

West Wilts BKA News

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



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Need to know **page 2**

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

Good to know **page 3 – 24**

The 'fun bits': news and reports.

Left: Honeybee on Michaelmas
Daisy

Well, that seems to be the end of the Bee and Honey Shows for this year, if you took part I hope you were satisfied with your results and are keen to participate again in 2026. If you didn't take part maybe you will give some thought to entering next year. Some event dates for 2026 are already published.

I hope that your winter preparations are all in order for your beehives. Did you find room to store all your kit away or are your sheds overflowing?

Many thanks to the following WWBKA members who have contributed to this edition, Gloria Pilz, Alan Ridout and Liz Gwinell. The next edition of the WWBKA Newsletter is to be published in January 2026. If the spirit moves you to write for the newsletter over the winter months your contributions will be gratefully received – please send your submission to the following email address Newsletter-WWBKA@outlook.com

DIARY OF EVENTS

November 2025

Monthly Meet up: The Pavilion Cafe, Thoulstone 1200 onwards on Saturday 1st November

Skittles: The Crown, Westbury Saturday 8th November (7pm)

West Wiltshire BKA AGM Heywood & Hawkeridge Village Hall, Westbury Road, Heywood, Westbury BA13 4LR, at 7pm on Monday 24th November 2025

December 2025

Monthly Meet Up: The Pavilion Cafe, Thoulstone 1200 onwards on Saturday 6th December

January 2026

WWBKA Annual Dinner: The Long's Arms, Steeple Ashton: Monday 26th January 2025: (menu and time to be confirmed – save the date!)

Monthly Meet Up: The Pavilion Cafe, Thoulstone 1200 onwards on Saturday 10th January

February 2026

Monthly Meet Up: The Pavilion Cafe, Thoulstone 1200 onwards on Saturday 7th February

Need to know

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Monthly meet ups at The Pavilion Cafe, Thoulstone 1200 onwards on 1st Saturday of the month (unless advised otherwise)

Monday 26th January dinner at The Long's Arms, Steeple Ashton – *further details of the WWBK annual meal will be communicated by email or through the WhatsApp group*

EDUCATION

BBKA November Talk: 'Becoming a Show Judge' Zoom link:

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

Meeting ID: 812 3381 9992 Passcode: 527929

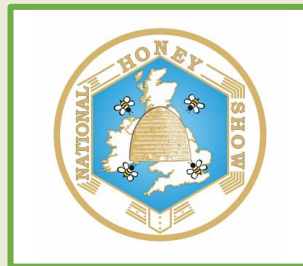
Basic Microscopy course The education officer for North Dorset beekeepers is running two basic microscopy days, one on the 10th Jan and one on the 11th Jan (2026). There are spaces left on each day. The cost of the course is £25. Interested members can contact Ron at ron202briggs@aol.com

Good to Know

Apiary News



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



Save the date!

THE NATIONAL HONEY SHOW

THURSDAY 22ND TO SATURDAY 24TH OCTOBER 2026

AT

SANDOWN PARK, ESHER, SURREY

Dear West Wiltshire Members -

This is notification of the West Wiltshire BKA AGM to take place at 7pm on Monday 24th November 2025 in the Heywood and Hawkeridge Village Hall, Westbury Road, Heywood, Westbury BA13 4LR where you are invited to attend as a Branch member.

Current Officers and Committee members have all offered themselves for re-election.

Only fully paid-up members will be eligible to vote at the AGM. **Zoom will not be available for the AGM as the hall does not have WiFi.**

We strongly encourage you to attend the AGM as it is the meeting where we not only review our annual activities and present awards and prizes, but also elect the Officers and Committee members for the coming year. Plus, this year, Liz Gwinnell will be giving a talk on beekeeping and mental health after the AGM.

Please get in touch with any queries.

Best wishes,

Amanda Leworthy

Secretary, West Wiltshire Beekeepers Association

Secretary-WWBKA@outlook.com



The post outlined below remains unfilled – we ask you again to consider taking on the role of County Secretary being relinquished by Amanda Leworthy at the WBKA AGM in February 2026.

Secretary Job Description

The Secretary of Wiltshire Beekeepers' Association becomes a Trustee and Officer of the charity (WBKA became a charity in April 2022). The standard term of office is 3 years.

