

MOVING STORY FROM EALING TO TRURO

Interview by **Katie Weston**

Name: **Emily Scott**

Age: **35**

Moved from: **Ealing**

Moved to: **Truro**

Job: **Digital Content Librarian**

Hobby: **Beekeeping**



I lived in Ealing, on the outskirts of London, for 10 years and have lived in a few other cities too - Truro is definitely the smallest. Four generations of my husband's family live in Cornwall, and we thought it would be nice for our one-year-old son, Tommy, to grow up with his cousins. I work from home three days a week as a digital content librarian, posting new content and managing webinars and webchats for a membership organisation; my husband, Drew, works in IT, while my son goes to Naturally Learning Nursery.

In my spare time, I'm a keen beekeeper. I took four exam modules with the British Beekeeping Association, in subjects including honey bee management, diseases and behaviour. They were quite difficult and technical with lots of revision - it was like going to college all over again!

There's more room for keeping bees outdoors in Cornwall. Finding space in London was a bit of a problem, and I had to keep mine at a nature reserve. Here, you can have them in your garden, and they can find flowers anywhere within three miles.

We had to leave my bees behind in London with an apiarist friend. It would have been stressful for them to come all this way, and you can't just transport them in the back of a standard car. I'm looking at buying a new hive in the spring; in the meantime, I'm going to try and make a solitary bee shelter with bamboo tubes in the garden, and plant lots of bee-friendly flowers.

There is some concern about the potential extinction of bees. What can you do? If you live somewhere bee-friendly, look after nature generally and plant lots of pots. They tend to like blues and purples, like lavender; herbs too, especially rosemary and mint - all the nice-smelling ones.

In Cornwall, efforts are being made to breed the Native Dark Bee, which came close to extinction in the 20th century. You have to keep the hives separate to make sure the queen doesn't mate with other breeds. Cornwall is a really good location for achieving that because it's more isolated.

I share my beekeeping journey on my blog, Adventures in Beeland. There's plenty of bee activity to write about in Cornwall - I've visited the bee boles at Heligan, and Mount Edgcumbe is England's first native honey bee reserve. There's a seminar at the Eden Project in February, and I'm going on an apiary visit in March.

I'm always surprised by how much honey people give me, especially considering I already have so much of it! Fortunately, it lasts for years and never goes off.

My favourite thing about Cornwall is the saffron buns - I never knew they existed before! So many bakeries and market stalls sell them here and they're just so tasty. I also love how you can get to the sea so easily. Before moving we used to visit Land's End, St Michael's Mount and lots of coastal villages twice a year, around Christmas and summer time. It amazed me how you could walk to the end of the road, turn a corner and just have this magnificent sea view right in front of you. ■

Read Emily's "beekeeping bumbles" at www.adventuresinbeeland.com/about/ and visit her Pinterest board www.pinterest.com/hughippos/bee-fun



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