

HONEYCRAFT

June 2018



from Spring into Summer

Dorset County Beekeepers Association

Editor's Note

Welcome to the first issue of the new-look HoneyCraft. The vote at the AGM indicated that members want an electronic, rather than paper version, of the magazine – so here goes!

I had 'offered my services' in the expectation of producing a paper magazine, which is what I have some experience in doing. Like all editors of such magazines, I was looking forward to the support and expertise of skilled printers (Purely Print in Blandford Forum) to ensure that you received a magazine of the highest quality, which is what you have come to expect with Lesley Gasson as editor. But the unexpected can happen, as we all know well from our beekeeping; we adjust and life moves on!

This issue contains the usual branch reports, the schedule for the County Honey Show which is being hosted by West Dorset at Melplash this year on Thursday 23rd August, a look forward to the County Convention on Sunday 21st October and an even-longer look forward to the Module Courses that our Master Beekeepers are offering to run over the next winter. So, there is much to digest.

The first few issues in this new format will have an experimental element, while we find out what works best for you the readers, the advertisers and the contributors. So, please let me know what you think, so that the result is something you look forward to reading and perhaps even think of taking into your apiary on your smart phone or tablet! Finally in addition to a new format, we have a new distribution method—association secretaries will be responsible for delivering the magazine to their members.

Tim Villiers, Editor

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Blandford and Sturminster BKA

We are well into the beekeeping season and so far have not had many swarms.

The Introduction to Beekeeping Day on 7th April went off well with about 50 people attending for the whole day. The day is divided into two parts with talks in the morning and apiary visits in the afternoon. Terry made the arrangements which ran very smoothly. Most people were very excited at seeing bees at close quarters. There were cakes for everyone which is expected at any decent beekeepers meeting.

We try not to interfere with the learning process for our new beekeepers during April and May as this gives them a chance to see the build up of the colonies and become used to the idea that Saturday afternoons are for bees. In the first year course there are 15 students. Our three tutors and Terry care for three colonies with 5 people in each group around one colony. In the second year group there are 2 learners to a colony and each pair has two colonies to look after which puts more responsibility on the student and they are able to compare the progress of the different colonies.

Apiary Visit On 2nd June we had a visit to Kerry Redman and Tim Villiers apiaries, starting with Kerry. People who do not have apiary visits do not appreciate what a lot of work goes into making sure the apiary and bees are up to expectations. Many thanks to Tim and Kerry for opening their apiaries to us.

Trip to Twickenham Dorset Beekeepers are welcome to join us on our trip to Twickenham on 22nd July to visit the Thames Valley and Twickenham teaching apiary. This is a very well run and well provided set up which is an inspiration to other beekeeping associations. We hope to leave Shillingstone at 9.00am and reach Twickenham about 11.30 spend about an hour or two hearing about what they do and how they do it, besides seeing the apiary and its facilities. We can then have lunch in Twickenham (either bring a picnic to eat in the apiary or go into the town) and enjoy the area. We shall leave at 4.00pm, to be back in Shillingstone by 6.30pm. Travel will be by coach and to book your place contact Lesley Gasson.(lmgasson@btinternet.com or 01258 861690)

Please join us if you can. The cost of the trip will be about £10 per person.



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Dorchester and Weymouth

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Our Beginners Course finished a couple of weeks ago but as we had not been able to get out to inspect the hives on each session because of the weather, we added on two extra practical sessions. One lesson learnt from this year's Beginners Course is, if we are continuing with combining practical and theory, to start later in the year. We were probably being optimistic by starting in March and of course couldn't have forecast that we were to have the coldest Spring for years.

We are continuing with practical sessions at the Stinsford apiary on Saturday afternoons for the time being. This is now open to all members not just beginners and is another opportunity to meet and look at bees

Our monthly 'get-togethers/bee-chat evenings' are going from strength to strength. Our usual numbers are now about 12 to 15 members turning up. We are at the same venue, The Colliton Club, Dorchester. They will all be advertised on our website as and when arranged. Anyone is welcome.

We have attended one event in Radipole Park Gardens, Weymouth. This was a Nature & Wildlife event in April. We set up our display and were given a gazebo luckily as it was still quite cold although sunny. It was a nice event but not many people came through as the gardens are a little bit out of the way so we may not commit ourselves to doing this event again although it was nice to be asked.

