



GILLINGHAM & SHAFTESBURY SHOW

19 & 20 AUG 2026

Gillingham and Shaftesbury Honey Show Schedule 2026

Staged alongside the North Dorset Beekeeper's Association display in the

Bees & Honey Marquee

Turnpike Showground, Motcombe, Shaftesbury, Dorset, SP7 9PL

Wednesday 19th & Thursday 20th August 2026

Gates open at 8:30am

Entries in this section close on Wednesday 29th July 2026. This date will be strictly adhered to.

Entries can be made online via www.gillinghamandshaftesburyshow.co.uk/compete

Results will be published on the same online platform as entries.

Paper Entries must be sent with the exact entry fees in a sealed envelope to: Show Office, Turnpike Showground, Motcombe, Shaftesbury, Dorset SP7 9PL. Unfortunately, we cannot accept payment via cheque.

To obtain an entry form or to discuss further particulars, please email

compete@gillinghamandshaftesburyshow.co.uk or telephone the Show Office on 01747 823955.

Trophies will be presented at 4:30pm on Thursday 20th August 2026. **The Gables Trophy** will be awarded to the North Dorset Beekeeper Association exhibitor gaining the most points in the honey show. **The Larkham Trophy** will be awarded to the Sherborne Beekeeper Association exhibitor gaining the most points in the honey show. **The Bayliss Shield** will be awarded to the exhibitor gaining the most points overall.

Committee: Lynne Richley, Lesley Gasson, Tricia Hills, Duncan Venn & Imy Rousell

Judges: Susie Perkins, Christopher Rawlings & Sue Billington

Entry Fee: 50p per entry

Open Classes

Honey

All jars to be 454g/1lb squat glass jars secured against leakage with plain lacquered metal lids (except class 6). Chromium plated or coloured tops are not allowed and will disqualify the exhibit. BS grading glasses as approved by the National Honey Show will be used to determine the colour of the honey.

1. Two 454g jars of light clear run honey
2. Two 454g jars of medium clear run honey
3. Two 454g jars of naturally granulated honey
4. Two 454g jars of creamed honey
5. Two 454g jars of chunk honey
6. Three jars of honey with labels as for sale, any size
7. Two Cartons of cut comb displayed in crystal comb containers minimum gross weight 227g
8. One section comb honey, can be square or round.
9. One shallow frame of honey suitable for extraction in a bee proof showcase

Wax

Wax should be the product of the exhibitor's own hives (except class 16). All candles to be displayed erect in an appropriate size holder but to be removeable from the holder by the judge for inspection.

10. One piece of beeswax not less than 454g to be cast in a plain mould, no colouring permitted.
11. Five wax blocks all to be the same colour and style (27-29g each) no colouring permitted
12. An item of decorative beeswax, for example, a display of wax flowers, sculpture, picture, decorative mould, not more than 300g
13. Two plain moulded beeswax candles one to be lit by the judge, no colouring permitted.
14. Two identical beeswax candles made by any method one to be lit by the judge, colouring permitted
15. Two patterned beeswax candles (not rolled) one to be lit by the judge
16. Two decorated beeswax candles to be made by rolling, colouring permitted. Matching in all respects, one to be lit by the judge (no flammable decoration other than beeswax).

Meads

Must be shown in a punted clear glass wine bottle with shoulders not sloping sides of approx. 75cl capacity with white plastic topped flanged corks. No alcohol may be added.

17. One bottle of sweet mead
18. One bottle of dry mead
19. One bottle of melomel or metheglin. To be labelled with the main flavour and exhibitor number, but with no other identifying marks

Confectionery

20. Honey cake; recipe overleaf. To be displayed on a plain white paper plate, with doily and in a clear polythene bag. Cakes to be cut during judging.

Ingredients: 150 g butter; 100 g light soft brown sugar; 175 g clear honey; 15 ml water; 200 g self-raising flour; 2 eggs (Size 2).

