



The Hive

TTVBKA Newsletter

October 2025

In this edition

[Update from the Chair](#)

[President's Evening](#)

[A Sweet Tradition](#)

[Short History of Honey Shows](#)

[Become a Honey Show Judge](#)

[The Judging Process](#)

[History of TTVBKA Cups](#)

[TTVBKA Honey Show](#)

[National Honey Show](#)

[Tell the Bees](#)

[Bottom-up Beekeeping](#)

[The latest from the BBKA](#)

[YLH Update](#)

[Library Update](#)

[Dates for the diary](#)

[Combing through the news](#)



Update from the Chair

Dear Member,

Another beekeeping year goes by, and I hope you have had a happy and successful year. As always, the climate kept us guessing with the very dry weather meaning that nectar flows were shorter and the seasons were in advance of the normal timescale. That apart, I think the amounts of honey collected were typical of a good year.

At the apiary we have completed lots changes and improvements this year. Our library is now fully functioning, and it is a great centrepiece in the Miller Hall. Around the apiary there is new infrastructure, and we have had a big tidy up. The hives have some new woodwork and in 2026 we will be reorganising the hives further. We had two successful public days (Open Day and Honey Show) with record numbers of visitors and honey sales. Our Honey Prep Room has been used more this year, and it is a fantastic facility that I encourage all members to use – it saves cleaning your kitchen!

The current task for myself and the committee is to implement the changes required for the transition to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and this work is underway. Our social media and marketing profile is increasing thanks to the very hard work of Mandy who is also responsible for this newsletter.

The next challenge is what we do differently or new in 2026 so in addition to delivering our education programmes for new beekeepers and schoolchildren I hope we can positively engage with our existing members much more next year and also enrol new members. We will put together a speaker programme during the year, and I encourage all members to come along, reestablish contacts with friends and be a part of the apiary community. Perhaps offer your teaching expertise, give a talk, use the Honey Prep Room, visit on a Friday night and support our Open days and Honey Show. And tell me what we should be doing better. Above all, enjoy this wonderful and unique facility that we have in the heart of Twickenham.

Our final event of the year is the President's Evening on November 14th when we have a guest speaker as well as food and drinks so please come along. I will be doing some beekeeping in New Zealand and I am sorry to miss this event. I wish everyone a very happy end of year and look forward to seeing more of you next year.

Best regards, Greg

President's Evening



Credit: Wikimedia Commons

We are delighted to announce that Iona Cunningham-Eurich will give a talk on **'Wasps in the UK: monitoring and social engagement'** at this year's President's Evening.

Iona is a PhD student at the Natural History Museum and University College London working on social and parasitoid wasps. Her research focuses on the ecology and distributions of parasitoid wasps. She has also worked with the citizen science project, the 'Big Wasp Survey', which aimed to better understand the diversity and distributions of social wasps in the UK. She has an interest in engaging communities with nature, particularly insects, and in her spare time spends a significant amount of time birdwatching and reading books.

The evening will commence at 7.30pm at the Apiary on Friday 14th November. The evening will include the presentation of awards. Please bring along a little drink and/or nibbles & snacks which we can all share after the talk.

World of Wasps

Visit the Grant Museum's new free exhibition for visitors of all ages and experience the hidden, intimate world of wasps like never before! Based on UCL research, "World of Wasps" brings together cutting-edge imaging, projections, commissioned artwork and virtual reality to reveal the unseen lives of wasps – their homes, their lifestyles and their relationships.

On display are wasps and nest specimens from around the world showcasing the diversity of species and nest architecture, alongside a large-scale paper sculpture of a wasp's nest by artist Peter Ayres. Discover the construction secrets of these master builders, and in two VR creations from Datascape Realities, zoom inside a virtual wasp's nest, and experience a wasp's-eye view in a rewilded Grant Museum.

World of Wasps - On now until 24 January 2026, 1:00 pm–5:00 pm. This event is free





Steven Turner, National Honey Show

A Sweet Tradition

A Short History of Honey Shows

Long before honey jars were adorned with prize ribbons and combs were judged for their symmetry, Honey Shows have been a cherished part of British beekeeping culture. These events, now staples of local associations and national gatherings alike, trace their roots back over a century.