We are currently in the middle of a two week display at Poundbury Garden Centre, Dorchester. The Garden Centre wanted to do something around World Bee Day on 20th May so liaised with us about this. Our members have come up trumps as, not only have we managed to 'man' the display for part of each day for the fortnight, two of them have also given talks. One was to about 90 school children from Damers School and another for the general public. By all accounts both were very well received. We've got two positive results from this in that we now have contact with a teacher at Damers School who is keen to further the children's interest in bees and a contact at the Garden Centre who is also keen to work with us again on other events around bees.

We have also now got a programme of apiary meetings for the summer as follows:

Sunday 24 June: Apiary near Sutton Poyntz (bottom of White Horse Hill). There is a top bar hive as well as Nationals and may have some mating nucs on the go.

Sunday 8th July: Apiary at Lynch Lane, Weymouth. Lots of colonies here - hives include Nationals, wbc & a top bar hive.

Sunday 29th July: Apiary at Osmington on a site owned by HeritageSeeds <http://www.heritage-seeds.co.uk>. We went there last year and as well as looking at the bees, managed to get a guided tour of the harvesting machines (including mini combine) and cleaning equipment. There are approx 4 hives here

Sunday 12 August: Apiary at Pinewood Lodge, with hopefully a cream tea afterwards.

Sunday 19th August: Extraction afternoon at Stinsford

All the apiary meetings start at 2.00pm and we would welcome members from other branches. All details will be put on our website.

We will shortly be starting to plan for our main event on **1/2nd September, the Dorchester Show**. We had to cope with rather poor weather over the Show last year so here's hoping that the hot and sunny weather will continue right through to September.

Sally Leslie, Secretary

East Dorset report

After a very successful Beginners' course led by Lesley Gasson to over fifty new and first year members, EDBKA has nine members undertaking the Basic Assessment this year and all new beekeepers now have bees thanks to the association's intrepid swarm-collecting team.

We were very sad to lose a long-standing member, Lesley Searle, in May who was a wonderful beekeeper and was Chairman of the group for some time. We are delighted that her husband allowed us to move two of her hives to our apiary where they are thriving and are a wonderful memory of her.

The highlight of our apiary meetings so far has been the visit of our seasonal bee inspector Robin Oliver who spoke with members and answered questions at the beginning of June. We undertake our first Queen Rearing in July to which Robin has promised to contribute.



In July we visit Longthorne's Apiary where Vice Chairman Mark White has seventeen hives. This is always a popular event as it is followed by a cream tea!

Thanks to a generous donation from Corfe Mullen Parish Council, EDBKA has been able to purchase a Bee Vac which we know will help us reach those swarms and colonies that previously could not be caught.

Our Honey Show this year is on Saturday 22nd September at Sturts Farm, West Moors.

Ivor Kemp

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BEE FARMERS ASSOCIATION

Sherborne Report

The Sherborne Group provided an Introductory Course to Beekeeping in April attended by 12 people, 2 of whom have now joined the Association. This was given by Andrew Cooke, our Apiary Manager. We moved our hives in April from a wooded area to bright sunshine and they appear to be doing well. Our spring honey has been well received by Sherborne and is in some demand.

Attendance at apiary meetings on Saturday afternoons is not high so we are trying to encourage members to utilise the amenity. Current membership is now 55, an addition of some 10 members since October 2017.

Judy Easdale





News from West Dorset

Our Beginners course this year was very well supported with 25 very keen students, several of them are just waiting for bees now, just cannot wait to get stuck in, all very exciting for them. We had to postpone a few visits to the teaching apiary due to the terrible weather and to the state of the bees. Sadly we lost two colonies, they died out, they had plenty of food, queens just failed and another two had very poor matings the end of last year resulting in drone laying queens. On the upside we have split one colony as they had good queen cells, so just hoping now for a good mating.

Picked up a swarm to populate one of the empty hives on the 8th May, they were a little reluctant to go in the hive with new comb, hoping they have not absconded! We ran them into the hive, as the swarm was not that large, just in case the queen is a virgin and she would need to get out and mate. More often than not we would with a large swarm having an old queen drop them in the top of the brood box and put a Queen includer in for a few days to make sure they stay and feed a couple of days later.