Method: Grease and line a round cake tin 15-20 cm diameter (6-8 inch). Place sugar, butter, honey and water in a pan and heat gently, stirring until the sugar has dissolved. Sift the flour over the surface and stir in. Beat well with a wooden spoon to remove lumps. Beat the eggs lightly then add to mixture distributing evenly. Turn the mixture into the prepared tin. Bake for 50 minutes at 180°C (350°F, Gas mark 4). Leave to cool in the tin for 5 minutes and then turn onto a wire rack to cool. Cooking time and temperature may vary to suit the type of oven used so have a trial run before the competition day.

- 21.** Tray Bake, containing honey. Six pieces from the same recipe (each approx 50mm square) to be displayed on a plain white paper plate, with doily and in a clear polythene bag. Ingredients and method to be submitted.
- 22.** Decorated cake; exhibitors' own choice of recipe, decorated with a beekeeping theme. Cake decoration to be judged. To be displayed on a plain white paper plate, with doily and in a clear polythene bag. The cake will not be cut during judging.
- 23.** Honey chocolate truffles. 250g weight to be displayed on a plain white paper plate, with doily and in a clear polythene bag. Recipe: own choice of recipe. Ingredients and method to be submitted.

Photographic and Craft

- 24.** Photograph of bees, hives or honey production 15cm x 10cm mounted on card. Title of photograph to be affixed centrally below the image and entry label to be adhered to the front top right corner of the mount. Photograph to have been taken by the exhibitor and not exhibited previously at the show.
- 25.** Three to five postcard sized themed photographs pertaining to beekeeping up to A3 size including mount. Title of photographs to be affixed centrally below the images, and entry label to be adhered to the front top right corner of the mount. Photographs to have been taken by the exhibitor and not exhibited previously at the show.
- 26.** Artistic item related to beekeeping for example painting, embroidery, sculpture, carving.
- 27.** Limerick on the yellow legged hornet; these are to be submitted as a hard copy and may contain original artwork. Entries will be judged on rhyme meter, humour, artwork and relevance to beekeeping.
- 28.** A display of 5 different hive products, not including any of the classes above for example these could be polish, honey preserves, honey vinegars, cosmetics. All items to be labelled for information as to what they are, but, without any identifying marks other than the exhibitor's show number.
- 29.** Matching Beeswax wraps; 30 cm x 30 cm. One piece of wrap will be used to wrap a food item which will be supplied by the Show. Only beeswax to be used; no added oils or resins permitted.

Newcomer Classes: open to first time exhibitors to the Gillingham & Shaftesbury Show

30. One 454g/1lb squat glass jar of honey, any type. Jars are to be secured against leakage with plain lacquered metal lids.

31. Composite Class - any two of the following items:

- One 454g jar of run honey
- One 454g jar of set honey
- One frame of honey suitable for extracting
- Four beeswax blocks (27-29g each) all to be the same colour
- One beeswax candle

32. One beeswax candle made by any method (not rolled), to be lit by the judge. To be displayed erect in appropriate size holder.

Show Conditions

1. Classes in this schedule are open to amateurs only. Exhibitors may enter a MAXIMUM of TWO ENTRIES in any one class, but no exhibitor shall be entitled to take more than one award in any class.

2. All exhibits shown must be the bona-fide product of the exhibitor.

3. All exhibits must be staged between 3pm and 7pm on Tuesday 18th August *or* between 7am and 8am on Wednesday 19th August. Judging will commence at 8.30am on Wednesday 19th August. Exhibitors must vacate the marquee by 8:10am. This rule will be strictly enforced.

4. Exhibit numbers must be obtained from the Steward in the Beekeeping Marquee during the Staging Period shown in Condition 3 above.

5. Every care will be taken of exhibits, but the Committee will not be responsible for any loss or damage sustained as a result of the exhibition. This includes plates and equipment which are left at owner's risk. The Association reserves the right to dispose of any items left in the marquee after the Show.

6. Exhibitors must provide their own dishes and candle holders etc. and see that their exhibits are properly staged in their correct class. No responsibility can be entertained by the Committee for disqualification or loss attributed to neglect of this rule.

7. Entries can be made online via the Gillingham & Shaftesbury Show website

www.gillinghamandshaftesburyshow.co.uk/compete

8. The Judge has the power to award or reduce prize cards and the points awarded, according to the merits of exhibits, and their decision in this respect shall be final.

