



British Beekeepers' Association

Spring Convention and Exhibition

Programme of Events

Saturday 26 April 2003

9.00 am to 5.00 pm

stoneleigh-park
EXHIBITION AND CONFERENCE CENTRE, COVENTRY

**Stoneleigh Park, Coventry
Warwickshire CV8 2LZ**

26th Year
British Beekeepers' Association
Spring Convention and
Exhibition

Programme of Events

Saturday 26 April 2003, 9.00 am to 5.00 pm

*Stoneleigh-Park Exhibition and Conference Centre, Coventry, Warwickshire CV8 2LZ
Access via the main entrance on the B 4113 near Kenilworth leads to our designated car parks which
are FREE. NB. Entering by any other route leads to different car parks which attract charges, and
NEITHER BBKA NOR STONELEIGH-PARK WILL REFUND THESE. There will be a BBKA Convention
sign just inside the entrance, which will be visible before turning onto the site*

LECTURES

in the Wolfson Theatre and National Beekeeping Centre

DEMONSTRATIONS

in the Seminar Rooms (main venue) and the Arthur Rank Centre

TRADE AND EDUCATIONAL STANDS

in the Warwick, Stareton and Granary Halls

Bee Microscopy – £2.00 a sample (30 dead bees in a matchbox)

ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION HALL

Birds, Bees, Butterflies ...

BEES FOR CHILDREN IN AND OUT OF THE CURRICULUM

on the BBKA stand in the Stareton Hall

COMPUTER EVENT in the National Beekeeping Centre

TICKETS INCLUDING ALL LECTURES AND DEMONSTRATIONS – £13.00

Free entrance for under-seventeens, accompanied by an adult

BBKA members can pay just £11.00 on production of their membership card
(a member is Indirect via an affiliated county/local association; an Honorary Member;
or an Individual Member). Associate, Friend, Family and other categories are
NOT BBKA MEMBERS and will pay the full £13.00

ADVANCE TICKETS – open to all; NOT dependent upon BBKA membership – £9.00

Available until 13 April from the new Tickets Officer:

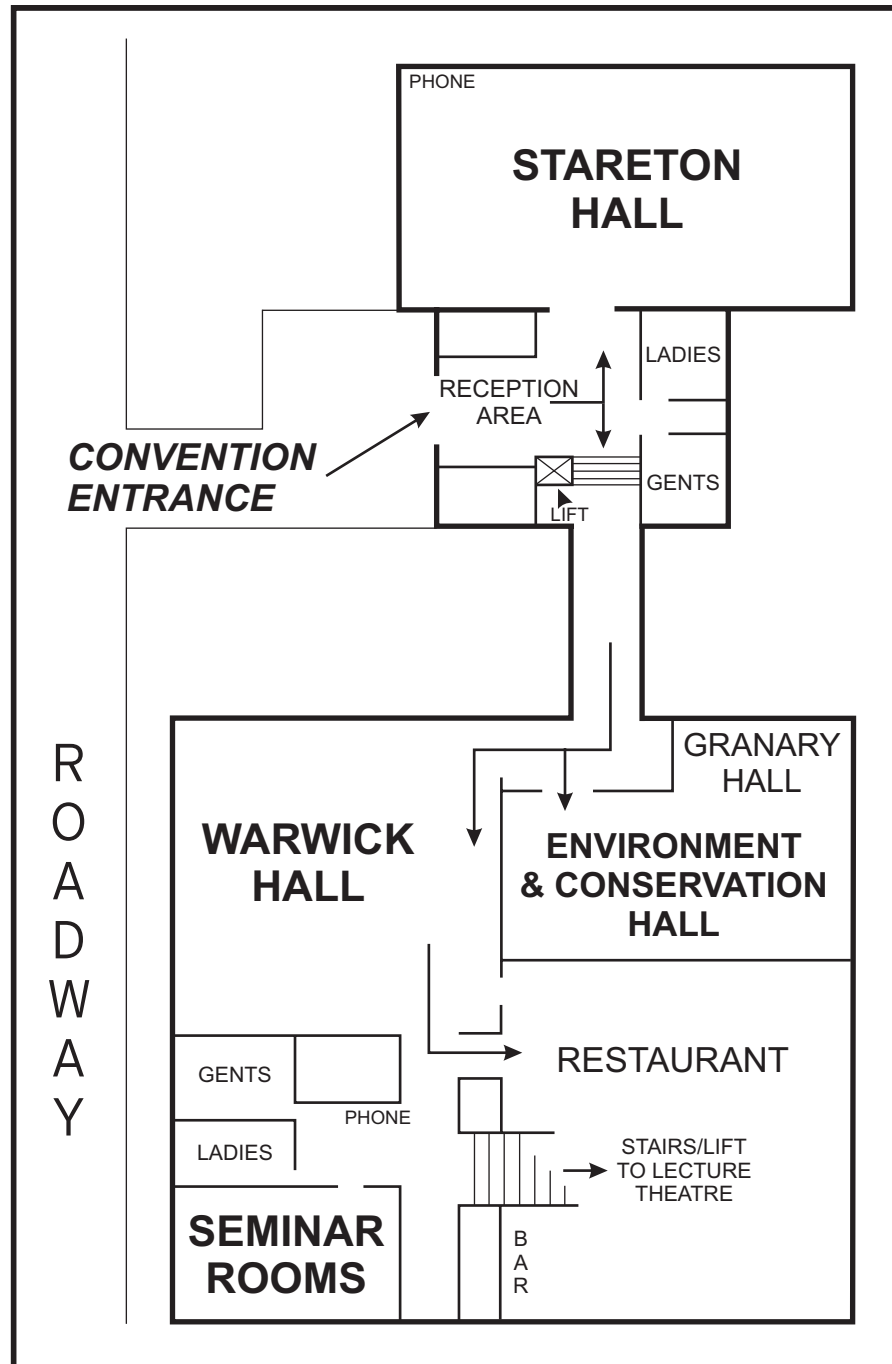
Mr John Hayward, 19 Kings Road, Leiston, Suffolk IP16 4DA

Cheques payable to 'BBKA'; sae C5 (229 x 324) with 33p in stamps, a programme will
be included

NB. BBKA Members are asked to give their card membership number when applying,
so that prices for non-members can be increased again from 2004

No refunds available on advance or lost tickets

GENERAL PLAN OF HALLS



ENTRANCE

There is only **ONE ENTRANCE** to the convention buildings at the top of 10th Street which is larger, more attractive and will give improved access to both the Warwick and Stareton Halls. Go up the side of the Warwick Hall, ignoring the 'old' entrance.

