Buzz - November 2026

Welcome!

Welcome to our new style Buzz monthly newsletter! This is a special edition to introduce you to our **3 new Officers** recently elected at the Branch's Annual General Meeting (AGM), and to remind you of our upcoming **Christmas event**.



Nigel Boulton, Chair (chair@edbk.co.uk)

Having spent the last year as the Vice Chair I was delighted and honoured to be elected as the Chair of East Devon Beekeepers at the AGM recently. I have been a beekeeper and member of our Branch for the last 15 plus years but now am able to take a more active role and to contribute far more to the Branch.

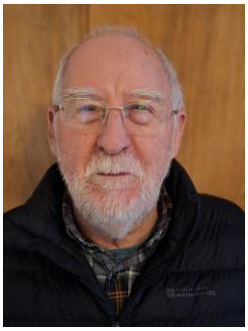
As your Chair I will also represent us at DBKA's Executive Committee, and I intend to chair the committee which prepares for our wonderful Honiton Agricultural Show. Learning the ropes last year with the Honiton Show team showed me just how much work is involved, as well as the commitment of the many people who get involved in its design and delivery on the day. It was hugely rewarding and I would urge you to get involved with the Show, or maybe with one of the many other events we attend as part of our public education program through the season. Getting involved and supporting the Branch as a member is really valued so please do not think it is just a *'committee thing'*.

I can see great opportunities for us as a Branch in 2027, and beyond, to build on the strong organisation we have in place to support all members with their apiculture practice and to educate the public about our ancient craft. There will be challenges too, not least the potential arrival of *Vespa Velutina* (Yellow Legged Hornet) which will affect us all. I will always welcome any ideas or suggestions so please feel free to email me.



Rhiannon Hodson, Secretary (secretary@edbk.co.uk)

I began my beekeeping journey during covid and am immensely grateful to the Branch for keeping me sane during lockdown, and for managing to deliver an excellent beginners course entirely on zoom! I have enormous shoes to fill replacing Val Bone, so please bear with me! Thank goodness I don't have bees at the moment! Outside beekeeping (is there a life outside beekeeping?!) I enjoy weight training, ballet and travelling to Australia. I live on East Hill just outside Ottery.



Andy Potter, Treasurer (treasurer@edbk.co.uk)

I first and briefly entered the fascinating world of beekeeping around 20 years ago. Living in Cheshire at the time, I did a course at Keele University and acquired a colony. Sadly, for personal reasons, I could only continue for one season. After retirement in 2021 I decided to try again, joining the EDBK course in 2023 and soon had three hives, in my front garden in Luppitt near Honiton. I agreed to stand as Treasurer on Keith Bone's retirement and will do my best to maintain the very high standards he's set over many years.

You can read more about what happened at our AGM on the website at AGM 05/11/2026 - East Devon Beekeepers

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Beekeepers Question Time!

Our next meeting at **7.30pm on Thursday 3rd December** will be our Christmas social evening at Kilmington Village Hall. Please do bring a plate of food!

As well as the ever popular Xmas raffle (do please bring cash!) there will be a Q&A session during which a panel of 4 of our more experienced members will attempt to answer your burning beekeeping questions. We would be most grateful if you do have a question, if you could send it to Nick Silver as soon as possible at silvernicholas@hotmail.com This will allow our experts to prepare beforehand, but of course it's not essential. The panel will happily take any question from the floor on the night. Beware, you might get four different answers! There will also be some new (and maybe not so new) beekeeping gadgets on display – perhaps just in time to make it onto your Christmas list!

And don't forget it is your final opportunity to pick up pre-ordered Oxalic Acid from Rosie! Cash only on the night please (£2 per hive and £1 per syringe).

The next Buzz will be with you in December.