The earliest Honey Shows emerged in the mid-1800s, when beekeeping was gaining popularity among both rural and urban enthusiasts. Shows were designed not only to reward excellence in hive products but also to educate the public, promote good husbandry, and elevate the craft of apiculture.

From Local Fairs to National Prestige

By the early 20th century, Honey Shows had become fixtures at agricultural fairs and village fêtes. Notably, the first Twickenham and Thames Valley Beekeepers' Association (TTVBKA) Honey Exhibition was held in collaboration with the Twickenham Horticultural Society at Orleans Park on 23 July 1919, attracting a modest but enthusiastic 25 entries.

Over time, the scope of these shows expanded beyond liquid honey to include comb honey, beeswax, mead, and eventually candles, cakes, and photography. Judging criteria became increasingly refined, placing emphasis on clarity, flavour, presentation, and technical skill.

In 1923, the Association became a corporate member of the newly established National Honey Show (NHS). The inaugural event - then titled "The National Show of Bees and Honey" - was held at Crystal Palace in October, featuring just 16 open classes and two judges. This modest beginning would evolve dramatically in the years to follow.



Steven Turner, National Honey Show

More Than Just Competition

While ribbons and trophies add excitement, Honey Shows have always been about more than winning. They foster camaraderie, inspire learning, and connect generations of beekeepers. These gatherings offer novices the opportunity to admire expert craftsmanship, invite children to explore the world of bees, and provide communities with a chance to celebrate one of nature's sweetest gift.

Keeping the Tradition Alive

Local and regional associations continue to uphold this tradition with pride. The TTVBKA Honey Show has been held annually - except in 2020 and 2021 - and has grown significantly, from its initial 25 entries to over 215 entries across 47 classes in 2025.

Each Honey Show stands as a testament to the dedication, creativity, and care of its members. Every entry - whether a flawless jar of honey or a meticulously crafted candle - enriches the legacy of British beekeeping and honours a tradition that's been nurtured for generations.

From Exhibitor to Expert

How to Become a Certified Honey Show Judge

In England, aspiring judges must obtain the **British Beekeepers Association (BBKA) Show Judge Assessment Certificate**, which formally recognises a beekeeper's expertise in evaluating honey and honey bee products at competitive exhibitions.



Steven Turner, National Honey Show

The Assessment is intended for experienced beekeepers who have demonstrated excellence across multiple facets of competitive exhibiting. It provides a structured pathway for those wishing to judge at prominent honey shows - both nationally and internationally - and who have a proven track record of success in competitive entries.

Eligibility for assessment requires candidates to present evidence of:

- Stewarding for BBKA Judges at major honey shows with more than 100 entries
- Judging at several Honey shows where 3 of the shows are assessed by 3 different BBKA Show Judges
- Record of 70 awards at third prize or higher at major honey shows with more than 100 entries
- Record of other relevant experience such as Show Secretary

This rigorous standard ensures that certified judges possess not only technical proficiency but also a deep appreciation for the craft, presentation, and educational value of honey show exhibits.

If you are interested in becoming a Honey Show Judge visit the **BBKA learning portal** for the syllabus. Requirements and experience may differ for **Northern Ireland**, **Scotland** and **Wales** and other regions.

Demystifying the Judging Process

To assist exhibitors in preparing high-quality entries, we have compiled a **general overview** of the key criteria that Honey Show Judges consider when evaluating submissions.



In addition, we have developed a series of **informative guides** tailored to the most common classes. These guides provide practical tips and advice to help exhibitors refine their techniques, avoid common pitfalls, and better understand the expectations of certified judges.

Together, these materials are designed to support both new and experienced exhibitors in enhancing the quality of their entries and deepening their appreciation for the techniques and discipline of competitive exhibiting.

History of TTVBKA Cups & Trophies

The TTVBKA upholds a proud tradition of honouring excellence through its many cups and trophies, each representing the dedication and achievements of its members. These awards have been generously donated by both past and present members, reflecting a shared commitment to celebrating skill, craftsmanship, and community spirit. The collection continues to grow, with the most recent addition, the Chatley Cup, introduced in 2025, joining this distinguished legacy.

1921 Burnet Silver Challenge Cup

The oldest of the associations' cups and presented by Charles Burnet, first Chair and a founding member of the Association, for most points in the Members Classes.

Charles Burnet was a member of the Council of British Beekeepers Association (BBKA) and was considered a powerful force in the formation of the Association. A Scot known for his strong personality, he was fully committed to the highest standards of beekeeping and greatly respected for his knowledge of all areas of apiculture.