FREE PARKING

CATERING

CATERING is available at the usual restaurant in the Avon Suites, adjacent to the main conference centre. Cooked or Continental breakfasts are available from 7.30–11.00.

NB. From 7.30–9.00 the restaurant is only accessible from the outside entrance. From 9.00, access to the Avon Suites is from inside, just beyond the stairs to the Wolfson Theatre.

HOT LUNCHESES are available from 12.00–14.30, plus a bar. A good selection of sandwiches, drinks and snacks will be available until closing.

ACCOMMODATION

ACCOMMODATION is available on the Showground. There is a choice of basic low-cost hostel-type or a comfortable hotel, the Tulip Inn (Tel: 02476 690123). Overnight parking for campers and caravans is also available. Conference rates are available in selected local hotels and guest houses. Details available from the Honorary Convention Director, Mrs Mary Dartnall; Tel/Fax: 02380 775445.

TRADE EXHIBITION

ENQUIRIES to the Floor Manager, John Hayward; Tel: 01728 832487.

PROGRAMME

The organisers reserve the right to alter the programme at need and without prior notice

NB: The Convention is NO SMOKING throughout all halls and in the restaurant

Friday Night 'Special'

18.30–19.30

Honey and Healing: A Sticky Subject

Dr Rose Cooper, Cardiff University

Open to all holders of advance tickets, trade exhibitors & event stewards (badges essential)

SATURDAY CONVENTION

Wolfson Lecture Theatre

- 10.00 – 11.00 **Garden Birds, Bird Gardens**
Mike Toms, British Trust for Ornithology
- 11.15 – 12.15 **The George Knights' Memorial Lecture**
Honey and Healing: A Sticky Subject
Dr Rose Cooper, Cardiff University
- 14.00 – 15.00 **Adventures in African Beekeeping**
Pam Gregory, Bees Abroad
- 15.15 – 16.15 **Gentle Bees: Good Neighbours**
Jos Hillen, Belgian Beekeeper

National Beekeeping Centre

(Headquarters of the British Beekeepers' Association;
one minute's walk from the Conference Centre)

- 10.15 – 11.15 **Artificial Insemination of Queens**
Jos Hillen, Belgian beekeeper
- 11.30 – 12.30 **Wot! More Boards?**
Peter Hewitt, Yorkshire beekeeper
- 12.45 – 14.15 **Informal visits to view the
BBKA Headquarters**
- 14.30 – 15.30 **Garden Birds, Bird Gardens**
Mike Toms, British Trust for Ornithology
- 15.45 – 16.45 **The Horsley Board and Heather Honey**
Peter Hewitt, Yorkshire beekeeper

The Seminar Rooms

(formerly the Video Hall)

- 10.30 – 12.30 Practical Hints and Tips for Beekeepers**
Margaret Johnson, Hampshire Beekeeper and Member of the BBKA Executive
- 14.00 – 16.00 Practical Hints and Tips for Beekeepers**
Margaret Johnson (this will be similar to session 1 and both will allow opportunity for handling and assembling beekeeping equipment with the assistance of stewards)

Demonstrations in the Arthur Rank Centre

(New location at the **Belgrave Centre**. Go along Avenue M, past the old site of the Arthur Rank Centre. Turn left at Farmers' Weekly corner and the Belgrave Centre is a blue and steel building, next-door-but-one. Upstairs – lift available)

- 11.00 – 12.00 Microwaving with a Buzz**
Anne Reney-Smith, Home Economist
- 12.15 – 13.15 Adding Value to Hive Products with a Demonstration of Cosmetics' Production**
David Derrick, Berkshire beekeeper
- 14.00 – 15.00 Microwaving with a Buzz**
Anne Reney-Smith, Home Economist
- 15.15 – 16.15 Adding Value to Hive Products with a Demonstration of Soap Making**
David Derrick, Berkshire beekeeper

Computer Event

National Beekeeping Centre (upstairs)

