



# Herefordshire Buzzword

Herefordshire Beekeepers Association

August 2023

Registered Charity No:1174917



## Events - August

### South LAN - Holme Lacy

Meetings are held Tuesdays; 6:00 - 8:00 pm

1<sup>st</sup> Honey Show – how to show

8<sup>th</sup> Varroa treatments

15<sup>th</sup> Weekly inspections

### East LAN

17<sup>th</sup> Chris Lyons, Eastnor, Ledbury 6.30pm

### North LAN

Thursdays, Throne Farm Weobley. 6.30 pm

10<sup>th</sup> regular meeting

**Watch your emails for details**



By this time last year we had had one sighting of an Asian hornet in the UK during the year. So far this year we have had at least 13 credible sightings.

*Page 2 to learn more*

## Honey Show – 14<sup>th</sup> October

Schedule appended

## September

### Food Safety for the Beekeeper with Andy Pedley

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September, - 7pm

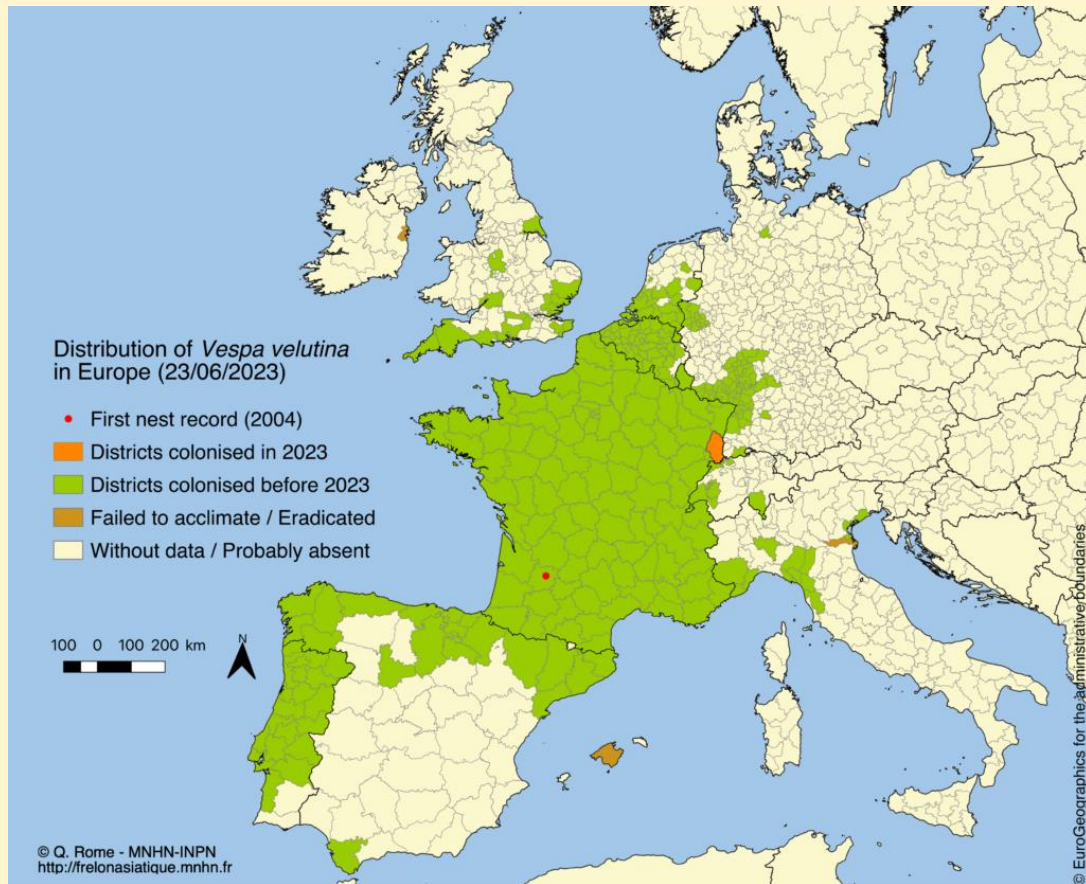
Sutton St Nicholas Village Hall HR1 3SZ.

*See page 7 for details*



Common wasp trying, and failing, to enter a Warré hive

# Asian Hornet Invasion



## What are they?

Invader originating from China.

Slightly smaller than the European Hornet. The give away is their yellow legs

## What do they do?

Bite the heads off honey bees.

