

Dear Member,

Our March meeting:

**Thursday 5th March. Kilmington Village Hall 7.30 pm**

Liz Westcott will give her talk on **Hive Products**- How to prepare honey and beeswax to a good standard for 'showing', or for making candles, 1oz blocks or a cake of wax as well as preparing honey for the show table, together with pointers on how to achieve success at your local honey show. (Beginners, a good opportunity to meet more beekeepers).

If this is the year you'd like to enter something in the Devon Show or Honiton Show then this is for you.

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**HONITON SHOW VOLUNTEERS** 🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷

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**This is the first call for all those of you wanting to steward in the Bees and Honey tent at the Honiton Show this year. THURSDAY 6TH AUGUST. A great opportunity for beginners too. A shift is circa three hours and can be anything from representing us on the information displays, to candle rolling, to talking about live bees and more. It's a great day and once your shift is done, you are free to explore the whole show for the rest of the day, as your reward for stewarding is your free entry ticket. Please inform Keith ([charandale@gmail.com](mailto:charandale@gmail.com)) as soon as possible if you would like to offer your services. Thank you.**

**Beginners**

Our class of 2026 has now enjoyed four theory sessions and time is marching on ! If anyone would like to offer their services as a mentor or bee buddy for our newbies we'll be pleased to hear from you. We need you please. Think back to those first days when you were the new beekeeper on the block and needed some reassurance. You will be welcomed.

**Situation Vacant - Branch Secretary East Devon Beekeepers**

Nine months left now in which to train up a replacement branch secretary before the Nov 2026 AGM. No one has come forward as yet. I'm ready and waiting to advise and ease someone into the role. I will carry on as Membership Secretary so that can be taken out of the equation. Looking forward to hearing from just one keen and eager applicant! 📝📞💻✍️

**Skep Workshop**

Great fun, hard work, patience! Huge thanks to Sue Stokes for organising a skep making workshop at the beeshed. Well done everybody.

Use the link to see a full report from Sue and more photos which John has posted on the branch website [https://www.eastdevonbk.co.uk/?page\\_id=391](https://www.eastdevonbk.co.uk/?page_id=391)

And we're in the March edition of *Beekeeping*.



The skep makers hard at work

## **BASIC ASSESSMENT**

Have you kept bees for a year? If so, now is the time to think about studying for your Basic. This takes the form of teaching sessions on Zoom with Nick, John and Richard. They are well practised in teaching you the syllabus and we have a 100% pass rate!! Practically every scenario you might come across in the hive is discussed and you will find by the end you have really extended your own knowledge and understanding of your own beekeeping. Now isn't that something you are striving for?

### **Then what happens?**

We'll give you a practice run when you can handle frames and talk to an experienced beekeeper about what you are seeing and what, if anything, you are going to do as a result of your observations.

### **And the Assessment?**

It is not an exam. There is nothing to write. No papers to read. It is totally oral and one to one. The assessment is held at Hunthay at the branch apiary and involves opening a hive while describing what you see while answering a few questions. Usually a bee inspector (a very friendly one!) carries out the assessment and everyone who has done it has always really enjoyed the experience. It lasts up to an hour and you make a frame as well.

There is an entrance fee involved, but to encourage you to take up the offer the branch will reimburse your payment. If you want to go ahead, please let me know asap.

Reminder for next month: Richard Simpson will give his talk on Using Bait Hives on Thursday 2nd April.

## **SWARMS**

A reminder that the procedure for the request for swarms will appear in the April Buzzmail. Meanwhile the beginner requests are being processed first as they have priority.

## ***Beekeeping March magazine***

This month's issue has Yellow Legged Asian Hornet info.

I have been requested by BBKA to pass the following onto all our members:

**BBKA March Zoom Talk:** 'Yellow-legged Asian Hornet' with Lucie Chaumeton on Tuesday 17th March 2026, 7pm.

Lucie is a BBKA Trustee, Vice Chair of the YLAH Committee and AHAT Coordinator for North London Beekeepers. She will be covering YLAH awareness, spring trapping and monitoring.

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

Meeting ID: 812 3381 9992 Passcode: 527929

A recording of this talk will be available on the BBKA Member Hub.

**That's a lot of items this month (if you've got this far). Make contact if you need any further info.**

Val 🐝

**Contacts:**

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