9.30–12.00 and 14.00–16.30

Practical Sessions Using the Computer

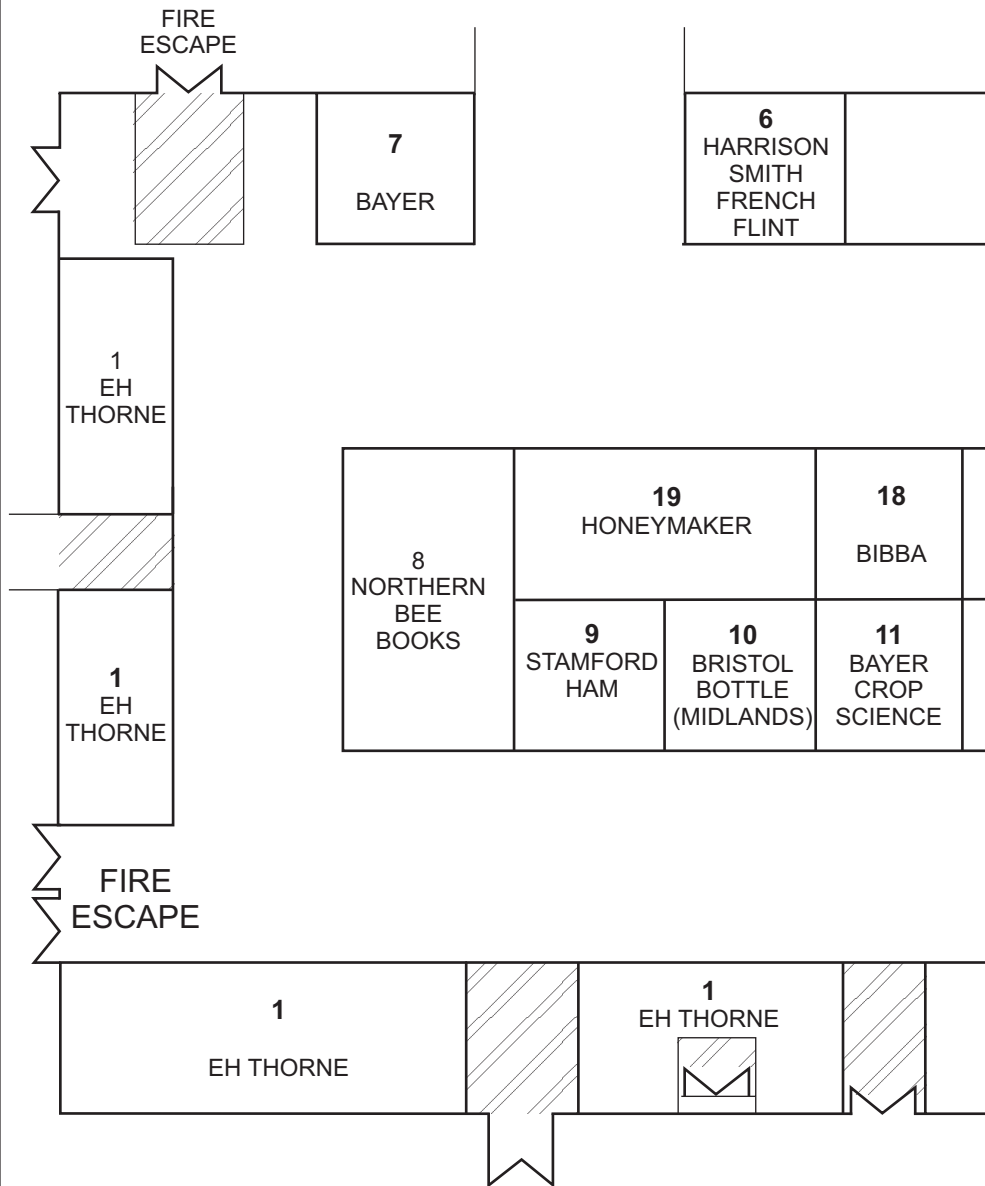
(Please see programme notes for details)

Dave and Carol Friel and Colleagues

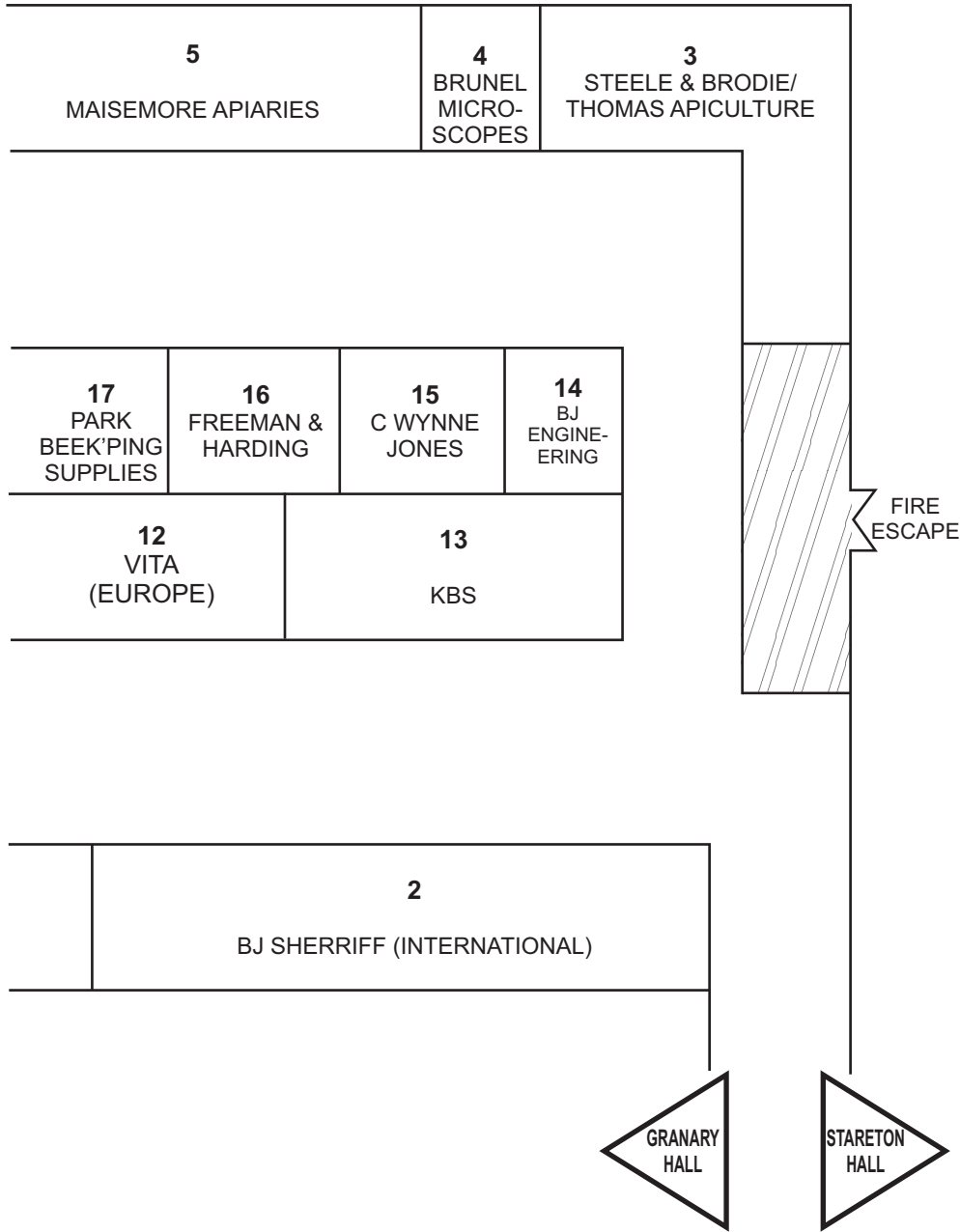
Due to the hands-on nature of the sessions, places are limited. It is essential to collect a free ticket from the main Reception desk.