They have destroyed hundreds of thousands of bee colonies in France

## What can I do?

Watch out for them: [How to spot them](#)

Trap them: [Make a trap](#)

Report them: [Online email](#) [Android](#) [iPhone](#)

[BBC 'Earth Unplugged' video on the Asian hornet](#)

# LAN Meetings

## East LAN

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July    Bishops Frome, courtesy of Tony Ravenhall

It turned out to be a very instructive session, but the weather forecast had been dire so only a few of us had turned up. Later the weather forecast turned out to be reasonably accurate and we ended up with brief spells covering out of the rain.



*Wax moth larvae and web on the varroa board*

Tony was down to two colonies having lost a couple earlier in the season. One major issue that he had encountered was varroa monitoring boards being resolutely stuck in the floors. With the assembled help we were able to prise them out, revealing useful evidence, most importantly of wax moth. As we

opened up the colonies this was confirmed by traces of them on the combs.

Queen cells also provided evidence of recent swarming, but the greatest worry going forward was a lack of stores. There were some fairly solid deposits of what was probably ivy honey, but these were not going to be of use to anyone.



*Trace of wax moth larvae in the comb, plus crystallised ivy (?) honey*



The emerging consensus was that the best way forward would be to consolidate the two colonies and with some heavy feeding, they should be in a good position to make it through the winter.



Dodging the rain once again we made it back to the house to discuss the options, to discuss apostrophes and to sorting out the world over tea and some excellent cakes. Thanks to Tony and his wife for looking after us, and to Bob Cross for putting us right.

## **South LAN** Clearing Supers and Extracting Honey

South LAN enjoyed a talk by Andy Spanjers on clearing supers and extracting honey. Planning, and using the right equipment, puts less stress on the bees and the beekeeper. Reducing the entrance size to guard against wasps and neighbouring robbing bees, using a honey refractometer to test moisture content (18% water as a target but not more than 20% [by law](#) - but heather honey can be up to 23% moisture), placing a clearer board or Porter bee escapes for moving bees down and providing enough space to house them. Work in the evening with a secure box for transport of capped, honey-filled supers.



Andy brought various pieces of equipment to demonstrate the theory of their uses, the importance of warming honey to the correct temperatures to avoid high levels of HMF and discussions followed on cleaning equipment and the honey room. The only stickiness on show was contained in a clear screw-topped jar of summer honey.

Being a food product, whether for sale or gifts, we should be aware of hygiene and UK regulations. This talk was a timely lead up to a presentation being given in September at Sutton St Nicholas.

Janelle Quitman

## Bee Basic Assessment Candidates July 2023

The main regulation of the practical side of the Bee Basic Assessment is to have available a queen-right colony to inspect.

Nothing in the rules is mentioned about weather! Once an agreed date and a qualified assessor is found, the day and activities are firmly fixed in the diary - no matter that the heavens might open. Which is exactly what the conditions were like on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July. Steve, our Apiary manager, had mowed the grass, readied the hives, and came armed with a very large umbrella in a sturdy stand to cover the candidates, assessor, and hive from the heavy rain.



All three candidates; John Moxley, Andy Hayward and Dave Taylor, are eminently competent beekeepers whose development has been observed at the apiary over the last twelve months and noted as well-prepared. The assessment is not an exam but when your capacity as a beekeeper is on show, nerves help focus the mind on what is expected. What all three candidates found surprising was how relaxed and helpful Jim, the assessor, was and how much they learned from him in the process of conversation during the inspection, assembling a brood frame and the question-and-answer time.

They all passed with flying colours, Jim stating that they were the best he has assessed to date. Thanks go to Steve Utley for his help in making the day go so well and all the beekeepers who regularly attend on Tuesdays, sharing their knowledge and help towards our three keen beekeepers achieving a successful outcome.

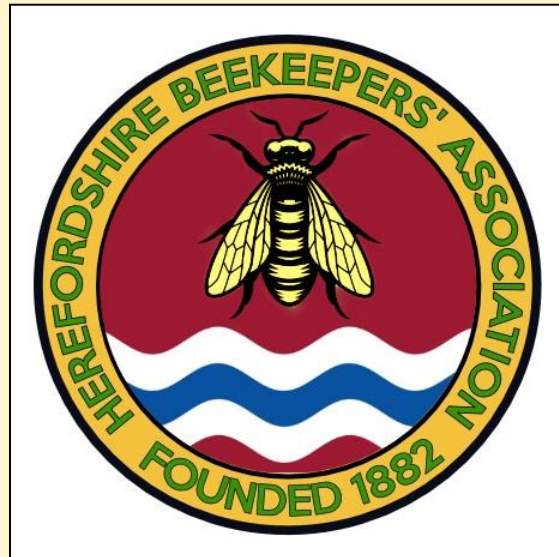
Janelle Quitman

## HBKA Logo design 2023

The Committee of HBKA is proud to announce that we now have an official logo for our Association.

