shipston branch monthly meeting, which was held on Monday 11th March at The Cherington Arms. Conversation including the importance of hefting to ascertain spring feeding requirements, feeding pollen substitute to aid build-up to Oil Seed Rape nectar flow (likely to be very early this year), the importance of getting supers on soon, and whether honey should be extracted for sale from supers that have been used for over-wintering on a brood and a half (yes, no, maybe!).

Following a relatively mild winter, it was felt that Varroa numbers are likely to be high and the pros and cons of various Varroa treatment options were debated, including the value of conducting a shook swarm in April followed by Oxalic acid

# The month continued...

treatment.

We also debated the various frame types and their relative advantages.

Asian Hornet monitoring traps were discussed (and thanks to one member's generosity, distributed).

A Nosema clinic is to be held on Saturday 6th April at Oxhill village hall, kindly run by Irene Beaver, to which all are welcome. There are also still spaces on our Introduction to Beekeeping course, to be held on 27th and 28th April at Brailles village hall. More details are available at <https://www.sbka.org.uk/training>.

*James Taylor*

## WARWICK & LEAMINGTON

The Branch Introduction to Beekeeping training has now been completed and throughout the six weeks, the level of attendance was very close to the 50 maximum. Now we have the task of converting the attendees into members through one day hands on experience, apiary training and mentor pairing.

The branch committee has been concerned with continued training, a feature of membership, and our 'Towards the Basic' training has been complimented by a Nosema Clinic and a 'Meet the Bee Inspector' opportunity in March. Members are also encouraged to go Beyond the Basic and to participate on further training under the auspices of both the County and BBKA.

We are also looking at how we can further support the County in Asian Hornet threat management. Liz Bates is our single point of contact on all matter's hornet, in fact she is our hornet queen.

The move of the bees from the Training Apiary at BBKA Stoneleigh to Kings Hill is imminent and we have a keen eye on the weather.

Finally, we have been looking at how best to collect and record the total, individual or group talks our members conduct to interested parties. This is to counter the large level of soft contacts, historic and new, which have delivered talks, but have gone unrecorded in the past. As it stands, our events group are currently planning to support 15 shows/events in the area throughout the beekeeping season (this does not include individuals giving talks). Meeting our Charitable Objectives is the name of the game!

*Chris Cox*

## SUTTON COLDFIELD & NORTH BIRTMINGHAM

We had our annual AGM at the Sutton Coldfield and North Birmingham monthly meeting on the 21st of February. It was a good turn-out and the quorum was easily met. The committee had lots of people wanting to join which was also good.

We also had requests to join the Swarm collection group, with new members asking to also attend with experienced members so they could learn how to

collect swarms. It's a clever idea but people must be able to go wherever they are called out to on the drop of a hat. We, as a small organisation, have been heavily reliant on Bernard Diaper and Steve Corbett over the past couple of years.

Julian Routh who has served as our Honey show officer for 35 years will be passing on the white coat. This hard work and dedication was recognised by all.

Over the past few weeks we have started out annual theory course for new beginners. Its well-attended and leads on to the summer practical events at the Sutton Apiary. This gives the new bee keeper lots of information. From types of hives, to pest and diseases, and some of the legal requirements to keep bees .

Our spring clean, had a good number of



The Annual Theory Course has now began

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members turn up for what turned out to a very warm Saturday in early March. We have removed brambles and as a result we should be able to get more members cars with the apiary car park.

Within the apiary itself a number of tree branches were also trimmed and our varroa counts (on the varroa boards) were thankfully low.

Let's hope for a good season, however with this unusually warm weather could it also be favourable for pests and diseases?

As part of the monthly lecture programme, we had Colin Pavey, our Regional Bee Inspector, visit the branch at the Erdington Methodist. He introduced the role of the National Bee Unit and gave an overview of notifiable diseases, which thankfully showed decreased numbers in the Midlands area—Great News.

Colin also gave an interesting overview of notifiable pests including Small Hive Beetle, Tropilaelaps and Asian Hornet.

Finally, he presented an update on the Asian Hornet threat issue, mostly with data from 2018. 4 Nests were found and 6 sightings in 2018 confirmed. Sighting in Jersey this year have been confirmed, but they seem to be having more issues with Asian hornets that we have in the United Kingdom.

The public is much more involved, with a lot of false sightings reported:

**2782 in 2016**

**> 4500 in 2017**

**> 8000 in 2018**

This is the time of year you might want to set up monitoring traps. These traps are useful but should be inspected regularly so that harmless insects can be released back into the wild. The National Bee Unit link below gives instructions on how to build a monitoring trap: <http://www.nationalbeeunit.com/downloadNews.cfm?id=122>.