We had a super evening with students making up frames for the apiary and a few for ourselves too, as you can imagine a lot of bee banter and plenty of noise. Half way through we had fish & chips brought in, they went down well!



The Schedules are now out for the Melplash Show Thursday 23rd August - they can be found elsewhere in this magazine or obtained from the office Tel 01308 423337 or online www.melplashshow.co.uk for online entries - also on our West Dorset website too, with the Show Rules - if there are any problems or queries please ring me 01308 456210. Hope to see several of you at the show.

You can follow us on Facebook & our Website www.westdorsetbees.org

Not many calls so far for swarms, only heard of three. No doubt there will be several around soon.

Carole Brown

WDBKA Sec

01308 456210

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It's Showtime !

Gillingham and Shaftesbury Show — Wednesday 15 August

Division VII HONEY

Please read show condition 1 & 4 The Baylis Challenge Shield (Trophy No. 62.) will be awarded to the exhibitor gaining the most points in this section.

NOTES A All exhibits must be the produce of the exhibitor B No card, label or distinguishing mark to be visible on any exhibit (except in class 175) Entry Fee - CLASSES 171-186 - 50p per entry Prizes Classes 171-186 - 1st £3; 2nd £2; 3rd £1

- 171 Two 1lb/12oz jars of light clear runny honey.
- 172 Two 1lb/12oz jars of medium clear runny honey.
- 173 Two 1lb/12oz jars of naturally granulated honey.
- 174 Two 1lb/12oz jars of creamed honey.
- 175 Three jars with labels as for sale.
- 176 Two cartons of cut comb, 6-8ozs. Display in commercially available containers.
- 177 One shallow frame of honey suitable for extracting.
- 178 One piece of beeswax, not less than 6ozs. Display in clear plastic bag.
- 179 Two moulded beeswax candles of any type display in safe candle holders.
- 180 Two patterned or decorated beeswax candles display in safe candle holders.
- 181 An item of decorative bees wax – not candle from not more than 10oz wax.
- 182 One bottle of mead – any type.
- 183 Five Hive Products – at least 2 items not as in the classes above.
- 184 12 Pieces of Honey Fudge as recipe on page 9 - display on paper plate and in plastic bag.
- 185 One Honey cake as recipe on page 9 - display on white plate and in plastic bag.
- 186 Photograph of Bees, hives or honey production — display mounted on card as applies to Photography classes.

More information can be found at:

<https://www.gillshaftshow.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/HortiSchedule.pdf>

Melplash Show - Thursday 23 August

See the schedule on pages 10-12

Dorchester Show - Saturday 1 & Sunday 2 September

It is understood that there will be 'open' classes at the 'show within a show' run by Dorchester and Weymouth BKA, but details are not yet available.

East Dorset BKA - Saturday 22 September

No information is yet available.



Beekeeping

Section Chairman: Mrs C A Brown

Entry Fees: Classes **470** to **500** 50p

Prize Money: **1st** £3.00; **2nd** £2.00; **3rd** £1.50.

Judge: Mrs Hazel Blackburn, READING

All exhibits will be staged in the Beekeeping Marquee with The West Dorset Beekeeper's Association display.

WEST DORSET BEEKEEPING ASSOCIATION AND THE DORSET COUNTY HONEY SHOW RULES APPLY. To be found on our Website www.westdorsetbees.org.uk

The WDBKA are hosting **THE 2018 DORSET COUNTY HONEY SHOW**

President Richard Norman will present the County cups & Trophies on the day.

Dorset Challenge Cup awarded to member with most points in classes 470-491

F W Carter Challenge Cup awarded to member with the most points in classes 472, 477, 478, 478A, 479

Betty Courtney Memorial Shield awarded to member with most points in classes 481,481A,482, 489,490

Pearl Wellington Memorial Shield awarded to member with most points in classes 485, 486, 486A, 491

Novice Trophy & National Honey Show Card awarded to member with most points in classes 476A, 476B, 476C

Branch Shield & £20 cash awarded by the Dorset BKA awarded to the Branch with the most points in the show classes 470-491

The Massey Trophy is awarded to the person who gains the most points in classes marked with an * in this show and at Dorchester Show

West Dorset Beekeepers Association Cups & Trophies

The M. C. Bond Challenge Shield to be awarded to a member of the West Dorset Beekeepers' Association gaining the most points in the beekeeping classes 470 to 500

The Carole Brown Trophy to be awarded to a member of the WDBKA for most points in the classes 492 to 500

The M R Wood Challenge Cup to be awarded to the winner of class 480

The Bob Mather Challenge Cup to be awarded for the best comb of honey ready for extraction in either class 477 or 497

Blue Ribbon/Certificate of Merit for best exhibit in Show

Classes 470 to 491 are open to all Beekeepers.