1926 Gambrill Challenge Cup

Donated by Arthur Gambrill, the Association's first Expert and Honorary Member, and presented for the Best Four Bee Products.

Arthur Gambrill was a skilled beekeeper and the Association's first paid expert with an annual salary of three guineas (about £10.50 at today's value)! He had a colourful career teaching beekeeping in several counties, addressed inmates in Wormwood scrubs, Wandsworth, Pentonville and Brixton prisons and judged at the Crystal Palace and Kent County Shows.

1945 Romer Victory Challenge Cup

Presented by long-time member Mr AJ Romer in 1945 for Best Comb for Extraction.

Mr AJ Romer had been a member for over 20 years when he presented the cup at the Victory Honey Show on 15th August 1945, VJ Day and effectively the end of World War II.

1953 Crane Perpetual Challenge Cup

Named after Jack Crane, a former Vice-President who provided space in his garden for an early apiary, the cup is awarded for most points in the Novice Classes.

After the Association was served with notice to quit the Erncroft Farm apiary site in 1934, Jack Crane, a local councillor stepped in and offered space in his nursery garden. The Association moved the apiary to the new site in 1935 but unfortunately the site flooded, and they were forced to move again.



1955 Bartle Memorial Challenge Cup

In commemoration of Maurice Bartle, Master Beekeeper and former member, for his contribution to the Associations' Year Book, lecture programme and practical demonstrations. Following his death, members raised money for the cup and a stipend to the library for books. It is awarded for Best Crystallised Honey

1969 South West Middlesex Challenge Cup

Donated by the South West Middlesex BKA after winding up and presented for Best Pair of Beeswax Candles.

When South West Middlesex BKA was wound up in 1969, the TTVBKA were given the cup, formally known as J K Kemp Gee Challenge Cup. From the very start of TTVBKA and 1969 the Association was approached several times by South West

Middlesex BKA to become affiliated together, however each time the proposal was politely declined.

1974 Violet Miller Memorial Cup

Named in honour of Committee member Violet Miller, wife of Percy Miller, the Association longest-serving President.

Violet and husband, Percy first became members in 1926. Percy was a Fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society and an expert in growing dahlias. Percy was a member for over 50 years, and Miller Hall was named in his honour in 1962. Violet donated the first hut for the members Equipment Scheme, that still carries on to the present date. The cup is presented for the Best Honey Fruit Cake.

1978 Recknell Memorial Cup

Awarded to the best Junior Exhibit, this cup is not given every year, only when the standard is deemed sufficiently high.

Unfortunately, the origins of this cup seem to have become lost to the Association. If any member can provide any background, please get in touch!

1990 President's Cup

Presented to the Association by Peter Houghton, President 1989-1991, for Best Three Wax Products.

Wallis Memorial Challenge Cup – date unknown

Arguably, the most coveted prize in any honey show, the Wallis Memorial Cup is awarded for Best Taste in Show.

Formerly, the Mole Valley Trophy, like the Recknell Cup, the history of this cup, are to date, unknown. If you can provide any background, please get in touch!

2019 Centenary Cup

Donated by Honorary Treasurer, Warwick Francis in 2019 to commemorate the centenary of the TTVBKA. This cup is awarded for the Best Mead, Metheglin or Melomel.

2025 Chatley Cup

Named in honour of Ted Chatley, a central figure in the association for more than 40 years and awarded for Best Overall Exhibit in Show.

Ted was appointed Equipment Officer in 1978, running the members Equipment Centre, a post he held until 2022. Ted appeared on more Honey Show shields than anyone in the association's history, winning the trophy for Best Comb for Extraction more than 14 times.

A Buzzing Success

Highlights from the 2025 TTVBKA Annual Honey



This year's Annual Honey Show was a true celebration of talent, dedication, and all things bee-related! With an impressive 217 entries from 47 entrants, we were thrilled to see a rise in participation.

The standard of exhibits was exceptional across the board. Photography entries dazzled, capturing the beauty of beekeeping with creativity and flair, while the honey cake and food categories overflowed with delicious submissions that had everyone's mouths watering.

The honey classes showcased remarkable quality and diversity, making the judges' task of selecting "Best Taste in Show" especially challenging. Meanwhile, the wax exhibits were nothing short of stunning, reflecting the incredible skills and creativity of our members.