Sessions will start promptly

WARWICK HALL



WARWICK HALL

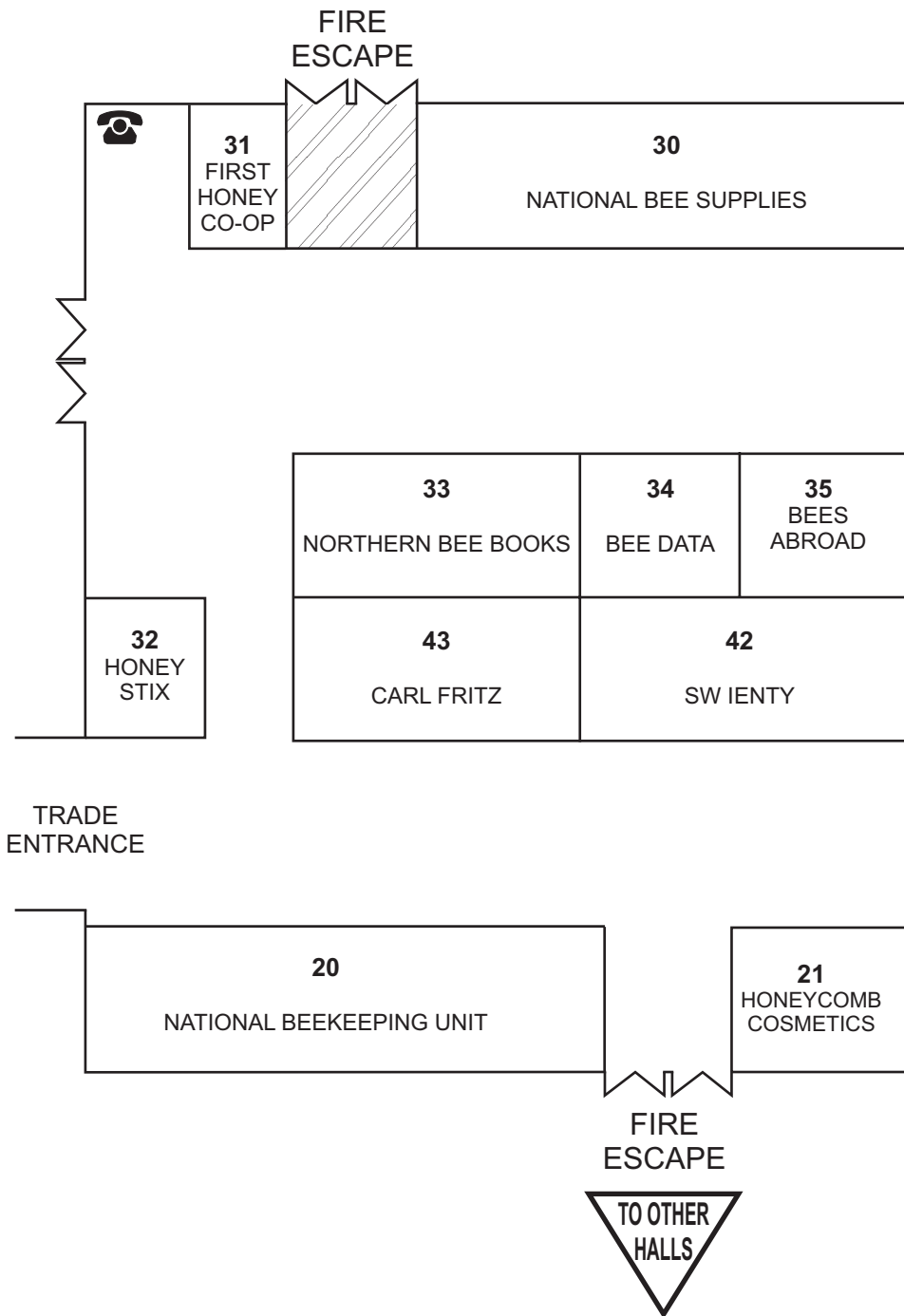


Exhibitors in the Warwick Hall

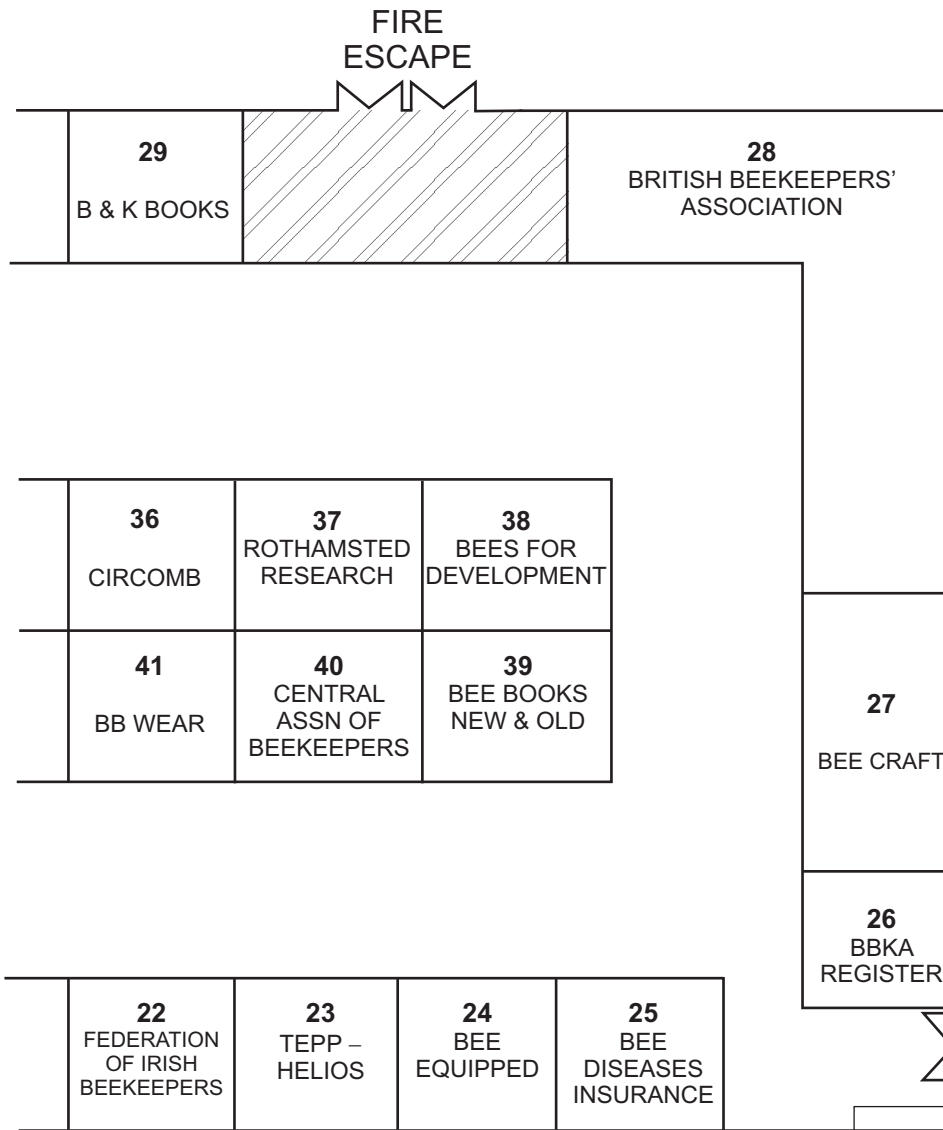
- 1 **EH Thorne (Beehives) Ltd**
Beehive Works, Wragby,
MARKET RASEN LN8 5LA
Tel: 01673 858555
Fax: 01673 857004
e-mail: sales@thorne.co.uk
www.thorne.co.uk
- 2 **BJ Sherriff (International) Ltd**
Carclew Road, Mylor Downs,
FALMOUTH TR11 5UN
Tel: 01872 863304
Fax: 01872 865267
e-mail:
sherriff.int@btinternet.com
www.bjsherriff.com
- 3 **Steele & Brodie/Thomas
Apiculture**
36 College Road, RINGWOOD
BH24 1NX
Tel: 01425 461734
Fax: 01425 476327
e-mail:
enquiries@steeleandbrodie.co.uk
www.steeleandbrodie.co.uk
- 4 **Brunel Microscopes Ltd**
Unit 6, Enterprise Centre,
Bumpers Ways,
Bumpers Industrial Estate,
CHIPPENHAM SN14 6QA
Tel: 01249 462655
Fax: 01249 445756
e-mail:
brunelmicro@compuserve.com
www.brunelmicroscopes.co.uk
- 5 **Maisemore Apiaries**
Old Road, Maisemore,
GLOUCESTER GL2 8HT
Tel: 01452 700289
Fax: 01452 700196
e-mail: sales@bees-online.co.uk
www.bees-online.co.uk
- 6 **Harrison Smith French Flint Ltd**
Rich House, 40 Crimscott Street,
LONDON SE1 5TE
Tel: 020 7231 6777
Fax: 020 7237 9093
e-mail:
jacqui.penfold@frenchflint.com
www.frenchflint.com
- 7 **Bayer Plc**
Animal Health Business Group,
Bayer House, NEWBURY
RG14 1JA
Tel: 01359 235190
Fax: 01359 234487
e-mail: kevin.stevens@bayer.co.uk
www.bayer.co.uk
- 8 **Northern Bee Books**
Scout Bottom Farm, Mytholmroyd,
HEBDEN BRIDGE HX7 5JS
Tel: 01422 882751
Fax: 01422 886157
e-mail:
sales@recordermail.demon.co.uk
www.beedata.com
- 9 **Stamfordham Ltd**
Heugh House, Heugh,