Much thought went into the design, which not only needed to be eye-catching when it was printed on small and large items, but also have a recognisable clarity, together with relevance to the history of the Association (established in 1882), Herefordshire and of course bees.

Alfred Watkins, (27<sup>th</sup> January 1855 – 15<sup>th</sup> April 1935) born and bred in Herefordshire, was a founding member of the Hereford Beekeepers'



Association who, in a horse-drawn 'Bee Van', travelled around the county's villages, teaching the best methods of beekeeping. In the evening, these talks were illustrated with magic lantern shows. Watkins was a Herefordian businessman, photographer, author, self-taught amateur archaeologist, antiquarian, local politician and authority on beekeeping, as well as founder member and President of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club. He is famous for his work on ley lines. He was also passionate about preserving heritage buildings and was involved in protecting the Black and White House, now a museum in Hereford, as well as the Market House in Pembridge. Watkins loved the River Wye and was captain of the Hereford Rowing Club. He even named one of his prized flours (he owned a flour mill) Vagos, taken from the Roman name for river - Vaga, meaning 'wandering maiden'.

It was originally suggested at Committee meetings that we use one of Watkin's drawings of a bee as part of our logo but the detailed intricacies and the antiquarian appearance was not conducive to being reproduced exactly on a modern-day logo.

However, as you can see from the picture here, we do have an excellent bee and the symbolic rhythm of three lines depicting the River Wye as well as the colours of the Herefordshire flag.

We would like to thank our Chairman, Mr Tony Ravenhall, for his diligent work and much time spent in producing this very fine logo.

Your first sighting of the logo being used in its official capacity will be on the Certificates of Attendance at the Andy Pedley talk in September and also at the Annual Honey Show, held at Hellens Gardens, Much Marcle - in October - where it will be printed on our Prize Cards.

It is hoped that our logo on a cloth badge will follow, in 2024, to be stitched onto bee suits.

Janelle Quitman

## **Food Safety for the Beekeeper - Andy Pedley**

Andy will deal with the practical side of food safety as it applies to beekeepers, from the hive right through harvest and sale. He will deal with compound foods and allergens - this is not an opportunity to be sneezed at...so save the date in your diary now.

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2023 - 7pm for refreshments before 7.30pm prompt start. Sutton St Nicholas Village Hall HRI 3SZ.**

Andy has been keeping bees for 30 years, and as an Environmental Health Officer developed an interest in the law on food safety as it applies to beekeepers and honey production about 14 years ago, realising that there was a fair amount of misinformation and traditional, but not always good, practice, among beekeepers. In 2009, he authored a series in BeeCraft on the Food Safety Legislation and has authored other relevant articles for them too – on the Honey Regulations and recycling jars.

He has recently worked more on the nuts and bolts of food safety for bee keepers, and has presented talks on this, and the Food Safety Law as it applies to bee keepers at the National Honey Show workshops and to local associations. Northern Bee Books asked him to produce a book and this is now in print <https://www.northernbeebooks.co.uk/products/food-safety-for-beekeeper-pedley/>

Andy is currently the Training Apiary Manager for Oxfordshire BKA; this gives him responsibility for ten colonies there as well as his own seven in various apiaries around Oxfordshire.

Janelle Quitman



## Hive Types – Rose / OSB

Rose Hive occasionally known as OSB (One Size Box)

The Rose hive borrows its idea from how honeybees live in the wild. It is similar to other box hives except that instead of having two different size boxes (Brood and Super), there is just one size of box that can be used for either brood or honey.

The big benefit with this is that you allow for rapid brood expansion, there is no queen excluder so that means the queen can lay as many eggs as she is able.



When the box is checked and the brood chamber is expanding, just insert a new, empty box between the brood chamber boxes and the boxes containing honey. This will reduce their work as normally they would have to remove the cap of honey above the brood to expand.

Two Rose sized boxes are near enough equivalent to a National brood and a half. National parts such as floors, crown boards and lids will fit the Rose sized boxes. The side walls of the boxes are thinner than standard, allowing 12 frames instead of the normal eleven.



