



# Herefordshire Buzzword

Herefordshire Beekeepers Association

May 2023

Registered Charity No:1174917



## Events - May

### South LAN - Holme Lacy

Meetings are held each  
Tuesday 6:00 - 8:00 pm

**2<sup>nd</sup>** Swarm Control

**9<sup>th</sup>** Hive Types / Queen  
Rearing

**16<sup>th</sup>** Bailey Comb Change,  
Checking for QCs

**23<sup>rd</sup>** Shook Swarm,  
Introducing a New Queen

### East LAN

**16<sup>th</sup>** Much Cowarne,  
Marlene Hewitt

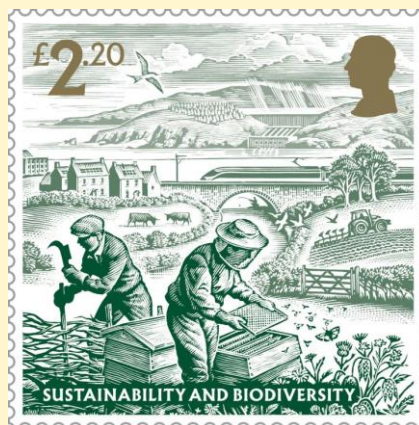
### North LAN

Thursdays at Throne Farm  
Weobley. 6.30 pm

**Watch your emails for details**

## Healthy Bee Day

Talk and demonstration by the  
NBU - Saturday **July 8th**  
Sutton St Nicholas village hall



Stamps issued to commemorate the coronation of King Charles III include one with a beekeeper with a WBC(?) hive.



"Of Honey Heaven Sent": An Illustrated  
History of Bees – Online course

Tuesdays and Thursdays : 18 & 20, 25 &  
27 July 2023, 3:30-5.00pm

An introduction to the cultural  
significance and representation of bees  
from Antiquity to the present day.

[Warburg Institute](https://www.warburginstitute.org/)

# LAN Meetings

**April is the cruellest month**, breeding  
Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing  
Memory and desire, stirring  
Dull roots with spring rain.

T.S. Elliot

And so it proved for bee keepers this year. Most LAN meetings were cancelled, but two went ahead

## South LAN meeting

Configuring the hives for spring was done swiftly on the first Tuesday meeting of the season. A short introduction to what the inside of a beehive looked like and how much fatter the drones were compared to worker bees, then the roof had to be replaced before the brood caught a chill. Hopefully by their next visit in May those who attended the Beginners' course will be able to linger longer in the apiary. For some it was the first time they had seen a colony quietly at work. Surely the sun must come out by May! It certainly was not swarming weather, but Andy Spanjers gave an entertaining talk on how to collect and hive a swarm.

We were not just allowed to sit back and eat cake, chatting amongst ourselves while Andy did the talking as prior to the meeting he had set out a list of true or false questions to test our knowledge. We were soon engaged in identifying the difference between solitary and eusocial bees, the safety and legal aspects of collecting swarms, at what height you can climb for your insurance to be invalid in the course of conducting tasks relating to your hobby, the equipment needed and timing of transport to an appropriate isolation location for two brood cycles to protect your other colonies from contagious infections, most notably AFB and EFB. As always, these convivial talks are a pleasant way to connect with friends over a warm cuppa in the evening but most importantly, we are reminded that beekeeping encompasses so many subjects.

Steve Utley &  
Janelle Quitman

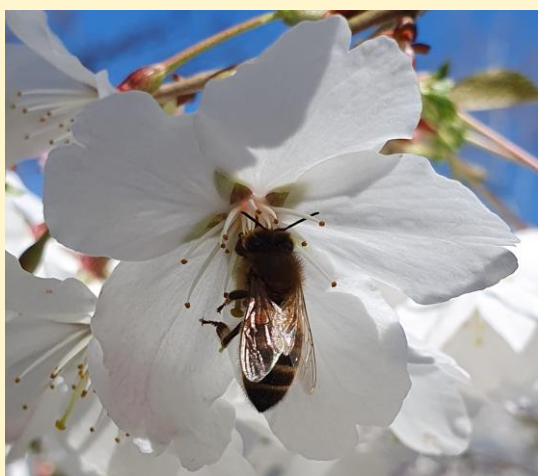
## North LAN meeting

The North LAN group had a very pleasant evening at Throne Farm Woebley on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April. The weather hasn't been kind to beekeepers this year, but the bees do not seem to have suffered and were well ahead with plenty of BIAS (Brood In All Stages), and drone brood plus emerged drones in several colonies. We added queen excluders and super boxes to most of the colonies, in readiness for the oil seed rape flow. Rihards demonstrated his method of swarm collection, and we discussed hiving a swarm.