470* Two 454g/1lb. jars of clear light honey.

471* Two 454g/1lb. jars of clear medium honey. (This class to be kindly sponsored by **Felicity's Farm Shop**, More-combelake Tel 01297 480930 awarding a £10 Food Voucher)

472* Two 454g/1lb. jars of chunk honey.

473* Two 454g/1lb. jars of naturally crystallised honey (not soft set). This class to be kindly sponsored by **Modbury Farm Shop**, Burton Bradstock. Tel. 01308 897193 awarding a £10 shop voucher.

474* Two 454g/1lb. jars of soft set honey.

475 Three 454g/1lb jars of honey, any matching type labelled with exhibitors own label as for sale

476 Six 454g/1lb jars of honey - three matching pairs. (1 pair of liquid, 1 pair of chunk, 1 pair of granulated)

Novice trophy classes

Open to all exhibitors who have not won a class in a County Honey Show

476A Novice - One 454g (1lb) jar light, medium, or dark honey

476B Novice - One 454g (1lb) jar naturally crystallised or creamed soft set honey

476C Novice - Three 25g (1oz) blocks of beeswax

477* One frame of comb honey suitable for extracting wired or unwired

478 Two square sections

478A Two round sections

479* Two minimum 227g/8oz of cut comb honey in standard plastic containers.

480 Two 454g/1lb. jars of clear light, clear medium or clear dark honey. (Open to exhibitors who have never won a first prize for honey).

481* One cake of beeswax, minimum 454g/1lb, moulded in a plain shape.

481A One cake beeswax 227-340g (8-12oz) made in a plain mould

482 Any decorative item with bees wax (not a candle) - any method

483* One bottle of dry mead. To be shown in a clear plain glass bottle of a round type approximately 75cl capacity. White plastic flanged stoppers only may be used.

484* One bottle of sweet mead. To be shown in a clear plain glass bottle of a round type approximately 75cl capacity. White plastic flanged stoppers only may be used.

485 Honey Fruit Cake. Exhibits must be made to this recipe.

Ingredients: 200g/7oz self-raising flour, 175g/6oz honey, 110g/4oz butter, 175g/6oz sultanas, 2 medium eggs, 110g/4oz. glace cherries (halved).

Method: Preheat oven to 180°C/350°F /gas mark 4. Cream butter and honey together. Beat eggs well and add them alternately with sifted flour then fold in sultanas and cherries. A little milk may be added if necessary. Bake in a buttered circular tin, 7inch/18cm in diameter for approximately 1½ hours. Timing is for conventional ovens and is a guide only as appliances vary - Fan ovens may vary. To be displayed on a white paper plate with a doily covered with clear polythene or cling film. (This class to be kindly sponsored by **Waitrose of Bridport** awarding a £10 Food Voucher)

486 Six Honey Crunch biscuits

Ingredients: 55g/2oz butter, 55g/2oz plain flour, 1 tbsp. honey, 55g/2oz granulated sugar, 85g/3oz rolled oats, ½ tsp bicarbonate of soda

Method: Melt the butter and honey together. Take off heat and add bicarbonate of soda. In a bowl put flour, sugar and oats, mix in the liquid mixture and allow to cool slightly. Put knobs of the mixture onto a greased baking sheet and flatten slightly

Bake at 325°F/170°C or Gas Mark 4 for approx. 15mins. To be displayed on a white paper plate with a doily covered with clear polythene or cling film. (This class to be kindly sponsored by **Leakers Bakery**, Bridport. Tel. 01308 423296 www.leakersbakery.co.uk awarding a £10 voucher).

86A Honey & Ginger cake.