**Jitesh Patel**

## The month continued...

The unpredictable nature of the English weather has not helped with the development of our new apiary. 2 working parties, planned to clear the site, had to be cancelled at the last minute due to heavy rain and winds. Hopefully it will be third time lucky.

However, our recent indoor meeting was far more successful and John Home gave an entertaining and informative description of the life of a professional beekeeper. Members were keen to hear from John and the audience was the largest I can remember in the last 10 years. John started proceedings by explaining that he did not keep bees – bees kept him! Whatever it is that he does, even in semi-retirement, certainly seems to work and a yield of over 2 tonnes of honey last year from an initial 41 colonies certainly pays testament to the effectiveness of his approach. It is difficult for the hobby beekeeper to imagine what that quantity of honey would even look like. Even John had to start somewhere and it was entertaining to hear that his Mentor, while at agricultural college, struggled to persuade him to handle bees without gloves. The solution was simple, yet effective; he simply cut the fingers off John's gloves! Members heard of many strategies that may have seemed unorthodox but one has to keep in mind the thought that, as a commercial beekeeper, time has a monetary value.

Apart from our own meetings, it is encouraging to see the thirst for

knowledge from members and many have attended both WBKA and BIBBA courses over the Winter period.

After our final indoor meeting, where we will hold our usual noseema clinic, we look forward to the forthcoming outdoor season with optimistic enthusiasm.

May your supers be full, your swarms few and the Sun always shine on your apiary.

***John Twidle***



## Chronicles of a Novice Beekeeper

Initially during the warm spell in February, both colonies appeared to be doing well as both were flying and collecting pollen. Two weeks later, things have changed and it now looks like one colony has become weak. Fingers crossed, this colony will make it through. Both colonies have had fondant since early February. The other colony appears to be very strong. When I checked them last week, I found they'd consumed 500g fondant in two weeks! They were even building comb in the container after they'd cleared out the fondant!

We've certainly had some stormy weather with Storms Freya and Gareth. The hives have been OK in their new location and haven't been blown over, which I was my main concern. Unfortunately, I can't say the same about my poor shed, which must have gotten some pretty good air for it to land as it did in the middle of my allotment. Truth be told, I was more concerned about the bees; the shed can be repaired.

On another note, the GP was good enough to refer me to the Birmingham Allergy clinic in mid-February. When I received the

referral confirmation letter, I phoned and was informed that I will likely have an appointment sometime in May so this is much more promising. It's a shame I wasn't referred there initially, as I would likely have been seen by now! Private allergy testing is out of the question due to the cost, even though I could've had an appointment by March 26th.

At Bee Tradex I was very good and stuck to my shopping list. I was well under budget thanks to a couple of unexpected bargains. I have bought an extra bee suit so I can have someone with me for safety until the allergy tests are complete. I also picked up my first labels as I'm optimistic that my bees will have surplus honey this year.

**Denali Enns**

*Elephant's Ears*



# SCHOOL SET A-BUZZIN'!

We could sense the anticipation the moment we entered the room. Twenty-eight, year 4 pupils at Our Lady and Saint Teresa's Primary School in Cublington had just finished a session of planting seeds in flower pots as part of British Science Week when our team from WLBK arrived to give its "Flower to Jar" presentation. We had told the teacher that our presentation was interactive but little did we know just how interactive it was to become!

As soon as we arrived, 56 little hands offered to help us carry our props from reception, the length of the school to the classroom, where WLBK members Maggie Curley, Jane Brown and Barry Meatyard donned bee suits and set about preparing to start. This included dressing a couple of the girls in our bee costumes, complete with antennae and sting. We chose girls rather than boys as will be revealed later.

Once the kids had settled down, Jane opened the proceedings by telling the eager audience about the life of the honey bee and the products of the hive. It wasn't long before the carefully prepared script was abandoned in the light of a barrage of questions, all of which were very perceptive such as "Why isn't there a king bee?". Not knowing the extent to which the kids knew about "the birds and the bees", this had the team struggling to answer.

Order was eventually restored and, after a video of the waggle dance, the two

"worker bees" performed the dance - live, led enthusiastically by Maggie. Unfortunately, restrictions on photographing the kids means that we don't have a record of this stupendous performance but perhaps we can persuade Maggie to do an encore at the next members' meeting...!

By now, the enthusiasm of the kids had turned into excitement but they remained well bee-haved as the two little worker bees "flew" to the flowers we had provided (no mean achievement given the time of year). Armed with oxalic acid syringes, they sucked up nectar from a carefully secreted honey bucket containing a suspiciously yellow-coloured liquid. Purporting to be nectar, this didn't fool anybody let alone these very savvy kids but, politely, they went along with it.