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
NE18 0NH
Tel: 01661 886219
Fax: 01661 886086
e-mail:
stamfordham@heugh.demon.co.uk
www.stamfordham.biz
- 10 **Bristol Bottle Co (Midlands) Ltd**
Unit 15, Vigo Place, Aldridge,
WALSALL WS9 8UG
Tel: 01922 743883
Fax: 01922 743326
e-mail: bristolbottle@yahoo.co.uk
www.bristolbottle.co.uk

- 11 **Bayer Crop Science**
Hauxton, CAMBRIDGE CB2 5HU
Tel: 07900 276999
Fax: 01277 301509
e-mail:
julian.little@bayercropscience.com
www.bayercropscience.co.uk
- 12 **Vita (Europe) Ltd**
21/23 Wote Street,
BASINGSTOKE RG21 7NE
Tel: 01256 473176
Fax: 01256 473179
e-mail: j.owen@vita-europe.com
www.vita-europe.com
- 13 **KBS**
Brede Valley Bee Farm,
Cottage Lane, Westfield,
HASTINGS TN35 4RT
Tel: 01424 870737
Fax: 01424 870729
e-mail: kbs@btinternet.com
- 14 **BJ Engineering**
Chelbrook Court,
Rear of 26/28 Barbourne Road,
WORCESTER WR1 1HT
Tel: 01905 29517
Fax: 01905 29517
- 15 **C Wynne Jones**
Ty Brith, Pentre Celyn,
RUTHIN LL15 2SR
Tel: 01978 790279
Fax: 01978 790265
e-mail: jones@tybrith.fsnet.co.uk
- 16 **Freeman & Harding Ltd**
Unit 18, Bilton Road, ERITH
DA8 2AN
Tel: 01322 351315
Fax: 01322 351361
e-mail:
mrichardson@freemanharding.co.uk
- 17 **Park Beekeeping Supplies**
17 Blackheath Business Centre
78B Blackheath Hill, LONDON
SE10 8BA
Tel: 020 8694 9960
Fax: 020 8694 8217
e-mail: parkbee@rawmunro.com
www.pbs.skentbee.com
- 18 **BIBBA**
11 Thomson Drive, Codnor,
RIPLEY DE5 9RU
Tel: 01773 745287
e-mail:
a.knight.blackbees@talk21.com
www.bibba.com
- 19 **HoneyMaker UK**
29 Tower Road, HEREFORD
HR4 0LF
Tel: 01432 277679
Fax: 01432 277679
e-mail: sales@honeymaker.co.uk