An overview of the key tasks follows:

1. Organisation of quarterly Trustees meetings (currently held in March, June, September, and November) to include:

Booking the venue

Preparation of the agenda in consultation with the Chair

Collation and circulation of papers to the Trustees before the meeting

Writing and circulation of the minutes to the Trustees after the meeting

2. Organisation of the AGM held in January/ February to include:

As above, plus responsibility for counting any votes on the night.

3. Being the point of contact for the Charity Commission and updating details .

4. Monitoring the WBKA Secretary's Inbox regularly.

5. Liaison with the Trustees between meetings as required.

Amanda reassures us that the responsibilities listed above could be fitted into evenings and weekends.

Amanda is happy to discuss any aspects of the role in greater detail with interested parties.
Please contact Amanda at leworthya@gmail.com to arrange a phone call.



Plant of the month: October: Elaeagnus - Initially spotted, the leaves of this popular evergreen shrub mature to a lustrous green, but always retain their silvery undersides. In autumn, small, but well-scented, creamy-white flowers open, filling the air with their delicious perfume.

Elaeagnus is a versatile, shade-tolerant plant, well suited to the shrub border, but also making a fine informal hedge. The foliage makes an excellent backdrop for ornamental plants and is also useful for screening or linking areas of the garden. It also tolerates dry soil and salt-laden coastal winds.

Caring for Elaeagnus: Plant in well-drained soil in sun or partial shade. These tough evergreens tolerate poor soils, coastal conditions, and wind exposure once established. Water regularly in the first season to establish, then only in prolonged dry spells, as mature plants become more drought-tolerant.

Feed in spring with a balanced fertiliser to support healthy foliage growth. To keep hedging specimens tidy, cut back long or misplaced shoots with secateurs in late summer. Remove any plain green-leaved shoots promptly, cutting them back to the point of origin (just above a strong growing point) to preserve variegated forms.

After flowering in mid-summer, reduce the flowered shoots to strong buds or younger lower growth. Apply a 5-7cm (2-3in) mulch of well-rotted compost or manure after pruning to conserve moisture and enrich the soil.

Eventual height: 4m, Eventual spread: 4m, Position: Full sun / light shade, Average rate of growth:

Soil: Moderately fertile, moist, well-drained soil Hardiness: Fully hardy



Buy oleaster (syn. Elaeagnus × ebbingei) Elaeagnus × submacrophylla

Late Swarms - Alan Ridout has kindly offered the following contribution.

In his own words...

"This year has certainly been one I shall not forget. It started off with me collecting what must be the biggest swarm I have collected in 30 or so years of beekeeping. It was so big it only just fitted in a commercial brood box – see the two pictures below.



I put this swarm on eleven frames of foundation and they 'pulled it all out' within a fortnight without me having to feed them. It went on after that to give me two full supers of honey. At the other end of the season, I was called out to another reasonably sized swarm on 17th October! I would not have thought a swarm was possible this late in the year. This time I did not take a picture of the swarm hanging up but Alex took one just after they were shaken into a nuc box.

I had no drawn comb, so I put them on foundation in a six frame nuc box. Within 24 hours they took down a load of syrup so more was given to them.

(Late Swarms contd...)

The questions I have are: will they draw out enough comb to go through the winter? Will the queen successfully mate this time of the year? Will they build up enough to go through the winter? Normally I would have said no to all three questions, but this year has not been a normal year – so who knows? Only time will tell.

**BBKA November Talk:** 'Becoming a Show Judge'

The next in our series of Zoom talks will be 'Becoming a Show Judge' with Shirley Bond on **Tuesday 18th November 2025 at 7pm**. A recording of this talk will be available afterwards on the learning platform, along with recordings of all previous talks, for those unable to watch live.

'Shirley is a Master Beekeeper, BBKA Show Judge and Chair of the BBKA Exam Board. She is involved in teaching beekeeping and associated skills at local and national levels. Shirley has won prizes in shows at local, regional, and national levels including prizes at the National Honey Show for honey vinegar.'

Zoom link:

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

November recipe of the month: Spiced date and honey ginger cake

Please read my notes on the following page before baking.