Our two worker bees then returned to a WBC into which they squirted the said suspicious liquid and, perhaps, now, you will realise why we chose girls for this task as the squirter given what little boys can do with squirry things!

With the nectar having been delivered, Barry explained how the bees converted this to honey, passing round a fully capped frame. He then went on to explain how we extract the honey using one of the branch's extractors but, by now, we had over-run our allotted time, so we skipped letting the kids operate the extractor and went straight on to opening the tap. From this, the suspicious yellow liquid was poured into a honey jar.

Not having been sent to the naughty corner for taking up so much of the class's time, Barry rounded off the presentation with some of the amazing numerical facts about our girls.

To say that our talk was well received was putting it mildly and the presenters had a wow of a time as well.

With school budgets increasingly being

stretched, they can ill-afford the travelling costs to take their charges to events at fixed venues so mobile presentations, such as ours, play a vital part in getting our message across to the future generation of beekeepers.

**Ivan A Perry, WLBKA**

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## A BEEKEEPER AT SEA

Our March members' meeting featured a human interest story.

The 'human' was WLBK member and beekeeper, Steve Sidaway and the 'interest' angle was how Steve spent his Christmas! Not particularly inspiring some thought, but they were wrong for Steve spent from 12th December to 23rd January (6 weeks!) in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. He was participating as one of four, mixed crew members in the Talisker Whiskey Atlantic Challenge, rowing from the Gran Canary Islands to Antigua—a mere 3,000 miles. They not only successfully completed this epic journey, coming 8th out of 28 starters, but set a new world record for a mixed crew!

Known in the Branch as a skilled and entertaining speaker, Steve found time in his busy programme to regale us with tales of 'derring-do', of dehydration, sleep deprivation, self-administered surgery, encounters with whales and fifteen metre waves, of pain and elation – all supported by stunning slides and videos both of the voyage itself and of the logistics in preparation for the event.

As part of his motivation to succeed at this challenge, Steve, through sponsorship, is raising money for [Molly Olly's Wishes](#), a charity which provides support for kids with terminal illnesses so we are especially pleased to report that, as a result of the generosity of the audience, a tad under £200 was raised which will, of course, be further enhanced with gift aid.



If your Branch members would like to be spellbound for an evening, then Steve can be contacted via email at [stephensidaway@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stephensidaway@yahoo.co.uk)



# United Nations Global Survey of Honeybees and Other Pollinators July 2018

Extracts from a report prepared by the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations (FAO).

The report summarises the global survey developed to collect data on the status of worldwide honeybee and pollinator populations and current programmes for their monitoring and conservation.

*'Pollination is an ecosystem service that around 20,000 different species do - freely and coincidentally. Pollination is estimated to be worth USD 235 to USD 577 billion annually to global crop production. Globally, 90 percent of wild flowering plants and 75 percent of the leading food crops are dependent to varying extents on pollinator-mediated fertilization. Not only is animal pollination invaluable to agriculture and ecosystems, the presence of animal pollinators is interlinked with the livelihoods of millions of people. The world's most important cash crops provide employment and income to people of both developing and developed countries, who often rely on pollination services for their crop yield and quality.'*

## INTRODUCTION

Honeybees and other pollinators play critical roles in food security and nutrition. Given that these animals are not traditional livestock, they have not to date been considered in the intergovernmental process for management of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture. The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture requested FAO to consider including domesticated honeybees and potentially other pollinators into DAD-IS - the Domestic Animal Diversity Information System, a communication and information tool for the management of animal genetic resources.

## THE SURVEY

The survey was Web-based and was open for submissions from 28/02—31/07/2017. English and Spanish versions of the survey were distributed to:

- (i) the Domestic Animal Diversity Network (DAD-Net);
- (ii) the Beekeeping Exchange Group of FAO's "Technologies and practices for small agricultural producers" platform (TECA);
- (iii) the International Federation of Beekeepers Associations (Apimondia);
- (iv) the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IBPES)
- (v) the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and;
- (vi) all National Coordinators.

The survey comprised 28 questions and was divided into three sections:

(i) General Information, (ii) Honey Bees and (iii) General Pollinators.

The first section requested information about the respondents and the country about which they were reporting, whereas the subsequent two sections requested information on main honeybee and pollinator species, their contributions to food and agriculture and threats to their survival, their known or perceived population status, and existing systems for population monitoring conservation.

A total of 256 responses from 104 different countries were received, with 47% of responses coming from a government representative. The average number of responses per country was 2, with 50 countries submitting a single response; 30% percent of countries submitted more than two responses. The largest number of responses received from a single country was 12, from Ecuador, followed by Argentina, Chile and Ethiopia, each submitting 11 responses.

