



A P R I L 2 0 1 9

An Hes

'The Swarm'

Newsletter of West Cornwall Beekeepers Association

Secretary: secretary@westcornwallbka.org

www.westcornwallbka.org.uk

From the Chair...

Busy months ahead! Early season activity has caught some by surprise – with emerged drones already patrolling the hives. Oil seed rape in Perranwell Station and another between Port Navas and Constantine needs keeping an eye on too if you have hives in the area – started flowering early this year. Thankfully the wax foundation arrived in good time from the bulk purchase to fill those early supers.

The first call to our AHAT fortunately turned out to be a sighting of a European Hornet, - but at least the system is now in place for the coming season! Additional publicity is being prepared about Asian Hornets for the non-beekeepers, and distribution to networks identified by members will start at the end of this month.

Publicity for the Royal Cornwall Show is out – and copies of the entry form and Schedule are being sent out with this edition. If you are not going to the show, but want to exhibit, please contact me to arrange collection of exhibits.

Work on the new website: I am hopeful that it will be launched in the next few weeks – making it much easier to get communications out to all members.

And so to another season, will it be as good as last year?

Kate Bowyer



“Even bees, the little almsmen of spring bowers, know there is richest juice in poison-flowers ”

- John Keats

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Save the Date!

Monday 15th April 2019

The last Better Beekeeping meeting of the year

6th – 9th June 2019

The Royal Cornwall Show – get exhibiting!

Saturday 22nd June 2019

Bee Health Day at the Environment and Sustainability Institute (ESI) at University of Exeter, Penryn Campus



News

Bee Health Day 2019

Secure yourself a place at this year's Bee Health Day, which takes place at the Environment and Sustainability Institute (ESI) on University of Exeter's Penryn Campus. Swot up on varroa, Asian hornets and diseased comb recognition. What an opportunity - we can not stress strongly enough the importance of understanding and becoming adept at identifying threats and diseases in your colonies. Even if you have been to one of these events before, you're sure to learn something new! Spaces are limited, but you can book yourself onto the session by contacting Kate Bowyer on chairman@westcornwallbka.org.uk

More details can be found on page 5.

Survey on Bees & Pollinators

Ben Phillips and Jess Knapp are running a survey on public attitudes to pollinators as part of their research (at the University of Exeter). Views of beekeepers are important but so too are the views of others. Therefore members are invited to take part in the survey but also to encourage others, including those who normally don't think much about pollinators. So please do share with family friends and colleagues.

By participating, you can enter a draw to win a £50 Amazon gift voucher and opt to receive a copy of the study's findings. All views are very welcome, no matter your level of knowledge or interest. The survey can be found here:

<https://exeter.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/pollinators>

The WCBKA would like to extend a warm **WELCOME** to our newest members:

Polly Oliver, Jackie

Cutler, Corinne Carr,

Keith Humphreys, Anthony

Proughten, Stephen Patterson, Lyn

Andrewes and Sharon Carne!



Apicycistic Bombi Presentation Update

Sadly it has not been possible to reschedule Meri Anderson's talk on apicycistic bombi (originally proposed for the Winter Meeting in early March). Meri has been researching this bumblebee disease and its potential transition to honeybee populations. We hope to be able to provide an overview of the research findings at some time in the future.

The last of this season's Better Beekeeping meetings, however, will take place on **Monday 15th April** and this will include discussions on local flora, looking ahead to different forage throughout the season. We'll discuss the beekeeper's year, where and how to choose sites for hives, how to avoid nuisance, inevitable stings and the importance of bee space (top & bottom). We'll also go through the equipment needed for starting out as a beekeeper and the session will also include a nosema testing workshop.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Introduction to Beekeeping Course

The Association will be running our Introduction to Beekeeping Course at our Chy Vellan apiary again this year. Starting in mid May, it will be run over five 2 hour sessions on Tuesday evenings. The course is intended to provide sufficient information to enable a new beekeeper to get started, and will cover choice of hives and equipment, the colony, bee biology and communication, bee pests and diseases, swarming, where to source both bees and further information, handling skills, setting up your apiary, and of course stings. It will include at least one practical session.

The course fee £30 for members.

For more information or to express interest in the course, please contact Anne McQuade annemcquade@btinternet.com

Asian Hornet Action Team (AHAT) Update

What a fantastic turnout at our Marazion meeting on 4th March, possibly the result of Kate's arresting email! It was also an indication that so many of our members are taking the threat of the Asian Hornet seriously and wanting to learn more. We are all on a learning curve, as they say. Thank you also for making so many suggestions of how we can get the word out to the general public, we are working on that. I hope that everyone took a copy of our leaflet, there are lots more available, and that all beekeepers are registered on BeeBase.