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 cups plain flour
- 1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 1/2 tsp ground ginger
- 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp ground cloves
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil or melted butter
- 3/4 cup brown sugar, packed
- 2 large eggs
- 1/2 cup honey
- 1 tbsp freshly grated ginger
- 1/2 cup hot water
- 3/4 cup chopped Medjool dates (if using dried dates, soak in hot water 5 minutes before using, then



Method

1. Preheat oven to 350°F (175°C). Grease and line an 8-inch round cake tin.
2. Sieve baking powder, salt, ground ginger, cinnamon and cloves in a medium bowl,
3. Whisk oil (or melted butter) with brown sugar and eggs until smooth, in large bowl, Stir in honey and freshly grated ginger.
4. Gradually mix dry ingredients into the wet ingredients. Add hot water and stir until just combined. Fold in chopped dates.
5. Pour the batter into the prepared pan and smooth the top.
6. Allow the cake to cool in the pan for 10 minutes, then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.

(November recipe of the month contd...)

This cake is as good as I thought it might be – but a few things to mention.....

This made a VERY wet batter – I was more than a little worried when I made this last night for the first time!

The recipe suggests baking at a temperature of 350°F (175°C) for 35–40 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the centre comes out clean.

Knowing that using honey as an ingredient causes browning very quickly, I lowered the oven temperature to 160 degrees F, put the cake on a low shelf and in fact my cake baked for 1 hour 20 minutes until it was cooked. When I checked at 50 minutes the mixture in the tin was obviously very wet and needed much longer in the oven. I held my nerve and placed a couple of sheets of paper over the top of the tin (like you might do when you are cooking a Christmas cake) for the last 20 minutes to stop the cake from burning.

This cake is an “easy make” – assemble your ingredients first and it’s a two bowl “mix” and then “combine” – just hold your nerve while you are baking! It is really nice with a dollop of Greek yoghurt on it – clotted cream is also suggested, but that might be a bit rich for me. Let me know how you get on.



The Wiltshire Bee and Honey Day in Devizes – did you go?

Were you able to visit the Wiltshire Bee and Honey Day in Devizes? Did you put forward entries? I hope you found the experience interesting and successful.

Here is the date for next 2026 – add it to your calendar today.

Wiltshire Bee & Honey Day 2026

Saturday, 10 October 2026 – 10am to 4pm

A fantastic day out for people thinking about taking up beekeeping, as well as old hands who want to learn a whole lot more. Incorporates the County Honey Show.

Entry: FREE. No tickets required. Seating in talks: first come, first seated.

Location: **The Devizes Corn Exchange, Market Place, Devizes SN10 1HS.**



If you would like to see more photos of the day please use the following link - the newsletter only supports a limited volume of images

<https://www.wiltshirebeekeepers.co.uk/events/wiltshire-bee-honey-day/>

Visitors to the event were able to enjoy the following fascinating presentations:

Marin Anastasov: Honey bees – 130 million years in the making

Stephen Fleming: Understanding and combating the yellow-legged hornet threat, with a look at the latest technology making tracking easier

Richard Rickitt: Thinking of becoming a beekeeper? How to get started

Roger Patterson: The Patterson Unit – a very different way of managing an apiary



Here are some results from the Wiltshire Bee and Honey Day...