The survey sought to determine what species of honeybee were utilized in global apiculture and pollination practices. Ten different species of honeybees were reported to be present in the respond countries, six of which were reported to be managed in some form. “Managed” in this definition, encompasses the act of caring for and interacting with the species in some form, from commercial beekeeping operations to hobby beekeeping.

The six species were:

*Apis mellifera*, *A. cerana*, *A. florea*, *A. dorsata*, *A. laboriosa* and *A. nigrocincta*.

These species represent all three subgenera of honeybee:

- **Apis** – the cavity nesting bees (*mellifera*, *cerana*, and *nigrocincta*);
- **Micrapis** – the dwarf honeybees (*florea*);
- **Megapis** – the giant honeybee (*dorsata* and *laboriosa*).

The other four honeybee species that survey respondents reported as present in their respective countries were *Apis andreniformis*, *A. binghami*, *A. breviligula*, and *A. nuluensis*.

The European or Western honeybee, *Apis mellifera*, was reported to be present in 100 responding countries, and is managed in 94 of them. The next most abundant species of honeybee is the dwarf honeybee, *Apis florea*, present in 19 countries, followed by the Asian honeybee, *Apis cerana*, managed in 12 of the 14 countries where it was reported.

The 34 subspecies and main hybrids of *A. mellifera* reported in the survey are given in Table 1.

Adami	carpatica	iranica	Meda	ruttneri	simensis
adansonii	caucasica	jemenitica	mellifera	sahariensis	syriaca
anatoliaca	cecropia	lamarckii	monticola	scutellate	unicolor
bandasii	iberiensis	ligustica	nubica	siciliana	woygambela
capensis	indica	litorea	rhustica	sicula	Buckfast hybrid
carnica	intermissa	macedonica			other hybrids

The main threats reported are similar in honeybee and other pollinators, with pesticides and loss, degradation or fragmentation of habitat/forage as largest threats. Climate change also appears to be an emerging threat for both groups. This result implies that many conservation initiatives, if managed correctly, will benefit both groups, even if the intention is only to bolster honeybee populations. The greatest revelation to come out of the survey is the necessity to increase awareness in all aspects of pollination and pollinators, particularly in their importance for food security and livelihoods and in the major threats to their survival.

Pollinators are crucial to the environment, and the greater appreciation of their importance globally is key to increasing their populations and maintaining their genetic diversity.

*Report: COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE. INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE*

*Tenth Session Rome, 27–29 June 2018 GLOBAL SURVEY OF HONEYBEES AND OTHER POLLINATORS*

**Extracts by David Smye, Essex Beekeepers Association**



*Grape Hyacinth*

# Honey Alchemy

## Poppy Seed & Honey Cake

**SERVES** 10 **PREP** 25 mins

**COOK** 35 mins **A LITTLE EFFORT**

### FOR THE CAKE

- 140g self-raising flour, plus 1 tbsp
- 100g golden caster sugar, plus 1 tbsp
- 175g butter softened
- 85g clear honey
- 3 medium eggs
- 25g cornflour
- 2 tbsp poppy seeds

### FOR THE ICING

- 100g icing sugar
- Zest of one lemon
- 1½-2 tbsp lemon juice

### METHOD

1. Heat the oven to 160°C/fan 140°C/gas 3. Butter a 1.3 litre bundt tin (approx 20cm diameter with a funnel in the middle). Mix the 1 tbsp flour and sugar together and dust all over the buttered surface, then tap out the excess.
2. Beat the butter, sugar and honey with a hand-held electric whisk, until pale and fluffy with a dropping consistency. Beat in the eggs one at a time. Mix the flour, cornflour and poppy seeds, and fold into the creamed mixture until smooth.
3. Spoon into the prepared tin and level the surface.
4. Bake for about 35 mins until risen and firm to the touch. Leave to cool in the tin, then carefully remove, easing the sides with a palette knife. Cool on a wire rack.
5. For the icing, mix both ingredients together then drizzle over the cake while it's still on the rack, sprinkle the zest over and leave to set.
6. Transfer to a plate to serve.
  - The cake will keep in an airtight container in a cool place for up to 5 days.
  - Also works as a traybake and cuts into 24 pieces for hungry beekeepers and as a pudding served with custard.



A deliciously moist cake with a tangy lemon-flavoured icing that works every time so long as all your ingredients are at room temperature.  
- **Mandy**

**Enjoy, Mandy x**

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## HELP WANTED

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- The Charity have 12 small portable electrical appliances that need PAT testing. If you are able to help please get in touch with David Blower ([chairman@wbka.org.uk](mailto:chairman@wbka.org.uk))
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