A huge thank you to Carl, whose expert organisation once again ensured the smooth running of this year's Honey Show. The Committee is extremely appreciative of his dedication and hard work.

Special thanks go to our judges, Lisa and Julia, who commented on the high quality entries across the categories.



Of course, no show would be possible without our amazing volunteers. There are too many to name individually, but please know how much we value your time, energy, and enthusiasm.

Photos from the day, including some of the stunning entries, are available on our [TW1 Beeline](#) Facebook group (for members) and our public Facebook page: [Twickenham & Thames Valley Bee-keepers' Association](#). Alex has produced a short video of the day; this can be viewed on the [website](#).

Congratulations to all our prize winners! The Cup winners are listed below, and the full results can be found on [here](#).

2025 Cup Presentation Awards

Burnet Silver Challenge Cup

Ania Taylor for most points in the Members Classes

Gambrill Challenge Cup

Sally L Ewen for the Best Four Bee Products

Romer Victory Challenge Cup

Harvey Kirk for Best Comb for Extraction

Crane Perpetual Challenge Cup

Dacian Baci for most points in the Novice Classes

Bartle Memorial Challenge Cup

Karen Mann for Best Crystallised Honey

South West Middlesex Challenge Cup

Ania Taylor for the best Pair of Beeswax Candles

Violet Miller Memorial Cup

Eleanor Broughton for the Best Honey Fruit Cake

President's Cup

Ania Taylor for Best Three Wax Products

Wallis Memorial Challenge Cup

Ania Taylor for Best Taste in Show

Centenary Cup

Warwick Francis for the Best Mead, Metheglin or Melomel

Chatley Cup

Harvey Kirk for Best Overall Exhibit in Show

The National Honey Show



The 2025 National Honey Show takes place at Sandown Racecourse, Esher, Surrey, KT10 9AJ on 23rd - 25th October.

The **National Honey Show** is the UK's premier honey show with international classes, lectures and workshops.

There are nearly 250 competitive classes, a free lecture programme, optional workshops and a trade show, with the show attracting beekeepers from all over the world to compete for the much-coveted trophies and prize cards.

beekeeping. The event offers a great opportunity to learn from experienced beekeepers, participate in workshops and demonstrations, and gain valuable experience in the world of beekeeping.

To find out more and purchase your tickets, visit www.honeyshow.co.uk



Steven Turner, National Honey Show

Tell the Bees

In July this year, we marked the passing of our former President, Chair and Treasurer Neil Hilbery.

Neil was a skilled and experienced beekeeper who will be remembered for his exemplary work in keeping the association on a sure footing and bringing us to be the successful association we have today.

One of his Neil's memorable undertakings was as our Delegate to the BBKA where he proposed the Motion that broke the BBKA's association with pesticide manufacturers.

Background

Between 2001 and 2011, the British Beekeepers Association (BBKA) accepted annual payments of £17,500 from four agrochemical companies in exchange for endorsing pesticides—marketed as 'bee friendly'—without consulting its membership. This decision sparked widespread concern and disapproval among beekeepers and local associations, including the Twickenham and Thames Valley Beekeepers' Association (TTVBKA).

From 2008 to 2011, TTVBKA led a determined campaign to overturn the BBKA's endorsement of these pesticides. The initiative was spearheaded by Sarah Crofton (Honorary Secretary), David Ramsden (Strategist and Beekeeper), and Kate Canning, who described her role as "cold caller/trouble maker cum publicist." As TTVBKA's elected BBKA Representative, Neil Hilbery was tasked with formally proposing the Motion and presenting its arguments at the BBKA's Annual Delegates Meeting (ADM).

In 2010, the campaign gained further momentum with the support of Dr Bernie Doeser, a petrochemical scientist and Chair of West Cornwall BKA, who contributed a **scientifically rigorous report** challenging the BBKA's claims that the endorsed pesticides were safe for bees.

By autumn 2010, following extensive lobbying of the 68 principal BKAs—led by Kate—the required quorum was achieved, and Neil was set to present the Motion at the forthcoming ADM. The Motion read:

"That the BBKA cease any commercial relationships with agrochemical or associated companies relating to the use of the BBKA logo, including all endorsement of pesticides (for money or any other form of remuneration) as soon as contractually possible."