1. Novice or newcomer - one 454g (1lb) jar Run Honey any colour - **Jan Mojsa 3rd**.
2. Novice or newcomer - one 454g (1lb) jar Set Honey – **Jan Mosja 2nd**.
3. Young members - one 454g (1lb) jar of honey, any type
4. Light run honey- two 454g (1lb) jars **Alan Ridout 2nd, Ruth Watt 3rd, Donald Watt Highly Commended.**
5. Medium run honey - two 454g (1lb) jars **Alex Sparke 2nd, Ruth Watt 3rd, Elaine Mairis Commended.**
6. Dark run honey - two 454g (1lb) jars **Elaine Irvine 1st**.
7. Soft set honey - two 454g (1lb) jars, creamed or naturally granulated
8. Three matching 454g (1lb) Jars of Honey, any colour, set or run, with own labels for sale **Daniel Young 2nd, Alan Ridout Highly Commended.**
9. Chunk honey - one 454g (1lb) jar **Daniel Young Highly Commended.**
10. Cut comb, one container, minimum gross weight, 226g (8oz) **Tom Kenyon Highly Commended.**
11. One section of comb honey (round/square)
12. Shallow frame of comb honey for extraction **Daniel Young 3rd**.
13. Taste and aroma class, one 454g (1lb) jar run honey **Daniel Young 2nd**.
14. Four beeswax blocks, 27-29g (1 oz) **Gloria Pilz 1st, Chris Rawlings 2nd, Liz Gwinnell Commended.**
15. Cake of beeswax, min 227g (8oz) **Daniel Young 1st, Donald Watts 2nd, Ruth Watt 3rd**.
16. Pair of natural beeswax candles, dipped or dripped **Chris Rawlings 3rd**.
17. Pair of natural beeswax candles, moulded or cast **Elaine Mairis 2nd, Chris Rawlings 3rd**.
18. Pair of natural beeswax candles, rolled, colouring permitted **Elaine Irvine 2nd**.
19. 1-5 stems of beeswax flowers **Gloria Pilz 1st, Daniel Young 2nd**.
20. Artistic display of beeswax flowers **Sue Rawlings 1st, Daniel Young 2nd**.
21. Beeswax furniture polish **Elaine Mairis 1st, Daniel Young 2nd, Chris Rawlings 3rd**.
22. Beeswax furniture cream **Gloria Pilz 1st, Elaine Mairis 3rd**.
23. Two beeswax wraps **Elaine Irvine 1st, Liz Gwinnell 2nd, Amanda Leworthy 3rd**.
24. Bottle sweet mead **Ruth Watt 1st, Elaine Irvine 2nd, Chris Rawlings 3rd**.
25. Bottle dry mead **Chris Rawlings 1st, Alan Ridout 2nd, Elaine Irvine 3rd**.
26. Bottle fruit melomel **Elaine Irvine 2nd, Chris Rawlings 3rd**.
27. Bottle spiced metheglin **Chris Rawlings 1st, Elaine Irvine 2nd, Alan Ridout 3rd**.
28. Bottle Cyser **Elaine Irvine 1st, Liz Gwinnell 2nd, Alan Ridout 3rd**.
29. A counter display, minimum of three different products **Elaine Mairis 2nd**.
30. Display of six bee products **Elaine Mairis 2nd**.

(Results from the Wiltshire Bee and Honey Day contd...)

31. Six Cornish Honey Fairings **Sue Rawlings 3rd**

32. Six Honey Sweets **Gloria Pilz 1st Amanda Leworthy 2nd Elaine Mairis 3rd**

33. Honey Cake **Elaine Mairis 1st, Sue Rawlings 2nd, Amanda Leworthy Highly Commended.**

35. Photo: In or about the hive / apiary **Elaine Mairis 2nd Elaine Irvine 3rd**

36. Photo: a series of 3-5 photographs on any subject pertaining to bees, beekeeping or pollinators

TOTALS		1 ST	2 ND	3 RD	HC	C	TOTAL POINTS
	KBKA	15	3	5	3	2	56
	MBKA	2	6	2	1	0	20
	SDBKA	1	1	1	1	0	6
	WWBKA	18	23	18	7	2	118



For a rolling update on the Yellow Legged Asian Hornet, please use the following link...

<https://www.nationalbeeunit.com/about-us/beekeeping-news/yellow-legged-hornet-2025-rolling-update>



Over the coming winter months (from Wiltshire Beekeepers website)

<https://www.wiltshirebeekeepers.co.uk/jobs-for-the-year/>

November/December

- Heft every fortnight to check bees have adequate stores – prolific queens may lay through the winter so the bees will get through a lot of food. Feed fondant if necessary.
- Check entrance for dead bees.
- Check for hive damage especially after poor weather.
- Prep kit for next year.

December

- As November.
- Monitor for varroa.

December/January

- When brood nest is at its very smallest (towards the end of a spell of very cold weather) carry out oxalic acid varroa treatment.
- Review past year's activity and plan for coming year.

January/February

- Continue to heft every two weeks and feed fondant if necessary.
- Clear entrances of any dead bees (and snow).
- Watch for bees bringing in pollen on warm days – a sign that the queen is laying.
- Check for any damage to hives – e.g. rot, green woodpecker.
- Reposition hives within you apiary in cold weather – but not in temperatures below 10°C or bees falling off the cluster may not have the warmth in their bodies to return to it.
- Kit repair.