## Pros.

- With exception of frames/foundation other National parts will fit.
- Boxes, compatible and interchangeable, making splitting the hive for queen rearing, swarm control, etc, much simpler .
- Congestion in the brood nest is removed as there is no queen excluder to impede progress.
- Insertion of new boxes into the middle of the brood nest reduces the work the bees would have to do to expand the brood nest.



Pictures courtesy of [Kildare Bee supplies](#)

## Cons

- Unlikely to be able to buy bees on combs.
- Frames may not fit some extractors,
- Frames/foundation more expensive.

[Make your own Rose hive - video](#)

Steve Utley

## Healthy Bee Day – 8<sup>th</sup> July

It is not often (fortunately) that we get to see a real example of Foulbrood. This day about diseases and other issues was delivered to us by a team from the National Bee Unit. Very well presented, very informative and very interesting. More details in forthcoming issues of the newsletter.



## Topical tip– August

The wasps are out in force now, they are probably after anything sweet. Once queen wasps reduce their laying there are few larvae to reward the workers with a sweet reward. The poor weather and early flowering of the local forage plants means that food is in short supply for all nectar seeking insects. The best defence against wasp attack is a strong queen right colony, any small colonies can be united at this time of year using the newspaper method, after culling the unwanted queen. Failing that reduce entrances to a minimum. Once wasps find a way in they are almost impossible to deter.

If you are clearing supers you need to make especially sure that they are bee and wasp-tight. The photo shows the mayhem after robbers gained entry through an unsecure roof! Robbers can also find supers left uncovered so everything needs to be totally bee tight. I find a tea towel is just the right size to go under a spare crown board for added security.



*Evidence of robbing*

Some varroa treatments taint beeswax. If you plan to treat your bees and leave a super on for the winter, these need to be stored securely and given back to the bees after treatment. The only treatment I know of which can be used with supers in place are MAQS strips.

Mary Walter

## Bob's Beelines



Last July and August 2022 we had very high temperatures. I think it dried up the pollen and nectar. The bees had used up all their stores. Queens stopped laying - they then filled the brood chamber with ivy nectar. This nectar sets rock hard. In January the weather turned cold and the bees could not get out for water to dissolve the stores.

This meant they starved. In my mind I think that is why so many colonies were lost.

If we get high temperatures in August make sure your bees have plenty of stores to see them through till you feed them for the winter.

There have been reports of colonies being lost owing to wasps. Close the entrance down to about 15/20mm and get wasp traps out ASAP.

Do not forget your varroa treatment.

I give my bees a feed after I take the supers off and before I treat them. It does help.

That's all for now

Bob and Kath Cross - **01886 880 554**



On the right: ➡  
The sow thistle,  
*Sonchus arvensis*,  
attractive to bees  
but here with some  
hoverflies.



⬅ On the left:  
Illustration of a  
thistle from French Book of Hours, c.1440-1450, in  
the Morgan Library, MS M.358 fol. 22r



## Committee Members

**Chairman :** Tony Ravenhall

**Vice Chairman :** Deborah Smith

**Secretary :** Mary Walter

**Treasurer :** Roger Gill

**Membership Sec. :** Steve Utleay

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

### **LAN CO-ORDINATORS**

**North LAN:** Mary Walter

**East LAN:** Simon

**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), **Note: New temporary RBI**

- Mark McLoughlin (cover) Tel: 07500 891425  
[mark.mcloughlin@apha.gov.uk](mailto:mark.mcloughlin@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)

# HBKA ANNUAL HONEY SHOW SCHEDULE 2023

October 14th 2023

Hellens Manor, Much Marcle, Ledbury HR8 2LY

JUDGE: Rebecca Day

JUDGE'S STEWARDS:

SHOW SECRETARY: Val Lilwall

## Class Descriptions

*Exhibitors are strongly advised to study carefully the Schedule, General Notes and Show Rules set out below. Failure to observe these may result in an entry's non-acceptance or disqualification.*