Neil Hilbery

22nd December 1944 –

17th July 2025

The BBKA represents the interests of member BKAs at government level and to facilitate a nationwide educational structure supported by a common examination process.

Each BKA has one elected member who votes on all things beekeeping in the UK at our Annual Delegate Meeting (ADM) held at the beginning of every year. Appointed at the ADM are the President and 12 Trustees, who collectively comprise the Board of Trustees (BoT) that is the governing body of the BBKA. Delegates may adopt propositions at the Annual Delegate Meeting that provide policy direction to the BoT.

Turning Point: BBKA ADM, January 2011

The ADM held on 15 January 2011 marked a pivotal moment. Days before the meeting, Michael McCarthy, Environmental Editor at *The Independent*, published a critical exposé on the **BBKA's financial ties to pesticide companies**. The story was amplified by coverage in *the Yorkshire Post*, *Scottish Herald*, *Argus*, and further disseminated through the *Telegraph* and *Guardian's* digital platforms.

Under mounting pressure, the BBKA was forced to revise the Motion's wording. While the amendment prohibited further pesticide endorsements, it did not immediately **sever financial relationships with agrochemical firms**, highlighting the BBKA's reluctance to fully disengage at that time.

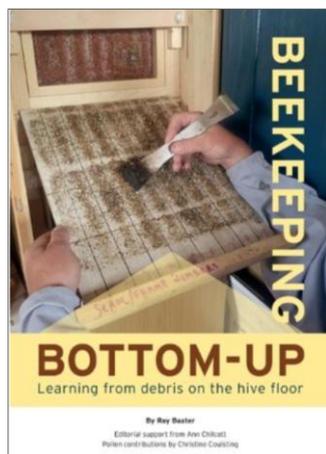
Impact and Legacy

Today, thanks in part to the perseverance, advocacy and tenacity of TTVBKA members Neil, Kate, Sarah, and David, the BBKA has adopted a firm stance against the use of **neonicotinoids and similar pesticides**. Their efforts have contributed to a broader recognition of the harmful effects these substances have on honey bees, other pollinators, and the wider environment.

Positive outcomes

Kate Canning, Dr. Bernie Doezer and several other beekeepers, set up a small charity 'A Small Blue Marble', and organised a lecture tour that **raised over £10,000** (in the first 15 months) to fund independent research into the effects of pesticides on bees and other insects, by **Dr Henk Tennekes**, a Dutch toxicologist. A copy of his seminal book **'The Systemic Insecticides: A Disaster in the Making'** can be found in the TTVBKA library.

We extend our sincere thanks to Kate Canning, whose understanding of the events provided invaluable insight. Her considerable contribution greatly enriched the re-telling of this important chapter in TTVBKA's history.



Bottom-up Beekeeping – A Review

I've absolutely loved reading this book over the summer: **Bottom-up Beekeeping by Ray Baxter**. For the past couple of years I've been following Ray on social media as he's posted about some of the curious microscopic artefacts he's discovered in his bee hives. The book itself is the result of a thorough, year-long exploratory investigation into such debris, taking the reader on an exciting journey that at times ends up with more questions than answers (as all good research should). It turns out you can learn a great amount about the state and story of a colony simply by 'reading' the insert boards (they aren't only for varroa drop count), perhaps being able to support

the colony without having to open up the hive quite as frequently as conventional beekeeping dictates.

I loved reading the bigger picture insights into bees' relationship with their environment, seeing the way in which everything out there interacts with the colony (for better or worse: the omnipresence of microplastics was a worrying discovery; the ability of the bees to resolve their own chalkbrood was reassuring).

Ray is a thinking beekeeper and a true scientist, and his book is thoroughly engaging and readable. I feel like I know him from reading his voice throughout the book, and I'd love to meet him in real life one day too now :-)

If anybody would like to borrow my copy to read, please do let me know and I would be happy to lend it out. **Sally - sallylewen@gmail.com**

BBKA updates & talks

BBKA National Honey Day

The British Beekeepers Association (BBKA) is proud to announce the celebration of National Honey Day on 21st October 2025, a nationwide initiative to spotlight the golden goodness of local British honey and the dedicated beekeepers who produce it.