Ingredients: 115g/4 oz. butter, 115g/ 4oz honey, 283g/10oz plain flour, 2 eggs size 2, 170g/6oz brown sugar, 1 tsp bicarbonate of soda, 3 tsp ginger, 1 tsp cinnamon, 50g/2oz golden syrup, 2tbsp milk.

Method: Sift dry ingredients into a bowl. Melt honey butter, sugar, syrup and milk until runny. Beat the eggs. Add the liquid then the eggs to the flour. Pour into 2lb loaf tin. Bake at Gas Mark 2-3 / 160°C for 75-90minutes. Cook until just firm; cool in the tin. Turn out and glaze with honey while still warm. To be displayed on a white paper plate with a doily covered with clear polythene or cling film.

487* One photograph on a subject of interest to beekeeping. Prints no less than 100mm x 150mm (4" x 6"), must be mounted on a card of any colour, maximum size mount 200mm x 255mm (8" x 10"). A title/explanation is to be positioned centrally below the print. (This class to be kindly sponsored by **Longs Fish & Chips, Bridport** Tel. 01308 423199 www.longsbriport.co.uk awarding a voucher of £5)

488 One photograph - specifically bees - inside and outside the nest. Prints no less than 100mm x 150mm (4" x 6"), must be mounted on a card of any colour, maximum size mount 200mm x 255mm (8" x 10"). A title/explanation is to be positioned centrally below this print. (This class to be kindly sponsored by **Footprints Bridport** - Tel 01308 422511 awarding a voucher of £10).

489 Two identical beeswax candles, made in a plain mould. (One candle to be lit by the judge).

490 Two identical beeswax candles, made by any means other than a mould. (One candle to be lit by the judge).

491 Twelve pieces of honey fudge

Ingredients 454g/1lb granulated sugar, 140ml/¼ pint evaporated milk, 2 tbsp. honey, ¼ tsp salt & 55g/2oz butter.

Method: Boil sugar, salt and milk for 5 minutes. Add honey and boil to 'soft ball' stage 240° F. Add butter and allow to stand until lukewarm. Beat until creamy, pour into a buttered dish. When nearly set, mark into squares. Display on a white paper plate with a doily, covered with polythene or cling film.

Classes 492 to 500 are open only to members of the

West Dorset Beekeepers Association.

492 Two 454g/1lb jars of clear light honey. (This class to be kindly sponsored by Sue & Mike English of **Fruits of the Earth**, Victoria Grove Bridport DT6 3AA. Tel 01308 425827 awarding a £10 voucher)

493 Two 454g/1lb. jars of clear medium honey. (This class to be kindly sponsored by **Co-op of Bridport** awarding a £10 food voucher)

494 Two 454g/1lb. jars of chunk honey

495 Two 454g/1lb. jars of naturally crystallised honey (not soft set). (This class to be kindly sponsored by **WM Morrisons**, Bridport awarding a £10 voucher)

496 Two 454g/1 lb. jars of soft set honey

497 One shallow frame of comb honey suitable for extracting. (This class to be kindly sponsored by **Moore than Tea**, 21 West Street Bridport DT6 3QN. Tel 01308 423072 awarding a £10 voucher)

498 One section, square or round, of comb honey

499 Beeswax. Not less than 225g/8oz and not more than 250g/9oz in four or eight moulded pieces. (any shape) (This class to be kindly sponsored by **Filberts**, users of local Dorset Bees Wax in their Balms & Salves Tel 01305 264927 www.filbertsbees.co.uk awarding gifts of £5, £3 & £2)

500 One piece of cut comb honey in a standard plastic container, minimum weight 170g / 6oz.

THE DORSET CONVENTION

SUNDAY 21ST OCTOBER

To held at the Blandford School, Milldown Road at 10.00am to 4.00pm

Speakers

Celia Davis author of Honey Bees Inside Out and Honey Bee Round & About will speak on ***In Self Defence***. A discussion about the way that colonies and individual bees protect themselves from infections and how beekeepers can both help and hinder this natural immunity.

Pam Hunter Chair of the BBKA Examinations Committee will speak on the **Evolution of Plants and Insects especially bees**.

Anne Rowberry a new BBKA Trustee will talk about foraging, what bees bring in to the hive, what motivates them to collect what they do, how they collect it and how it is used.