1.	One container of cut comb with liquid honey in the cells (7-9oz in weight)
2.	Two 1 lb jars of Light Liquid Honey
3.	Two 1 lb jars of Medium Liquid Honey
4.	Two 1 lb jars of Dark Liquid Honey
5.	Two 1 lb jars of Naturally Granulated Honey
6.	Two 1 lb jars of Creamed/Soft Set Honey
7.	Two 1 lb jars of Chunk Honey
8.	<b>Novices only</b> – Two 1 lb jars of Honey (Liquid, Granulated or Soft Set) (See Rule 6)
9.	<b>Blind Tasting:</b> (See Rule 7) a) one jar of Liquid Honey. b) one jar of Naturally Granulated, Creamed or Soft Set Honey
10.	One Super Frame ready for extraction displayed in a show case.
11.	One Super Frame, marked 2023, supplied by HBKA
12.	One plain cake of Beeswax weighing 7-9oz (200-255g) with a minimum thickness of ¾" (18mm)
13.	Five Beeswax Blocks each weighing approx. 1oz (27g)
14.	One bottle of Dry Mead.
15.	One bottle of Sweet Mead.
16.	One bottle of honey beverage to be displayed in any size clear glass bottle with removable cork, screw top or cap. (See Rule 8)
17.	Three single items of products of the hive. (see Rule 9)
18.	<b>LAN Challenge</b> A collective display of Products of the Hive with the theme of Beekeeping and Medicine, no more than three items being produced by any one LAN member; with a maximum width of 30"; to be judged on both quality and presentation. LAN Tutors may advise but not participate in this class.
	<b>Open Classes</b>
19.	An item made primarily from beeswax. (See Rule 10)
20.	Three Beeswax Candles up to and including 1 ½" (38mm) diameter. To be displayed in non-combustible stands (one candle will be lit by the judge)
21.	Honey Cake – see attached recipe
22.	Honey Fudge - six pieces to be displayed – see attached recipe.
23.	One jar of honey preserve or fruit curd, displayed in a jar with a twist grip lid. The recipe should be provided with the exhibit.
24.	Honeybee pasture. (See Rule 11)
25.	Any interesting exhibit connected with beekeeping designed and made by the exhibitor, accompanied where necessary by a clear written explanation. (See Rule 12)
26.	<b>Children's Exhibit.</b> Anything connected to beekeeping (open to any child 15 years or under, age to be displayed).
27.	Photographic Competition on the subject of bees and beekeeping. (See Rule 13) a) A colour print, maximum print size 10" x 8", mounted on card with a mount size not exceeding A4. b) A group of photos (minimum of three) of any size on a common theme, but must be presented within an overall mount size not exceeding A3. (Captions optional. No framed prints permitted in any category).

## GENERAL NOTES.

- A. Entries may be staged at the following times:
    - Friday October 13<sup>th</sup> from 4 pm – 6 pm;
    - Saturday October 14<sup>th</sup> from 8.30 am - 9.45 am.
  - B. Judging will commence at 10.00 am on October 14<sup>th</sup>.
  - C. Exhibits may be removed from the displays between 5 and 6pm on the 14th or may be collected on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>.
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## SHOW RULES.

1. The show is staged under National Honey Show rules.
2. Unless otherwise stated, exhibitors may enter up to three items in any class, but can only gain one award in each, subject to the Judge's discretion to grant a special commendation.  
Multiple entries must be clearly marked A, B, C, after the exhibitor's number except when the entry requires two jars when the number and letter on each should be identical.
3. No single exhibit may be entered in more than one class.
4. **Classes 1-17** are open to any member, Full or Associate, of the Herefordshire Beekeepers' Association (HBKA), together with Associate members who are full members of neighbouring associations. Show points will be awarded to prize-winning members of HBKA as per the schedule of points (*See Rule 11 below*).
5. **Open classes** are open to anyone, adults and children, whether or not members of HBKA.
6. **Novice Class** is open to any member who has not previously won a first prize, cup or trophy for honey in any previous Honey Show. The winner will receive free entry to the National Honey Show.
7. **Blind Tasting.** Entries are limited to one jar per member in each sub class. Exhibits will be assessed on taste only and the sub classes judged separately. Blind wrappers will be provided on registration.
8. **Class 16.** A plain label describing the contents should be provided (e.g. Pyment, Melomel, etc.).
9. **Class 17.** Items may consist of any product of the hive, or item made using products of the hive for example propolis, pollen, polish, etc, to be judged on the quality of the exhibits rather than the display.
10. **Class 19.** Exhibits may include candles of any size or style, wax sculpture, encaustic art, etc., but must be created primarily from beeswax.
- 11 **Class 24.** Honey bee pasture. An arrangement of flora, which may include flowers, foliage and/or fruit, from which the honeybee gathers nectar and pollen. A list of species should be provided and will be judged as an integral part of the exhibit.
12. **Class 25.** Exhibits can include works of art, models, practical items etc., provided a clear link exists to bees or beekeeping.
13. **Class 27.** Photographs should be the original work of the exhibitor.
14. **Labelling.** Show labels will be provided by the Show Secretary on registration.
  - Jars & bottles: position the bottom edge of your label 20mm from the bottom of the jar.
  - Show cases: place one label in the top right hand corner of the glass plus a second label on the top of the frame.
  - Wax products: labels should be fixed on the display base, not to the wax.