We have assembled an enthusiastic Asian Hornet Action Team for our association, and we recently met to discuss our strategy both for the association and for the public. The idea for AHAT's, which are now country wide, arose as a result of a beekeeper in Devon feeling unsupported by his beekeeping colleagues when he was sure that he had seen a hornet, so our first responsibility is towards beekeepers, both our members and other beekeepers in our area. We are here to provide information and help with identification of any possible sightings of the Asian Hornet. Secondly, we will inform the public, and be available to assist them with identification and advice.

For the public, we are making our own poster to replace the NNSS one, which will be more relevant to non-beekeepers, and we are writing an illustrated information leaflet for dissemination to organisations. This is taking a little time as we want to get it right. Once we feel that it is, we will be asking members to engage with and distribute the information to organisations, especially those that they themselves suggested at the Marazion meeting. Please bear with us for a bit longer.

The information and monitoring advice for April is the same as for March, and I make no apology for repeating it.

Your team is:

Kate Bowyer (Camborne/Redruth 07597 975926, katebowyer@outlook.com)

Andy Beard (Penwith area, 07958 582285 andy@abeard.co.uk)

Graham Caines (Helston/Lizard area, 07836 712329 grahamcaines@icloud.com)

Jenny Lewis (Hayle/St Ives area, 01736 753124, 07747 586354 jennymlewis@talktalk.net)

Mark Richards (Rosudgeon area, 07449 498650 mjred93@outlook.com)

Phil Green (Carleen/Helston area, 07825 336357 phil@kgbee.co.uk)

Anne McQuade (Falmouth area, 01326 373749 annemcquade@btinternet.com)

Our contact details are also in our Asian Hornet leaflet

Anne McQuade, AHAT coordinator

March/April 2019: Asian Hornet tips this month

Look up into trees for old Asian Hornet nests before bud burst after which foliage will make seeing them more difficult. Queens rarely, if at all, hawk in front of hives, therefore early in the season you are more likely to see an Asian Hornet elsewhere than in your apiary. Queens feed on tree sap and floral nectar in spring when they come out of hibernation, keen to replenish energy reserves used up over the winter. It is well worth keeping an eye on spring flowers frequented by our native pollinators in gardens, parks etc. to check whether this non-native invader is amongst them.

Similarly, the first cohort of workers (raised by the queen on her own) produced early in the season (eg May/June) are smaller than workers later in summer and are also unlikely to hawk in front of a hive at this time of year.

Look at flowers in your garden, parks etc, and put out monitoring traps using a sweet bait of fruit juice and beer. **Don't put out traps if you are unable to check them at least once daily and release the bycatch.**

COLOSS Velutina Task Force Meeting, Turin, Italy

From our resident science correspondent: Dr Pete Kennedy



COLOSS stands for Prevention of honey bee **CO**lony **LOSS**es and is an international, non-profit association headquartered in Bern Switzerland. Initially it started as an EU COST Action network, funded for 4 years, to assist European bee researchers in meeting and discussing emerging issues around honeybee colony losses. But it has since continued and grown to become global, including 1231 research members from 95 countries, supported purely by donations (sponsors include the Ricola Foundation, Eva Crane Trust, Veto-Pharma, and the International Bee Research Association).

COLOSS has core projects on colony losses monitoring, bridging research and practice (B-RAP) and work on key publications, but also includes a number of specific task forces, one of which is devoted exclusively to Asian hornets (*Vespa velutina*), i.e. the Velutina Task Force (VTF). VTF has met since 2016 and this year met in Turin, Italy, to coincide with the final year of an Italian project: StopVespa (funded under the EU LIFE programme). Approximately 80 researchers from 10 countries attended the event and shared updates and progress that has been made in understanding the biology of this invasive non-native predator, its impact on honeybees and wider biodiversity, and efforts to control its continuing spread across Europe. Presentations varied from ways of involving citizen scientists in reporting and validating sightings of Asian hornets, successes with monitoring networks, developments with different tracking approaches to help locate nests, preliminary results capturing early indications of impacts on pollinators other than honeybees, as well as updates from the laboratory of progress with developing species specific attractants. Particularly good news was how the efforts of a small team of dedicated hornet hunters had tackled Asian hornets on Mallorca, where they arrived in 2015, and removed nests to the point where they no longer found secondary nests last year.

Too early to speak of eradication but promising news nevertheless.

Bee Health Day 2019



Saturday 22nd June 2019 09:30-16:30
Environment and Sustainability Institute (ESI),
University of Exeter, Penryn (Tremough) Campus, TR10 9FE

This year we are returning to Penryn campus for our popular Bee Health Day at the kind invitation of Professor Juliet Osborne. The event was last held there in 2015 and was a great success.