The National Bee Unit fact sheet on hive cleaning (link below) gives useful information on how to keep equipment free of pathogens

https://www.nationalbeeunit.com/assets/PDFs/3_Resources_for_beekeepers/Fact_Sheets/Fact_16_Hive_Cleaning_and_Sterilisation_english.pdf

Well done Tom!

Congratulations on the appointment of Tom Henyon on his appointment as Wiltshire County and Branch Yellow Legged Asian Hornet (YLAH) Lead



BELOW - ANOTHER DATE FOR YOUR DIARY



3-Day Convention & Saturday Trade Show

LECTURES – WORKSHOPS & SEMINARS – TRADE SHOW – SOCIAL EVENTS

Friday 17 – Sunday 19 April 2026

Harper Adams University, Shropshire TF10 8NB

For the latest information and updates visit: www.bbka.org.uk/springconvention
or email scenquiries@bbka.org.uk



Spring 2026
Convention



BOOKINGS OPEN IN JANUARY



The following account of the National Honey Show at Sandown Park has kindly been sent to the newsletter by **Gloria Pilz**.

"The much-anticipated annual National Honey Show took place at Sandown Park Racecourse in Esher. What an educational and unforgettable experience! There were many fascinating lectures and workshops to choose from, not to mention spending time admiring the impressive array of entries (I heard there were over 2,000). One of the highlights for me was the cheese and honey tasting workshop – pairing of 5 different types of cheese and honey. The combinations suggested were not ones I had considered before, for example, blue cheese and ivy honey. Who would have thought that works? Incredibly, it does.



It was also a wonderful opportunity to meet beekeepers from other counties, countries and Wiltshire. If you have not considered attending the show, I do urge you to give it a go next year."



Gloria Pilz

Here's a treat for you – Liz Gwinnell's first prize winning essay from the National Honey Show

Swarm Control

In the 1978 film, *The Swarm*, starring Michael Caine and Olivia de Havilland, a swarm of killer bees loaded with deadly venom, terrorises America, attacking at random and even causing a train crash. It is perhaps films like this, and emotively worded reports in the media, which makes some people terrified of swarms of honeybees.

In June 2023, a bar in Glasgow was “forced to close” after a swarm of honeybees settled on a wheelie bin outside the premises. The Scotsman newspaper reported how staff were “forced to flee” and were eventually able to wheel the bin away from the entrance and “barricade” it from the public as if they had embarked on a daring and dangerous mission worthy of James Bond.

2025 has seen bees swarming earlier than usual, possibly due to the early warm Spring and the abundance of food available to honeybees and other pollinators. In Telford on Saturday 16th June, a row of shops including the fast-food outlet Greggs, was cordoned off due to a swarm of bees landing in the vicinity. There are many similar stories.

So, what exactly is the truth? Will a swarm of bees sting us to death? Is it dangerous? Should we be afraid of it? Or should we marvel instead at this incredible act of nature? The British Beekeepers Association advises that if a swarm settles in someone's garden or near a house or place of work, pets and children should be kept away from it and no one else should go near it. Instead, the finder should contact their local beekeepers' association which will have a list of swarm collectors who can come out and remove it if its position safely allows them to do so. If it is in a difficult place such as on a roof or inside a chimney, the beekeeper

(Swarm Control contd...)

will advise them to contact a pest control agency.

So why do bees do this? Why do they swarm and terrorise populations?

Firstly, they do not deliberately set out to terrorise. When a hive swarms, the last thing on its mind is to attack innocent members of the public. Honeybees sting to defend their hive and their colony: when they are in a swarm they are in transit to a new hive and have nothing to defend. This means that unless they are unnecessarily provoked, they are highly unlikely to sting.

Swarming is a natural instinct of the honeybee and is their way of reproducing. A honeybee colony in the height of summer will typically contain about 60,000 honeybees and when they consider they are outgrowing their home, they will make a collective decision to leave and find another one. This means that the queen and half of the flying bees will set off to find a new home where they can build up a new colony. The colony left behind will produce a new queen and build up all over again.