9. Protests must be made in writing to the Show Office before 4pm on Wednesday 19th August, and must be accompanied by a deposit of £25, which will be forfeited if the protest fails. In all cases of a dispute the decision and discretion of the committee shall be final and binding. All objections must be delivered to the Show Office on Wednesday 19th August; no objection will be subsequently received.

10. Collection of exhibits – Exhibitors must present their receipt slip to the section stewards before collecting their exhibits. No exhibit may be removed from the marquee until 4.30 pm on Thursday 20th August, except by special arrangement with the honey show stewards. All exhibits must be cleared by 6.00 pm. Any exhibits not collected by this time will be disposed of by the Society.

11. One free show day admission ticket will be issued to any one individual who enters and stages **ten or more items**, limited to one ticket per exhibitor, to be collected on staging of exhibits.

12. Exhibitors may supply some of their honey and/or limited beeswax products for sale at the show. Exhibitors wishing to sell honey and other products at the show must ensure that their items are delivered to the show in durable, preferably plastic, boxes. All honey for sale must be labelled in accordance with the honey labelling regulations. Please note a commission is payable to the Gillingham & Shaftesbury Agricultural Society.

Show Rules

1) No card, label, trade or distinguishing mark of an exhibitor may be placed on any part of an exhibit, other than the labels provided by the Show Secretary.

2) Labels:

- All jars to be round 454g jars with plain lacquered metal lids (except class 6), exhibit entry labels to be placed 2cm from the base of the jar.
- Candles are to be displayed erect. Labels to be placed near to the base of the candles.
- For other wax exhibits, the labels are to be placed on the underside of the exhibit and the top right-hand corner of the plastic bag covering/display case.
- Comb Honey, shallow frame for extraction labels to be placed on the top right-hand corner of the front vertical face of the showcase and the duplicate placed on top of the frame.
- Cakes one label on the top right-hand corner of the covering plastic bag, the other on the plate. All cakes to be exhibited on a white paper plate in a clear plastic bag.
- Confectionery, sweets/chocolates one label on the plate and one on the top right-hand corner of the clear plastic bag.

EXCEPTION TO SHOW RULE 1. Exhibitors to use their own labels (as for retail) in class 6 (Show exhibit labels are also to be attached in class 6).

3) Every article exhibited and sold must be bona-fide the property of the exhibitor. All honey and wax exhibited must be gathered from flowers in the natural way within the United Kingdom by bees the property of the exhibitor at the time of gathering.

EXCEPTION TO RULE 2. The wax and honey used in the polish, candle rolling and cookery exhibits must have been produced within the United Kingdom but may have been purchased (Classes 16, 20, 21, 22, 23).

4) Comb Honey: Frames of comb honey suitable for extraction must be shown in "beetight glazed cases" and capable of easy withdrawal. One label on top r/h corner of the glass & one label on the top bar of the frame. Cut Comb to be exhibited in crystal comb 227g containers with a clear lid one label on the front of the case, the other on the top right-hand corner of the lid. Sections: round must have clear covers both sides with no bands. Square must be enclosed in section cartons or a show case and be easily removable for judging.

5) Mead must be shown in punted clear glass wine bottles with shoulders not sloping sides of approx. 75cl (approx. 26fl.oz) stoppered with white plastic flanged stoppers.

6) EXHIBITS. No exhibit may be tasted or interfered with in any way by an exhibitor or any other person during the show without permission of the Show Secretary or Official Stewards. The Show Committee (and Stewards) will take normal care of exhibits during the show but will not be responsible in any circumstances for the loss or damage sustained by exhibitors.

7) The **Bayliss Cup** will be awarded to the exhibitor gaining the most points overall. The **Gables trophy** will be awarded to the North Dorset BKA member gaining the most points overall. The **Larkham trophy** will be awarded to the Sherborne BKA member gaining the most points overall.

Points awarded will be calculated on the following basis: - 1st....6pts, 2nd....5pts, 3rd....4pts, VHC or 4th...3 pts, HC 2 pts, C 1 pt.

8) In the event of a tie, the cup or prize will be awarded jointly.

9) Exhibitors may enter more than one exhibit in a class but no exhibitors in any class may take more than one prize.

10) In the event of any query the Show Secretary's decision is final.