The event is organised by CBKA, WCBKA, APHA and also sponsored by BDI. Presentations and workshops will be delivered by Bee Inspectors. Practical sessions will take place at either the campus apiary or an apiary close by. In order to help cover costs, we are making a small nominal charge of £5 per person. To reserve a place please e-mail either:

Mike White on mikewaterland@live.co.uk if you are a member of CBKA or:

Kate Bowyer on chairman@westcornwallbka.org.uk if you are a member of WCBKA

If at all possible please BACS your payment to CBKA Acco. No: 00007630 sort code: 40-52-40 and mark reference "Bee Health Day"

If you are unable to BACS, please send a cheque payable to CBKA to Vanessa Tyler, Treasurer CBKA, Cleveland, Hallworthy, Nr Camelford, Cornwall PL32 9SH and enclose a note referring to "Bee Health Day"

An outline programme for the Bee Health Day is:

0845-0930: Registration

0930-1015: Introduction to Bee Disease and its recognition

1015-1615: Workshop Groups covering:

- Varroa Biology, IPM and approved Veterinary Medicines
- **Asian Hornet** (including AHATS and also an update session on radio tracking)
- Diseased comb recognition and use of lateral flow devices
- Practical apiary disease inspection including checks for Foulbrood and Exotic Pests
- Complimentary tea and coffee at the mid morning and lunch time breaks

1615-1630: Round up and feedback

Notes: 1. Please bring your own lunch (the lounge area is very comfortable)

2. **Please remember to bring your freshly laundered bee suits, clean wellies boots/gloves, to be worn for the practical apiary disease inspection session.**

3. Please be prepared to car share to the nearby apiary if we are not able to use the campus apiary.

The Royal Cornwall Show 2019

EXHIBITION 6th, 7th & 8th June 2019

Bees and Honey Section

In association with Cornwall and West Cornwall Beekeepers' Associations

Show Secretary: Ms K.A. Bowyer
01209 216756 katebowyer@outlook.com

Section Coordinator: Mrs R. Lane

Judges:

HONEY CLASSES: Mr Stephen Guest + Mrs Dinah Sweet



Showing Excellence ROYAL CORNWALL SHOW SINCE 1793

Judges' Stewards

Honey, Beeswax:	Mr B Henderson Smith
Mead, Cookery	Mr J Roberts
	Mr H J Kendall
	Mrs C Syms
	Mrs Val Hitchman
	Ms C Sparrow

Important dates and deadlines

May 1st: Entries must be received by the Show Secretary to appear in the Show Catalogue. Entries after this date will not appear in the catalogue, but will be accepted.

May 1st: All cups must be returned to the Show Secretary by this date to arrange engraving.

Wednesday, 5th June: All exhibits must be booked into the Show and staged by 6.30pm.

Thursday, 6th June: Judging will take place during Thursday, and the results posted outside the Secretary's office when completed. Protests must be made to the Show Secretary before 4pm on the Thursday.

Saturday, 8th June: Prize-giving will take place at 3.00pm, and all exhibits must be removed between the show closing and 7pm on that day.

The full schedule including rules and regulations have been sent out with this editions on An Hes, please do refer to them. Recipes for the Honey Cooking categories are also include here.

Cornwall is fortunate in having two Beekeeping Associations - Cornwall Beekeepers' Association and West Cornwall Beekeepers' Association. Members from both Associations will be in attendance at the Bee and Honey Section on each day to give advice and information on Beekeeping to beekeepers and the public alike. The Association Contact details:

Cornwall Beekeeping Association Secretary: Anne Ramsden, anne@sabre146.co.uk

West Cornwall Beekeeping Association: Secretary: Val Hitchman, secretary@westcornwallbka.org.uk

What's On?

Call for Contributions!

We always like to hear from members so if you have a bee story that you would like to share or it there's a subject you want to write about for a future edition of An Hes, please get in touch. Email Debby & Paul at deludedfaery@gmail.com

We'd be really pleased to hear about your experiences of the first inspection after winter, top bar hives, how you got into beekeeping, or what winter projects you've been working on.

If you hear about a bee related event that should be advertised here then please let us know! We're always interested in shouting about anything that's of interest to our community of members!

Monday 15th April 2019 – The Last Better Beekeeping Meeting

Covering everything else – local flora, forage through the season, the beekeeper's year, siting hives, avoiding nuisance, stings, the importance of bee space top & bottom, equipment needed for starting out, and a nosema testing workshop.

7:30pm, at **Marazion Community Centre**, Gwallon Lane, Marazion, TR17 0HW

6th, 7th, 8th and 9th June 2019 – The Royal Cornwall Show (RCS)

If you have never exhibited at the RCS before then why not go for it this year? Have a look at the rules and regulations sent out with this edition. If you're not sure about competing just yet then be sure to go along to the show and enjoy the day out, it is really a wonderful event with so much going on!

Saturday 22nd June 2019 – Bee Health Day

A return to Penryn campus for our popular Bee Health Day, at the kind invitation of Professor Juliet Osborne. The event was last held there in 2015 and was a great success. Plenty of parking, a comfortable venue, and informative workshops, including Asian Hornet, diseased comb recognition and practical apiary inspections.



We want to hear your views about bees and pollinators!

You can enter to win a £50 Amazon gift voucher and receive a copy of the study's findings.

All views are very welcome.

Visit

<https://exeter.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/pollinators>
(click the link in the post)

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