The first stop for a swarm of honeybees will be something that to them, looks like a tree. Trees were the natural homes of the honeybee before the modern beekeeper put them in wooden boxes. This is why so many are found clustered on dark wheelie bins, fence posts or washing lines: to the honeybee they look like a tree. Here they will rest, protecting their queen and hanging on to each other by their legs until scout bees confirm that a new, permanent home has been found. At that stage they will move on.

Honeybees typically swarm on a warm sunny day between 11am and 4pm from May to the end of July although it can be earlier or later than this if, like this year, the Spring is early

(Swarm Control contd...)

and warm and/or the summer long and hot. A swarm of bees can invoke fear or wonder as they fly in a large dark cloud to their temporary resting place where, within fifteen minutes of landing, they will settle.

Many swarms do not make it to their new home. They are extremely vulnerable at such times having left the safety of their old hive. As well as the usual hazards of flying in bad weather or being eaten by birds, humans often react in all sorts of ways to a swarm such as throwing buckets of water over it or even worse, petrol. It is wise to be cautious for multiple stings can be problematic and for those allergic to bee stings, anaphylactic shock can be fatal but there is no need to harm the bees. All someone needs to do is ring a local beekeeper who will address the situation with calmness and know what to do for the welfare of the bees and the safety of all concerned. Instead of fear, the sight of a swarm should be marvelled at as a wonderful example of nature in action, of honeybees moving to a new home.

There will always be films which seek to instil fear or sensational reports in the media which portray swarms as apocalyptic or filled with murderous intent. Nothing could be further from the truth: the honeybee in a swarm is focused on all the other honeybees in the swarm; on the survival and welfare of their queen and on finding a new home. Just before leaving their old home, they will have eaten as much honey as possible to sustain them on their journey which makes them less agile and less likely to sting.

So, if you find a swarm of bees on your wheelie bin or outside a bar or restaurant, telephone a local beekeeper. The swarm will be collected and taken into the care of someone who

(Swarm Control contd...)

knows what to do with it and thus ensure the survival of the migrating colony rather than leaving it to survive the vagaries of nature – and the often extreme reactions of the human being.



Picture from Facebook: author unknown

Liz Gwinnell Thanks for allowing us to print this Liz – congratulations and well done.



Results from The National Honey Show, Sandown Park 2025 (Sourced from internet)

Class 94: Metheglin or Hippocras Dry or Sweet Chris Rawlings 2nd

Class 81: An Artistic Display of Beeswax Flowers Sue Rawlings 1st

Class 152: A Short Article on An Aspect of Honeybee Life Liz Gwinnell 1st

Class 155: Limerick about Bees or Beekeeping Gloria Pilz 3rd

Class 156: Newsletter – Wiltshire Beekeepers (Honeybee Times) Liz Gwinnell 3rd

Class 186: Box of Honey Sweets and/or Chocolates (gift) Gloria Pilz 3rd

Class 248: Sweet Mead (one bottle) (NHS member only) Chris Rawlings 2nd

Class 131: A Practical Invention related to bees or beekeeping Gloria Pilz VHC

You can use the following link for more opportunities to view the National Honey Show Activities [National Honey Show - YouTube](#)



Instead of our usual pollinator of the month spot I thought “**How to Support Winter Pollinators**” might be appropriate for a change....

Pollinators face many challenges in winter, with resources becoming scarcer. Here are some ways you can help them thrive during the colder months:

Plant Winter-Blooming Flowers

Flowers like witch hazel, snowdrops, crocuses, and hellebores provide much-needed nectar for pollinators during late fall and early spring.

Provide Shelter

Bee houses, bumblebee hives, and other insect refuges can help pollinators survive the cold. Leaving deadwood or leaf litter in your garden can also provide shelter for bees and other insects during the winter months.

Avoid Pesticides

While you might not be using pesticides in winter, it's important to minimize their use year-round. Even small doses of pesticides can harm pollinators, disrupting ecosystems and killing beneficial insects.

Create a Pollinator-Friendly Habitat

Designing a garden with diverse plants that bloom at different times, sources of water, and safe shelters for insects can make a big difference. Native plants, in particular, are well-

(How to protect winter pollinators contd...)