We both use the same method of hiving a swarm - tipping the bees into a brood box of frames of foundation, first having taken five or six frames from the centre of the box. The frames are replaced on top of the bees, which will move out of the way as the frames gradually sink into the box. I usually put a queen excluder underneath for a couple of days. An empty super can be placed on top to act as a funnel, but this must be removed as soon as the bees are hived, and a crown board placed on top. If the bees need feeding this should not be done until they have been in the hive for 2 or 3 days, so that they use the honey they bring with them for comb building, reducing the chance of developing any disease they may carry. This may also help reduce the chance of the bees absconding after filling up with syrup.

We enjoyed coffee or tea and all appreciated the rhubarb cake Gita kindly provided.

Mary Walter



Prunus Incisa (the Fuji Cherry) gets its name from the the deep incisions on its leaves. This variety, 'The Bride', was selected from 'Pandora' seedlings at the Arboretum Kalmthout, Belgium. The floribund 'Pandora' was raised by Messrs. Waterer Sons and Crisp in England before 1939.

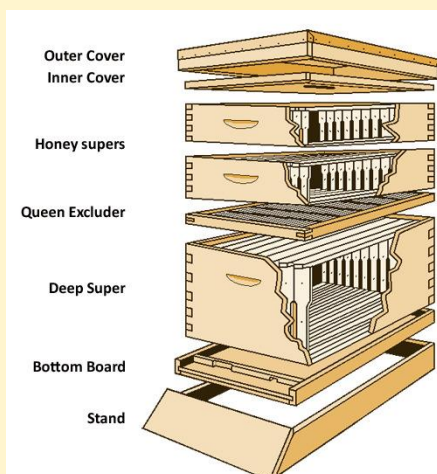
The National Collection of Japanese Flowering Cherries at [Batsford Arboretum](#) is worth a visit.

# Hive Types – Langstroth

Patented in 1852 by clergyman, Lorenzo Lorraine Langstroth, who is often considered to be the father of American beekeeping. The Langstroth is the most popular hive in the world, particularly in Australia and the United States where it is the favoured hive. Larger than a National, it is a rectangular 'box' hive which comes with a choice of an eight or ten frame version, although ten frame is generally the most popular, externally it measures 16" by just under 20". It consists of three sizes of boxes, Jumbo, Brood or Super (deep, medium or shallow in the US). The Jumbo (deep) is usually used as the brood box as when fully loaded it is very heavy weighing in at 80lbs, the brood (medium), can be used as brood or super. Frames are usually orientated the 'cold way', allowing air to flow through the brood chamber and also provides more direct paths to the comb, this was chosen because Lorenzo Langstroth observed that bees preferred to build comb this way in boxes.



The modern Langstroths have differences from the original patent as in the original the entrance used to include two traps to attract wax moths away from the entry. These were loosely mounted so that the beekeeper could remove them easily to destroy any larvae or pupae. Originally the bottom board was tilted so that any moisture would run away, now they have level bottom boards, they also had a piece of cloth mounted between two 'pegs' to act as a landing board.





#### Pros:

- Expandable – easy to add space, ie. more boxes.
- Removable frames – easy to inspect.
- Larger frames, so there is more honey per frame.
- Harvest honey without destroying bees.
- Frames can be used in an extractor, making it quick to extract honey.
- Larger brood boxes allow more room for queen. 61,400 worker cells, 2750 sq. in. brood area.

#### Cons:

- Very heavy when full! More strength needed when inspecting and removing boxes.
- The frames have small lugs for handling
- Larger than a bee's natural habitat.



We don't currently have any Langstroths in Holme Lacy apiary but several of our members do have and are happy with them. As usual with beekeeping, you may have some different views from the above points!



Steve Utley

## Three Counties Show

The Royal Three Counties show will be held at the Malvern Showground from June 16th-18th. We usually man a stall in the bees and honey marquee. If you can help volunteer to steward you will be very welcome and in exchange for a half day with the bees and the public we can issue you with a free entry pass. This is a major event and always good fun with plenty going on throughout the day.

A free pass is also issued to those entering four or more classes in the honey show. The schedule is on the website.

<https://showingscene.com/events/royal-three-counties-show-2023-jun-2023/bees-honey/classes>.