'Shopping for the colony; where, what, how and why. A look at bees foraging and why they do what they do.'

Dan Basterfield who runs a number of NDB courses at Blackberry Farm will speak on **Reading Bees** what do you understand when you look at a comb of brood and how does this influence what you do.

Other attractions

Lin Coleman from Stockbridge Thorne's shop will have a stall selling beekeeping equipment. If you order it before hand I am sure she will bring anything you need with her.

Northern Bee books will have a stall of books on Beekeeping; if you want a particular book let me or Jerry Burbidge know to include it in the collection of books

Tea and cake provided by Blandford and Sturminster BKA in the afternoon. Lunch is available provided by the Willows tea rooms at £12 to include a light lunch with pudding and can be purchased with your ticket

Entrance will be by ticket purchased in advance at £10.00 from August onwards.

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Education

Would you like to know more about your bees?

I know it is June and you have not thought about September yet . What do you know about your bees and what would you like to learn?

Terry Payne, Geoff Buckland, Liz Rescorla and I are happy to do courses of 6-8 study sessions each, either before or after Christmas on a variety of topics. You do not have to have passed your basic beekeeping exam to attend the study sessions but if you want to enter for the exams you need to have passed the basic

Here is a summary of the various modules on offer.

Module 1 Beekeeping Management. This follows the syllabus of the Basic exam in many ways but gives you more depth about each topic. It deals with hives, hygiene, swarming , feeding, and is one of the easiest modules

Module 2 is concerned with Hive products and forage. You learn about the contents of honey, wax, and propolis and how they are made as well as about flowers and their structures. It is of interest to people who garden as well as beekeepers.

Module 3 is about pests and diseases and covers their origin, treatments, and effects on the bees. We all ought to be able to recognise the different diseases.

Module 5 is about bee anatomy and physiology and is the most demanding of the modules. If you have done biology during your school years you may find it less of a struggle but there is a great deal to cover. Who knew bees were so complex ?

Module 6 is about bee behaviour. This is one of the more accessible modules we all have watched our bees and finding out about how they communicate and deal with their environment is a pleasure.

Module 7 is about bee breeding and genetics. If you are interested in raising your own queens this is a useful module.

Module 8 is about the history of beekeeping and a resume of some of the other modules. You can only take it when you have passed the other 6 modules.

Please look through this list and if there is something here you would like to study let me know; then I can arrange it in good time with our wonderful tutors. My email address is: imgasson@btinternet.com and phone number is 01258 861680

Lesley Gasson

Education Officer

Dorset Dates

Date	Branch	Event	Contact	Venue
24 June	Dorchester & Weymouth	Apiary visit	Sally Leslie	Sutton Poyntz
8 July	Dorchester & Weymouth	Apiary visit	Sally Leslie	Weymouth
22 July	Blandford & Sturminster Newton	Apiary visit	Lesley Gasson	Twickenham
29 July	Dorchester & Weymouth	Apiary visit	Sally Leslie	Osmington
12 August	Dorchester & Weymouth	Apiary visit	Sally Leslie	Pinewood Lodge
15 August		Gillingham & Shaftesbury Show		Motcombe
19 August	Apiary Visit at Buckfast Abbey	Blandford & Sturminster	Lesley Gasson	Buckfast Abbey
19 August	Dorchester & Weymouth	Extraction Day	Sally Leslie	Stinsford
23 August	West Dorset	Melplash Show, incl Dorset Honey Show	Carole Brown	West Bay
1/2 September	Dorchester & Weymouth	Dorchester Show	Richard Norman	Dorchester
22 September	East Dorset	Honey Show	Jenny Wellman	West Moors
21 October	DBKA	DORSET CONVENTION	Lesley Gasson	Blandford Forum

Who's Who in the Dorset County Beekeepers Association

President Mr. Richard Norman

Chairman	Mr. Geoff Buckland The Willows Icen Lane Weymouth DT3 5PY 01305 567950 geofbuckland@aol.com
Secretary	VACANT - a volunteer is needed URGENTLY!
Treasurer	Mr. Robert Camping Yew Tree Cottage, Higher Row, Holt, Wimborne BH21 7EB 01202 849338 yewcot@gmail.com
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