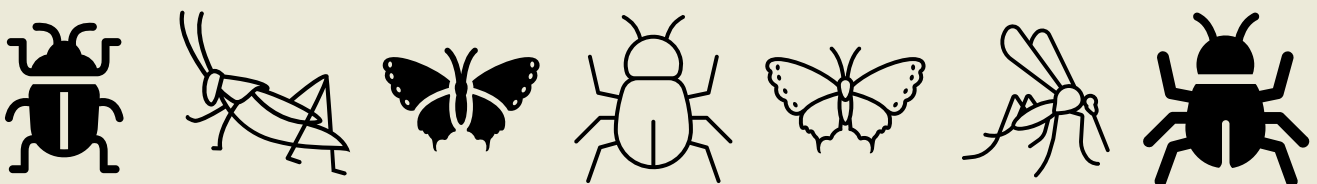
Provide Fresh Water

Pollinators need water throughout the winter. You can help by placing shallow dishes of water near pollinator-friendly plants or adding birdbaths with rocks or sticks to help pollinators land and drink.

While winter might seem quiet in the garden, it's still a critical time for pollinators. Honeybees, bumblebees, flies, moths, and even some birds remain active, ensuring plants continue to be pollinated and ecosystems stay healthy. By creating pollinator-friendly environments and supporting these resilient creatures, we can help them survive through the harsh winter months and continue their important work when warmer weather returns. With a little care, we can ensure that winter pollinators thrive, benefiting both nature and the crops that depend on them throughout the year.

<https://pollinatorpioneers.org.uk/which-pollinators-are-active-when-the-temperatures-drop/>

Source accessed 31/10/2025



An ideal birthday gift for your nearest and dearest?



(A Christmas gift maybe – December is not too far away).



HAVE YOU GOT YOURS YET?

Did you know members wanting to buy WWBKA clothing can order directly from the suppliers - the link to ordering clothing is “live” on the shop website.



Any of the four Beekeeper Products (Fleece, Sweatshirt, Polo Shirt and Cap) are available to order from the OHM website using the following link:

<https://ohmclothing.co.uk/shop/workwear/wiltshire-beekeepers/>

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

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

Customer Support - Devizes | OHM Clothing Ltd and OHM Charities

01380 825355

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

Shop: 31 Sheep Street, Devizes, SN10 1DJ

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



Wiltshire Beekeepers
West Wiltshire
Beekeepers Association
Unisex Polo Top

£16.19



Wiltshire Beekeepers
West Wiltshire
Beekeepers Association
Unisex Sweatshirt

£25.79



Wiltshire Beekeepers
West Wiltshire
Beekeepers Association
Cap

£10.19



Wiltshire Beekeepers
West Wiltshire
Beekeepers Association
Unisex Fleece

£33.79

Beekeeping supplies.



For Your Beekeeping Supplies

Your local supplier providing a service for:

- All Thorne's supplies
- BBWear suits – try before you buy
- Second hand kit bought and sold
- Available to attend your association, apiary meetings
 - Supporting Trainers, Improvers, Newbies
 - Payment by BACS, card, cash, cheque
 - Deliveries – subject to distance, order size

Please email your order or phone so we can arrange an appointment for you to visit to discuss what you need.

sales@thebeedepot.com

07879 811967

01373 430458

Diane Sleigh

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

Contacts and services

Contact details for committee and officers

WWBKA President: President-WWBKA@outlook.com

WWBKA Chair: Chair-WWBKA@outlook.com

WWBKA Treasurer: Treasurer-WWBKA@outlook.com

WWBKA Secretary: Secretary-WWBKA@outlook.com

WWBKA Apiary Manager: Apiary-WWBKA@outlook.com

WWBKA Honey Show Secretary: HoneyShow-WWBKA@outlook.com

WWBKA Membership Secretary: Membership-WWBKA@outlook.com

WWBKA Asian Hornet Action Team Coordinator: AHAT-WWBKA@outlook.com

WWBKA Newsletter Editor: Newsletter-WWBKA@outlook.com

Services available to members

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

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

Secretary-WWBKA@outlook.com

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

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

[WWBKA@outlook.com](mailto:Secretary-WWBKA@outlook.com)

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

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

Find us on  :West Wiltshire Beekeepers Association