BBKA Calls for Major Awareness Campaign for the Yellow-legged Asian Hornet

Concerned by the continuing threat of the invasive, non-native Yellow-legged Asian Hornet, the British Beekeepers' Association has written to the Rt Hon Emma Reynolds PC MP, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, requesting a government-led public awareness campaign and the continuation of the eradication phase of the incursion.

Beekeepers join national call to halt UK insect crisis

The British Beekeepers Association (BBKA) has joined a coalition of the UK's leading insect conservation charities to call for urgent action to address the dramatic decline in insect populations across the country.

BBKA Spring Convention

17th -19th April 2026,
Harper Adams University,
Near Telford, Shropshire,
TF10 8NB

Mark your dates in the diary.
Booking open January 2026



Next BBKA Zoom Talk:

Becoming a Show Judge

Tue. 18th November 2025
Shirley Bond

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81233819992?pwd=DYMZxTImJjpRCLJjYjvblxgybQQdSZ.1#success>

Meeting ID: 868 2282 9123
Passcode: 737424

Module Exams

Written Module Exams take place on Saturday 15th November. If you are taking the exam online, please ensure you have downloaded the 'Inspira' software and that you have tested it well in advance of the exam.

Offer Land for Bees

Are you looking for a new or additional apiary site? Check out the BBKAs 'Offer Land to Bees' map for hosts offering their land for use by beekeepers - [Offer Your Land to Help Bees Thrive](#)

Yellow-legged (Asian) hornet update

As of 16th October, the Animal and Plant Health Agency's **National Bee Unit (NBU)** announced that they have received further credible reports of YLH's. This means that currently there has been a total of 519 sightings in 2025.

Situation to date:

- 149 nests
- 519 sightings
- 6 new nests this week
- Now more than double the 2023 & six times the 2024 nest totals
- 1 nest has now also been found in Dundonald, Northern Ireland

To view the latest incursion map visit [BBKA YLH Sightings Map](#)



Dates for the diary

BBKA National Honey Day
Tuesday 21st October

The National Honey Show
Thursday 23rd – Saturday 25th
October

**President's Evening &
Award Presentation**
Friday 14th November

Module Exams
Saturday 15th November

**Next BBKA Zoom Talk -
Becoming a honey judge**
Tuesday 18th November

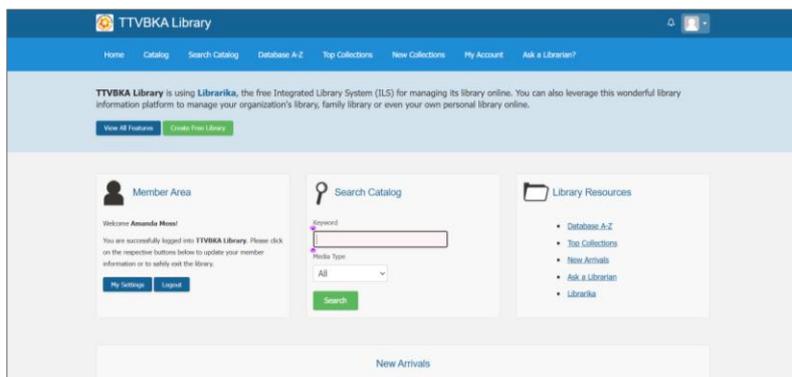
BBKA Spring Convention
17th -19th April 2026

**Subscribe to TTVBKA
Calendar**

TTVBKA Members Library

The Association library has been fully catalogued in **Librarika**, an integrated online library system and gives members a simple and convenient way to:

- Search the entire collection
- Reserve books ahead of time
- Share recommendations and leave reviews



To access the TTVBKA library you will need to set-up an Account

- Register for a new account here **Librarika: The Free Integrated Library System (ILS)**
- Receive verification email and verify the email address
- Log into **https://librarika.com/** using a new account.
- Click on **“Request Member Access”** button at **My Libraries** section.
- Enter full URL of the library **https://ttvbka.librarika.com** and submit the request.
- A notification will be sent to the librarian for a review and you will be notified when access is granted.

See the **Create Account** guide for full instructions.

TTVBKA Librarika User Guide

Library Access URL: **https://ttvbka.librarika.com**

We're currently trialling this system and welcome your feedback, email library@twickerbees.co.uk

Some people think that in this day and age of everything on the internet, there is little use for a library. However, others believe that there is even more need for a library precisely because everything is on the internet. By definition, it is often difficult, if not impossible, to assess the quality of what has been published online, whereas in our library the information has been carefully curated.

