



Gravesend Branch Newsletter

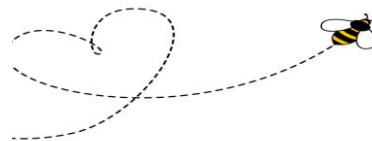
September 2026



Orders for honey jars should be with Charlotte by the end of November, prices will also be posted on the Branch WhatsApp group and represent a considerable saving over buying in small quantities. Delivery will be towards the end of January date tba.

Jar Prices	Quantity	Price
1lb gold screw lid	72	£43.50
1lb white plastic lid	72	£41.00
8oz hexagonal	41 tray	£20.50
8oz round	41 tray	£22.00
12oz hexagonal	33 tray	£18.00
12oz round	28 tray	£14.00
1lb gold lids	72 bag	£12.00
1lb white lids	72 bag	£7.50
70mm gold lid for 12oz round	100 bag	£15.50
63mm gold lid for 12oz hexagonal	100 bag	£13.00
58mm gold lids for 8oz hexagonal	100 bag	£13.00

It is also possible to order 30lb buckets for £4.00 each



Autumn musing...

The summer has left its mark on our honey bees with some colonies struggling with the heat waves that seemed to have extended the June gap, the drones have been kicked out and those pesky varroa mites treated!

Our bees are now shifting their focus on to autumn and preparing their hives for the winter. The workers cap the honey, store the pollen and seal any gaps and cracks with their sticky propolis to block out those cold drafts. Winter is coming!

A big thank you to Charlotte and Phil for hosting a lovely summer BBQ!

Asian Hornet Update!

To date there have been 167 sightings in 2026, resulting in the identification of 53 nests. Multiple sightings continue to be monitored by the NBU.

Please ensure Asian hornet traps are to be out by the middle of this month for monitoring purposes. Thank you.

We need you!

We urgently need volunteers for the Branch committee, as this year has highlighted the difficulties that occur when the members who do the lion's share of the work are unable due to illness etc. Other members stepped in to cover essential jobs but again were the same people. We are hoping to get some vice/assistant posts covered, to ease the situation and run the Branch apiary, programme etc. more efficiently in 2027. Please speak to any committee member if you feel you could help.

Next Branch meeting.

Our next meeting will be at the National Trust Visitor Centre, Lodge Lane, Cobham DA12 3BS, Sunday 20th September from 2pm, Parking in the farmyard opposite not in front of barn doors please. Lesley will do a short checklist on wintering - "Are your bees ready for 2027". This will be followed by John Chapman (Medway) taking us through preparation of honey for sale and show.

There will be a roll of sticky labels available on entry for you to pop your name on, to assist all with remembering! This will also be instigated for apiary inspections as well.

Another date for your diary the Sunday 22nd November Branch AGM and "Mini honey show".

Hope to see as many members as possible

Any member who wishes to be on the WhatsApp group needs to let Roy Taylor know by emailing roy@fawkhambecompany.co.uk. This provides all sorts of useful current information.