Entries need to be staged before 9am on the Friday, and collected on Sunday afternoon, but one of the committee could transport your entries as long as they are well packaged.

There is an online entry form, but you can use the old form which is less time consuming to complete. A copy of the form is attached to the Newsletter

Mary Walter

## Topical tip–May

The swarming season seems to have got off to an early start, so it is as well to decide how to prepare. It helps to have plenty of spare equipment. A bait hive works well if you are unable to manage weekly inspections. If you wish to control swarming it is useful to mark the queen if you come across her beforehand. I generally do a version of Pagden swarm control, but leave the queen in the original position with a minimal amount of brood, and shake some young bees in to accompany her.

It is important to go back into both boxes a week later and destroy all excess queen cells. The bees making a new queen should be left to get on with the job without disturbance, it is quite easy to lose a new young queen, or disturb her return from a mating flight.

Mary Walter

## Bob's Beelines



Not a good start to this season. The bees are very strong, oil seed rape and apples and pears are in flower, but the weather is not good for our bees to get out for very long to get nectar and pollen.

Most beekeepers, including myself, have only had a peep at our bees as it's too cold to inspect them properly. There is not much you can do about it just make sure they have enough food stores.

When the weather warms up, I think there will be a lot of swarms about so I hope you are prepared with empty hives.

### FOR SALE

Selling on behalf of a retired beekeeper

I 30lb s/s bottling tank £65-00

Strainaway bottling tank with strainer plastic £35-00

Double strainer s/s £15-00

Plus a lot of odds and ends

Bob and Kath Cross

01886 880 554

### FOR SALE

Green plastic Queen excluders

Previously deployed but clean, tidy, efficient and from a plague and pestilence free environment.

There are three available at £3 each

Collection from south of city

Martin Preece: 0754 388 9636

# Committee Members

**Chairman :** Tony Ravenhall

**Vice Chairman :** Deborah Smith

**Secretary :** Mary Walter

**Treasurer :** Roger Gill

**Membership Sec. :** Steve Utleby

**Committee:**, Rob Williams, Janelle Quitman, Val Lilwall, and Kate Nieveen

## **LAN CO-ORDINATORS**

**North LAN:** Mary Walter

**East LAN:** Sue Garrett

**South LAN:** Val Lilwall

**PATRON:** Councillor Ellie Chowns

To contact a member of the committee please look on our website for the appropriate email address: <https://www.herefordshirebeekeepers.org.uk/>

The Herefordshire Beekeepers Association is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Members of the committee are also trustees.

Further details at: <https://beta.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-details/?regid=1174917&subid=0>

If you have contributions to propose for this newsletter, please contact **Kirsten Ellerby** at: [news@herefordshirebeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:news@herefordshirebeekeepers.org.uk)



**If foul brood is suspected**, contact our Regional Bee Inspector (RBI),

- Jonathan Axe - Tel: 07867 151 641  
[jonathan.axe@apha.gov.uk](mailto:jonathan.axe@apha.gov.uk)

Or, during the season, a Seasonal Bee Inspector (SBI)

- Liz Gardner Tel: 07867 351610  
[elizabeth.gardner@apha.gov.uk](mailto:elizabeth.gardner@apha.gov.uk)

or

- Bronwen Hopkins - Tel: 07796 433 626  
[bronwen.hopkins@apha.gov.uk](mailto:bronwen.hopkins@apha.gov.uk)



ROYAL THREE  
COUNTIES SHOW

16 – 18 June 2023

Name	
Address	
	Postcode :
Tel No	Mobile :
Email	

[illegible]

<p><b>Do you require a free admission pass?</b></p> <p><i>NB: One free pass per entry form if 4 or more classes are entered.</i></p> <p><i>'No Show's' will be invoiced for tickets sent</i></p>	<p>Yes / No</p> <p>Day Required:</p>
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In making my entries, I declare that the exhibits have been produced by me from my bees (excluding classes B10, B11, B12, B35, B36, B40, B41). I agree to abide by the Show Regulations for the Bees and Honey Section of the Royal Three Counties Show 2023 which I have read and understood.

[ ] I agree that the Three Counties Agricultural Society can store my personal details and contact me via email or post for future bees and honey competitions at the Royal Three Counties Shows.

Signed :	Date :
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Entry form to be completed and returned to:  
 Bees & Honey Section, Royal Three Counties Show, The Showground, Malvern, Worcestershire,  
 WR13 6NW

**DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: 17 MAY 2023**