Combing through the news

A round up of Bee related news & research

Bumble bees pollinated linden flowers already 24 million years ago

An international research team has made an extraordinary discovery: fossilised lime blossoms and fossilised bumble bees were found in 24-million-year-old sediments at the Enspel Fossil-Lagerstätte

Swarm of 20,000 bees chase car for two days to rescue queen trapped inside

'The queen was trapped in my car and the swarm was following...'

Honeybees Use Dance To Understand Their Environment

What's in a waggle dance?

Impact of chronic exposure to field-level glyphosate on the gut microbiota of *Apis cerana* and *Apis mellifera*

Glyphosate (GLY) stands as one of the most extensively used pesticides globally. Results showed that a noticeable trend indicated that the gut of *A. mellifera* was more susceptible to GLY.

This Dog Assists with Bee Conservation — and Even Wears a Beekeeping Suit

Maple was formerly a K-9 police dog who helped search for missing people

Mānuka in meltdown as more honey firms fail

A meltdown in Mānuka honey processing is continuing through winter with the recent liquidation and receivership of two major.

Genetic Tools Boost Bee Activity

Australian researchers are delving into the secret life of bees in a quest to breed more resilient, productive and happy honey-makers.

How modern beekeeping is changing women's lives in Rwanda

Modern beehives, such as the Langstroth and the Kenyan Top Bar hives, are transforming the way beekeeping is practiced in Rwanda, particularly for women.

Natural antimicrobial drugs found in pollen could help protect bee colonies from infection

A honeybee hive, with its large stores of pollen, wax, and honey, is like a fortress guarding treasure: with strong defences, but a bonanza for enemies that can overcome those.

The woman who turns doomed bee swarms into thriving hives

Molly Earl rescues swarms of bees destined for extermination. Her reward? Buckets of golden honey so good, it's won awards

The global threats facing honey bees by Prof Peter Neumann

The later in a series of recordings from 2025 BBKA Spring Convention: is a talk by Prof Peter Neumann from the University of Bern in Switzerland.

Shared genetic mechanisms underpin social life in bees and humans

Some genes that influence sociability in honey bees have also been linked to social behavior in humans

Pollinators: Honey bees shift tolerance to attacks with seasonal decline in flower availability

A new study shows that, as floral resources decline over the season, honey bees gradually increase their tolerance to attacks when foraging.

Oxford chemists identify honey offering in a 2,500-year-old shrine

Researchers have solved a decades-old archaeological puzzle by re-investigating the molecular composition of an intriguing residue found in bronze jars excavated from a 6th century BCE shrine

The EU's 10% natural habitat target is insufficient for pollinator recovery

Bees, butterflies and other insects have too little natural habitat around them to survive, according to a new study published in leading international journal Science.

Bear-friendly honey certified with Chester Zoo support

Honey producers supported by Chester Zoo have been recognised for their role in protecting the rare Andean bear.

Honey bees can be used to monitor PFAS levels in the environment, new study shows

Honey bees can be used to monitor levels of PFAS in the environment, a new study from The James Hutton Institute and the University of Graz has shown.

Buzz Grows Around Beekeeping in Iceland

Beekeeping in Iceland has quietly grown in popularity over the past three decades, with more than 14 tonnes of honey harvested since continuous efforts began in 1998.

A Deep Look Into the Wild and Not-So-Wild World of Bumblebees

Over the past several decades the lives of the domesticated and native pollinators have increasingly overlapped

Insect Interactions: The Value of Engaging the Public with Ecology Research

Catherine Hurcombe speaks to Dr Thomas O'Shea Wheller about the role public engagement plays in his research on the behaviours of social insects, ranging from invasive hornet activities to working with the beekeeping industry.

Any other buzzness...

Earlier this year we ran a Members Prize Draw to win one of a pair of complimentary tickets to In Conversation at Kew Gardens. One of our lucky winner Simon, shared "Gill and I had a lovely day at Kew yesterday and the weather was good from late morning onwards when we arrived." Simon kindly shared some wonderful pictures he took on the day.



We would love to include more content from our members. If you would like to discuss an idea, drop us a line at newsletter@twickerbees.co.uk. We'd also like to hear your feedback on the newsletter including any topics you would like to see included. And don't forget to follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)!