STARETON HALL



STARRETTON HALL



Exhibitors in the Stareton Hall

- 20 **National Bee Unit**
Central Science Laboratory,
Sand Hutton, YORK YO41 1LZ
Tel: 01904 462559
Fax: 01904 462240
e-mail: nbu@csl.gov.uk
www.nationalbeeunit.com
- 21 **Honeycomb Cosmetics**
Stour Provost, GILLINGHAM
SP8 5LT
Tel: 01747 838055
Fax: 01747 838373
e-mail: honeycom@aol.com
www.honeycombcosmetics.com
- 22 **Federation of Irish
Beekeepers' Associations**
St Ives, Kilcrea Park,
Magazine Road, CORK, Eire
Tel: 00 353 21 4542614
e-mail: eosbee@indigo.ie
- 23 **TEPP-Helios**
Quarter de la Gare, 26210
EPINOUE, France
Tel: 00 33 608 62 58 48
Fax: 00 33 478 25 30 56
e-mail: p.hellion@free.fr
www.tepp.free.fr
- 24 **Bee Equipped**
Brunswood Farm, Brunswood Lane,
Bradley, ASHBOURNE DE6 1PN
Tel: 01335 370567
Fax: 01335 372844
e-mail:
derrickfretwell@breathmail.net
- 25 **Bee Diseases Insurance Ltd**
c/o Bryn-y-Pant Cottage
Upper Llanover, ABERGAVENNY
NP7 9ES
Tel: 01873 880625
- 26 **BBKA Register**
c/o British Beekeepers' Association
- 27 **Bee Craft Magazine**
79 Strathcona Avenue, Bookham,
LEATHERHEAD KT23 4HR
Tel: 01372 451891
Fax: 01372 451891
e-mail: secretary@bee-craft.com
www.bee-craft.com
- 28 **British Beekeepers'
Association**
National Beekeeping Centre,
National Agricultural Centre,
KENILWORTH CV8 2LG
Tel: 02476 696679
Fax: 02476 690682
e-mail: bees@bbka.demon.co.uk
www.britishbeekeepers.com
- 29 **B & K Books**
Riverside, Newport Street,
HAY-ON-WYE HR3 5BG
Tel: 01497 820386
- 30 **National Bee Supplies**
Merrivale Road,
Exeter Road Industrial Estate,
OKEHAMPTON EX20 1UD
Tel: 01837 54084
Fax: 01837 54085
e-mail: apis_mellifera@msn.com
www.beekeeping.co.uk
- 31 **First Honey Co-operative Ltd**
17 Warton Lane, Austrey,
ATHERSTONE CV9 3EJ
Tel: 01827 830955
Fax: 01827 830955
e-mail: honeyfirst@aol.com
www.firsthoney.co.uk

- 32 **Honeystix**
 10 Park House Road, Low Moor,
 BRADFORD BD12 0QB
 Tel: 01274 678522
 e-mail:
 bernard@honeystix.freemove.co.uk
- 33 **Northern Bee Books**
 Scout Bottom Farm, Mytholmroyd,
 HEBDEN BRIDGE HX7 5JS
 Tel: 01422 882751
 Fax: 01422 886157
 e-mail:
 sales@recordermail.demon.co.uk
 www.beedata.com
- 34 **Bee Data**
 Scout Bottom Farm, Mytholmroyd,
 HEBDEN BRIDGE HX7 5JS
 e-mail:
 sales@recordermail.demon.co.uk
 www.beedata.com
- 35 **Bees Abroad**
 86 Bisley Old Road, STROUD
 GL5 1NB
 Tel: 01453 751431
 Fax: 01453 756383
 e-mail:
 sheila_allan_bees@hotmail.com
 www.beesabroad.org.uk
- 36 **Circomb**
 29 Glamis Road, DUNDEE
 DD2 1TS
 Tel: 01382 660802
- 37 **Rothamsted Research**
 HARPENDEN AL5 2JQ
 Tel: 01582 763133
 Fax: 01582 760981
 e-mail:
 norman.carreck@bbsrc.ac.uk
 www.iacr.bbsrc.ac.uk/pie/
- 38 **Bees for Development**
 Troy, NP25 4AB
 Tel: 01600 713648
 Fax: 01600 716167
 e-mail:
 info@beesfordevelopment.org
 www.beesfordevelopment.org
- 39 **Bee Books New and Old**
 10 Quay Road, Charlestown
 ST AUSTELL PL25 3NX
 Tel: 01726 76844
- 40 **Central Association of Beekeepers**
 6 Oxford Road, TEDDINGTON
 TW11 0PZ
 Tel: 020 8977 5867
- 41 **BB Wear**
 1 Glyn Way, Threemilestone,
 TRURO TR3 6DT
 Tel: 01872 273693
 Fax: 01872 273393
 e-mail: bee@bbwear.fsnet.co.uk
 www.bbwear.co.uk
- 42 **Swienty A/S**
 Hortoftvej 16, 6400 Sonderborg,
 Denmark
 Tel: +45 74 48 69 69
 Fax: +45 74 48 80 01
 e-mail: shop@swienty.com
 www.swienty.com
- 43 **Carl Fritz**
 Immenweg 1, D-07638,
 MELLRICHSTADT, Germany
 Tel: 00 49 765015
 Fax: 00 49 767126
 e-mail: bienen-fritz@-online.de
 www.carl-fritz.de