15. **Show points.** Members will be awarded points as follows:

- 5 – First place.
- 4 – Second place
- 3 – Third place
- 2 – Very Highly Commended
- 1 – Highly Commended
- 0 – Commended

In the case of a tie, the participant with the largest number of high points will be awarded the trophy.

16. **Trophies.** Trophies will only be awarded to HBKA members.

**Guidance on Presentation of exhibits.**

**It will aid the job of show secretary if a list of entries can be produced and sent by email in advance.**

- a) Extracted honey should be exhibited in matching standard 1lb squat honey jars with gold metal or white plastic lids.
- b) Pieces of chunk honey should ideally stand upright and extend fully from the bottom to the top of the jar.
- c) National Honey Show Approved Grading Glasses will be used to determine colour of liquid honey.
- d) Super frames should be displayed in show cases; these may be available for loan if requested in advance. Marked frames (Class 11) may be displayed in the rack provided.
- e) Mead should be exhibited in clear, round, unmarked bottles of approx. 27fl. oz. or 75 ml capacity with flanged removable corks (black or white plastic is acceptable).

## RECIPES

### HONEY CAKE (*To be baked in a 7" round tin*)

**Ingredients:**

5oz butter	4oz soft brown sugar
6oz clear honey	2 eggs
1 tablespoon of water	7oz self raising flour

**Method:**

- Preheat the oven to 180°C, 350°F or Gas Mark 4.
- Grease and line the cake tin.
- Place butter, sugar, honey and water in a saucepan and heat until the butter has melted, stirring all the time.
- When the butter has melted, remove the pan from heat and allow the contents to cool to blood temperature.
- Gradually beat in the eggs, add sieved flour and mix until smooth (do not over mix).
- Pour mixture into the greased and lined tin and bake for 1 hour, or until risen and firm to the touch.
- Cooking time and temperature may vary according to the oven used.
- Cover the top during baking if necessary, to prevent browning.
- Leave to cool in the tin for 5 minutes, then turn out onto a cooling rack.

### HONEY FUDGE.

**Ingredients:**

1 lb sugar	2 oz butter
2 oz honey	¼ pint milk

**Method:**

- Prepare a greased/oiled tin approximately 7" square.
- Put all ingredients into a heavy-based pan and bring slowly to the boil, stirring all the time.
- Cover and boil for 2 minutes.
- Uncover and boil gently for 15 minutes approx. until "soft ball" stage is reached (a little dropped into cold water will form a soft ball – 115°C/230°F).
- Stand pan on cold surface for 5 minutes
- Beat mixture until it starts to thicken and then pour quickly into tin.
- Mark into squares of approx. 1" as it cools – cut when cold.

# **HEREFORDSHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION**

## **HONEY SHOW AWARDS**

### **JOINT BBKA/NATIONAL HONEY SHOW BLUE RIBAND**

For an exhibit of outstanding merit. Awarded only if there are more than 100 entries in the Show. It includes a voucher for free admission and a free entry to an Open Class at the next National Honey Show.

If there are 50 – 100 entries, an HBKA Certificate of Merit will be issued.

### **TOM BRADFORD PERPETUAL TROPHY**

Awarded to the full member gaining the highest aggregate points in all classes.

### **HOME GUARD CUP**

For most points achieved in the Novice class. The winner will also receive a gift ticket to the next National Honey Show.

### **PERPETUAL CHALLENGE CUP**

Awarded to the exhibitor domiciled in Herefordshire gaining the most points in Classes 2, 3 and 4.

### **EAVES PERPETUAL CHALLENGE CUP**

Awarded to the exhibitor gaining most points in Classes 5 and 6.

### **HARRY GARDENER MEMORIAL TROPHY**

Awarded to the exhibitor gaining most points in Classes 12, 13, 19 and 20.

### **MAIDSTONE CUP**

Awarded to the winner of Class 11.

### **JOHN HARLEY CUP**

Awarded to the winner of Class 18.

### **DOMESTIC TROPHY**

Awarded to the exhibitor gaining most points in Classes 21, 22, and 23.

### **BRITISH BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**

For an exhibit of outstanding merit, where the number of entries is below that required for the BBKA Blue Ribbon.