

EBKA Colchester Division

Conference 2025

Saturday 11th October



The background of the slide is a honeycomb pattern in shades of yellow and orange. A faint, stylized image of a bee is visible in the center, appearing to fly or move across the frame.

Wellbeing –

The health and wellbeing of
our bees and our
beekeepers

The Venue

- Holiday Inn Colchester, Abbots Lane, Eight Ash Green, CO6 3QL
- Easy to find straight off the A12.
- Free and amply car parking.
- The conference will be in the Priory Helena Room near the entrance lobby.
- Separate newly refurbished restaurant and bar.
- The conference room will have 10 round tables to sit 8-10 people on each.
- Water will be available on each table.

We plan to have stalls and a raffle in the conference room.

What to expect

- Registration and handing out name badges.
- Teas, coffees, fruit juice on arrival.
- 1st speaker – Kevin Thorn
- Break for teas, coffees, fruit juice, savoury and sweet snacks.
- 2nd speaker – Brigit Strawbridge
- Break for hot and cold buffet in the restaurant. The bar will also be open. Brigit Strawbridge is also bringing her book to do a book signing to anyone who wishes to make a purchase.
- 3rd speaker – Dr Gerry Brierley
- Break for afternoon tea, coffee, fruit juice, savoury and sweet snacks.
- Awards ceremony and raffle draw

Conference speakers

Kevin Thorn

Kevin Thorn is a Beefarmer with 50 hives in and around Lavenham, Suffolk.

Kevin is passionate about improving his bees to be calm, healthy and productive and working to educate beekeepers in this area. He and his wife Julie run Stour Valley Apiaries and Busy Bees Cosmetics.

Kevin has established a Bee Improvement Group at Abberton Reservoir in Essex, working with local beekeepers, Colchester BKA, Essex and Suffolk Water and Essex Wildlife Trust to reintroduce the native black bee to the area.

Dr Gerry Brierley

A pharmacy in a box. Apitherapy is a practice that uses the healing powers of honeybees.

Gerry first came across it by accident when she became very ill with Lyme disease - a debilitating condition caused by tick bites. Treatment for this disease, in Gerry's case, involved a lengthy course of bee stings! Her ongoing research has led to further interest in other apitherapy practices such as the use of propolis, pollen and royal jelly.

Briget Strawbridge

Brigit Strawbridge is a wildlife gardener, amateur naturalist, and advocate of bees. Based in Cornwall, she writes and campaigns to raise awareness of the importance and diversity of native wild bees and other pollinating insects. She is author of *Dancing with Bees: A Journey Back to Nature*.

- Early bird ticket price of £26. Later price of £29. Tickets to go on sale end of June/beginning of July for early bird price.
- Raffle – the money raised from the raffle to go to St Helena Hospice.
- Stalls – Box House Bees – beekeeping supplies, Kevin Thorn bee products.
- Richard and Jane Ridler to come along to promote Bees Abroad.

To be confirmed:

- Ian Nichols / NBU to come along to encourage members to join Beebase and discuss the Yellow Legged AH.
- May be able to offer a pick up service from public transport??
- Seeking sponsorship.