Exhibitors in the Granary Hall

- 44 **West Midlands Bird Club**
Barbara Stubbs, 19 Alfred Street,
Tamworth, Staffs BY9 7RL
Tel: 01827 57865
Fax: 02476 690882
- 45 **Bee Research at the University of Sheffield**
Prof Francis Ratnieks, Laboratory of
Apiculture and Social Insects,
Department of Animal and Plant
Sciences, University of Sheffield,
Western Bank S10 2TN, UK
Tel: +44 (0) 114 222 0070
Fax: +44 (0) 114 222 0002
e-mail: f.ratnieks@sheffield.ac.uk
www.shef.ac.uk/uni/projects/taplaboratory/flwr.html
- 46 **West Country Originals**
15 Ashleigh Avenue, Bridgwater,
Somerset TA6 6AU
Tel: 07956 942622
Fax: 01278 444775
*Featuring cold-cast bronze Dancing
Bee circles 6", 12", and Queen Bee
wall hanging and 2" bee magnets.
Also on show, West Country Original
'Wild Life Sculptors'*
- 47 **Bee Kind to Your Back**
Sarah Weaver, MSCP, SRP,
B Physiotherapy, Victor Cottage,
Holt Wood, Wimborne, Dorset
BH21 7DX
Tel: 01258 840884
*Information on how to care for your
back*
- 48 **The Herb Society**
Cheryl Waller, Sulgrave Manor,
Sulgrave, Banbury OX17 2SD
Tel: 01295 768899
Fax: 01295 768069
e-mail: info@herbsociety.co.uk
www.herbsociety.co.uk
- 49 **Hedgehog Care and Conservation**
Mrs Anne Wills, 'Trefusis', 8 Leam
Road, Myton, Warwick CV31 3PA
Tel: 01926 427811
- 50 **Friends of Canley Ford**
Adrian Dyke, 8a Nightingale Lane,
Coventry CV5 6AY
Tel: 02476 672884
- 51 **Royal Society for the Protection of Birds & Junior Group Wild-life Explorers**
Alan King, 69 Westmorland Road,
Wyken, Coventry CV2 5B43
- 52 **Oxford Bee Company Ltd**
L Snell, The Ark Business Centre,
Gordon Road, Loughborough
LE11 1JP
Tel: 01509 261654
Fax: 01509 643465
e-mail: larry@oxbeeco.com
www.oxbeeco.com
- 53 **Apimondia 2003**
Phil Cunningham, 32 Brompton
Road, Sprotborough, Doncaster
DN5 7LL
Tel: 01302 852435
e-mail:
phil.cunningham@freenet.co.uk
- 54 **Outspan Nursery**
Andrew Lyon, Clun Road, Craven
Arms, Shropshire SY7 9QS
Tel: 01588 672365
e-mail: aslyon2112@hotmail.com
- 55 **Marcher Apple Network**
TW Froggatt, 'Ashford Mill',
Ashford Carbonel, Ludlow,
Shropshire SY8 4BT
Tel: 01584 831650
(Company Limited by Guarantee)

- 56 **National Honey Show Ltd**
 Revd HF Capener, 1 Baldric Road,
 Folkestone, Kent CT20 2NR
 e-mail: nathons@zbee.com
 www.honeyshow.co.uk
 (Registered Charity No 233656
 and a Company Limited by
 Guarantee (No 266722))
- 57 **Butterfly Conservation
 (Warwickshire Branch)**
 Margaret Vickery (Chairman),
 3 The Deer Leap, Kenilworth
 CV8 2HQ
 Tel: 01926 512343
- 58 **Grower of Native Trees and
 Shrubs**
 Murray Maclean, FRAgS, Collins
 Farm, Frilford, Nr Abingdon, Oxon
 OX13 5NX
 Tel: 01865 391242
 Fax: 01865 391055
- 59 **Beeskeps & Beeswax Candles**
 David and Enid Chubb,
 Boxbush Farm, South Cerney,
 Nr Cirencester, Glos GL7 5UB
 Tel/Fax: 01285 860648
 e-mail:
 david@costwold-beeskeps.fsnet.co.
 uk
- 60 **Warwickshire Bat Group and
 Conservation Trust**
 Dot Jeffcoat & Rob Hunter,
 24 Main Street, Long Lawford,
 Rugby CV23 9AZ
 Tel: 01788 550139
 e-mail: dotrob.batmad@virgin.net
- 61 **New Beekeeping Using the
 Dartington Long Deep Hive**
 Robin Dartington, 15 Benslow
 Lane, Hitchin, Herts SG4 9RE
 Tel: 01462 450707
 e-mail:
 gray-dartington@dial.pipex.com
- 62 **Bee Microscopy**
 John Powell, Twickenham
 Beekeeper
- 63 **DARG (Devon Apicultural
 Research Group)**
 David Loo, 25 Woodlands, Newton
 St Cyres, Exeter, Devon EX5 5BP
 Tel: 01392 851472

NEW FOR 2003

Millennium Awards for All Exhibitions

Three counties, including Leiston and District Beekeepers' Association, Suffolk, will each mount a display of their successful projects. These will be situated where the reception desk was in the 'old' entrance to Warwick Hall.

Visit them and discover the secrets of their success

NB. There is no convention entry there now

The Speakers and Lectures

Rose Cooper

Honey was used by ancient civilisations in treating wounds as well as other maladies. Its use in wound care in the United Kingdom was discontinued after the introduction of antibiotics and the development of sophisticated modern dressings. The emergence of antibiotic-resistant strains of bacteria and increasing rates of wound infection caused by hospital-acquired infections has forced the re-examination of ancient remedies to try to understand their mode of action, and to find alternative effective treatments.

However, modern medicine is based on evidence-based practice and new (or even discontinued, traditional) remedies must be supported by convincing data before they will be accepted by the medical community. At the present time, honey fits this category. There is much anecdotal evidence to suggest that it is effective in treating wounds, but very little objective evidence.

Rose will review the historical records of using honey to treat wounds. The wound-healing process will be described so that the reasons for failure to heal can be explained and the possible role of honey in influencing the wound-healing process will be outlined by examining the curative properties assigned to honey. Research into the antibacterial properties of honey will be described and some preliminary results

from investigations into its healing potential will be presented. Some recent clinical findings will be demonstrated and future research explained.

Rose Cooper is based at the University of Wales Institute, Cardiff.

David Derrick

David is a hobbyist beekeeper with 40 colonies in various sites in Oxfordshire. He has kept bees for approximately 22 years and is Chairman of Wantage and District Beekeepers' Association. He is passionate about educating all non-beekeepers about the craft and the importance of bees in the environment, and the benefits to mankind of all hive products. He does this by visiting schools, clubs, associations and Women's Institutes. The Wantage and District Association puts on educational displays at local events and shows.

The first half of each of his talks will give practical advice and discuss how hobbyist beekeepers can add value to their hive products using simple, home-based production methods and easily available ingredients. These will include how to make your honey go further, increase revenue and keep customers happy; how to increase sales of bee products by combining them with other products so that they appeal to more people, both young and old; and how to build on the mystical reputation and universal acceptance of hive

products and how to get the message across to your potential customers.

David's first talk will demonstrate basic cosmetic making and the second will cover soap making.

David and Carol Friel

For the past few years, the theme for the Computer Event has been to improve communication skills. Particular thought has been given to the cost of producing branch magazines and circulars. Free software from computer periodicals has provided the basis for these lectures. Those attending have received tuition on the use of the free desktop publishing software, which has enabled them to provide quality professional news items for their associations.

This year, David and Carol plan to focus on the production of good indoor presentations using computer technology. Instruction will be given to help lecturers, branch secretaries and, indeed, any person who wishes to use the latest information technology techniques to present an indoor meeting to beekeepers.

A general interest has been expressed in the production and use of spreadsheets and this will also be included. A special effort has been made to provide some degree of one-to-one tuition on this subject, but places will be limited, so it may be wise to book early to avoid disappointment.

Many beekeepers have requested instruction on how to produce their own honey jar labels using their available

word processing or desktop publishing software. Simple and easy techniques will be demonstrated.

Pam Gregory

Pam began beekeeping in 1975 after moving to Wales from Buckinghamshire. She worked for four years in the Bee Department at Trawscoed, providing a laboratory diagnosis of all the UK brood disease samples and training for all UK bee inspectors. She has a BSc in Plant and Animal Ecology from UCW Aberystwyth and a BA in Biology and Psychology from the Open University.

She has been a bee inspector and field extension worker in beekeeping since 1982 and was Regional Bee Inspector for Wales from 1995 to 2002, supervising a team of eight seasonal bee inspectors.

She holds the National Diploma in Beekeeping and is a member of the BBKA Examination Board. She is an examiner for the basic certificate of the BBKA and for written and practical examinations at all levels with the Welsh Beekeepers' Association. She has recently completed a post-graduate certificate in adult education.

Pam is keenly interested in the genetic development of the indigenous 'Welsh' black bee (*Apis mellifera mellifera*). She is also very interested in encouraging bee farming in developing countries as a means of increased income generation and has spent time teaching beekeeping in both Africa (Cameroon, Tanzania and Malawi) and the

Philippines. She is Honorary Secretary of the national charity, *Bees Abroad*, which funds and manages small beekeeping projects in developing countries.

Peter Hewitt

Peter is a retired teacher and lecturer who has enjoyed keeping bees and making his own hives and beekeeping equipment for many years.

He is President of Airedale Beekeepers' Association and an Honorary Life Member of the Airedale and Wharfedale Associations. Peter has served on various committees of the Yorkshire Beekeepers' Association.

He has successfully exhibited honey, wax, mead and inventions at many local shows and won trophies at the Great Yorkshire, the Royal Welsh, the Shrewsbury, Lakeland, Bath and West and Royal shows.

In his first lecture, he proposes to talk about some of the boards and other gadgets he has made and used. In the second talk, he will demonstrate the use of the Horsely Board to build up a strong bee colony, with a young queen, in preparation for migration to the heather moors.

Jos Hillen

Jos has been keeping bees for over 20 years and, for the first few years, had only a few hives. The bees were mongrels and difficult to handle because of their aggressiveness. Bought-in Carniolan queens gave only short-term improvement and a few years later he began rearing queens.

However, mating remained a problem due to the bad-tempered strains of drones in the area. A move to an isolated mating station in an old quarry improved the bees remarkably but Jos required pure-bred queens.

In 1991, he learnt from an expert practitioner how to inseminate queens artificially. Since 1993, he has artificially inseminated several queens each year and this made it possible to maintain breeder lines. From these lines, some are chosen as breeder queens and are used to produce queens for the production colonies.

This has resulted in an enormous change in the behaviour of Jos's bees which are completely different from the ones he started with.

His first lecture will demonstrate how this can be achieved. It will be a practical talk showing how queens are artificially inseminated. The audience will even have the chance to follow every step on a television screen.

The second lecture will describe how to set up a mating station and how to organise a queen rearing programme. This will also be a practical lecture, dealing with every aspect of the subject.

Margaret Johnson

Margaret's two sessions will be similar in content, with questions being welcomed at any point on any of the topics covered.

These will include: making boxes; making frames; assembling the hive including the use of Hoffman spacers,

plastic ends, which way up to place the queen excluder and varroa floors; recognising healthy brood; harvesting the honey and its care; extraction, filtering and bottling; washing equipment; removing propolis; removing wax; cleaning wax; labelling; showing; and presentation.

Anything else anyone wants to know will also be covered!

Anne Reney-Smith

Anne has a diploma in Home Economics and Catering from Elizabeth Gaskell College, Manchester. She has worked for Gas Boards and Electricity Boards in Merseyside, North West and North Wales, latterly as Head Home Economist at MANWEB, working in the Headquarters and Test House, promoting electricity in the domestic and catering markets.

Anne retired to have a family and carried on as a freelance home economist, promoting the microwave as a super kitchen accessory for the past 10–12 years. She has written six recipe booklets on microwave cooking, the last being the *Mediaeval Microwave*. This includes centuries-old recipes which can be quickly prepared in the microwave. The recipes use natural foods, flowers, herbs and, of course, honey.

To demonstrate how effective honey cookery is in the microwave oven, Anne will produce a mouth-watering meal, make a luxurious handcream with beeswax, and finish with the preparation of natural decorations by drying flowers and herbs in the microwave oven.

Mike Toms

Gardens are an important habitat, supporting a wide range of bird species and allowing people to interact with the plants and animals around them. Because of this, it is essential that conservationists and policy makers are kept informed of any changes in the populations of birds using gardens. We need to know which species are increasing, which are decreasing and why these changes are taking place.

The BTO/CJ Garden BirdWatch provides such information because it is the only project to follow the changing fortunes of familiar garden birds throughout the year and from one year to the next. The results gathered by the 15,000 participants have highlighted the rapid rise in Wood Pigeons and the steady decline of once familiar species like the House Sparrow and Starling.

Mike Toms, the Garden BirdWatch organiser, will be talking about the importance of gardens for birds, how Garden BirdWatch participants monitor bird populations and how you can attract a wide range of birds to your garden by choosing the right foods and presenting them in the right way. Mike works for the British Trust for Ornithology in Thetford and has previously worked on Barn Owls and small mammals. He is one of the authors of the recently published *Migration Atlas* (showing the movements of birds using Britain and Ireland).

He can be contacted at The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 2PU. Tel: 01842 750050; e-mail: mike.toms@bto.org; website: www.bto.org.

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