



J U N E 2 0 1 8

# An Hes



'The Swarm'

Newsletter of West Cornwall Beekeepers Association

Secretary: [secretary@westcornwallbka.org](mailto:secretary@westcornwallbka.org)

[www.westcornwallbka.org.uk](http://www.westcornwallbka.org.uk)

## From the Chair...

There have been reports of very high colony losses in the north this year – up to 50% in some areas due to the double dip in cold weather. Fortunately, we seem to have fared better here, with only isolated reports of significant losses – mostly blamed on queen failure. However, this is anecdotal. A number of you will be going to the Bee Health Day on the 16<sup>th</sup> June, but there are a couple of places left if anyone is interested. Finally, thank you for the additional swarm collectors that came forward after the appeal in last month's An Hes. Let's hope we won't be too busy this year.

*Kate Bowyer*



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## Save the Date!

16<sup>th</sup> June 2018

Bee Health Day

22<sup>nd</sup> September 2018

A Bit of A Do

Bee  
Quotes...  
#12

**I've said this over and over, but I'll say it a million more times - I'm concerned more about the death of a bee than I am about terrorism. Because we're losing hives and bees by the millions because of such strong pesticides**

- Patti Smith

# Monthly Hornet Update...June

From the Asian Hornet Task Group

Asian Hornets switch to a protein rich diet from June onwards, but workers are probably still not hawking in front of hives.

Look at flowers in your garden and put out traps using a fish based bait. **Don't put out traps if you are unable to check them daily and release the by-catch.**

## News in Brief

A BIT OF A DO

CORNWALL'S  
10TH

BEEKEEPING  
CONVENTION



Brought to you by  
Cornwall and West Cornwall  
Beekeepers' Associations



An exciting opportunity to hear the best  
speakers on beekeeping right here in Cornwall

**Sat 22nd Sept 2018**  
**Fal Building Truro College**  
**TR1 3XX**

### Annual Bee Health Day

On the 16<sup>th</sup> June the Annual Bee Health day is held in Lostwithiel. An opportunity to discuss any concerns you have with the Bee Inspectorate. Contact Kate Bowyer for more details:

[chairman@westcornwallbka.org.uk](mailto:chairman@westcornwallbka.org.uk)

### Nucs for sale

The Association has a number of nucs for sale. If you are interested in buying one – please contact Anne McQuade

[annemcquade@btinternet.com](mailto:annemcquade@btinternet.com)

### Sunday 1st July 2018 – 11am

#### Annual Bee Safari with Hazel Vallis

It's not too late to volunteer your hives for this annual event where we visit 2-3 apiaries in the company of Hazel Vallis (our local Bee Inspector). A member in Rosudgeon has already volunteered so if your hives are nearby (including Leedstown) and you could volunteer please contact Val by email:

[wcbka.val@gmail.com](mailto:wcbka.val@gmail.com)

This is a full day starting at 11am (bring a packed lunch) and finishing with afternoon tea. Bring a clean beesuit, gloves and clean wellies.

### Annual General Meeting (AGM) – 6<sup>th</sup> November

It's not too early to start thinking about whether you'd like to be on the Committee. We will have the important role of Treasurer to fill because Graham has completed his term and now has to stand down. We also need new beekeepers (at least two people on the committee need to have been members for less than three years). If you want to know more contact Kate [chairman@westcornwallbka.org.uk](mailto:chairman@westcornwallbka.org.uk)

### Bee Buddy Required

A member who has a small number of bees near Tehidy Country Park needs a Bee Buddy. If you can help out please contact [mountwhistle11@btinternet.com](mailto:mountwhistle11@btinternet.com)

# Further Details on 2018's BOAD

## Speakers include

### Dan Basterfield

Dan grew up with beekeeping around him and now helps to run the family beekeeping business in Devon, expanding the business and building a brand new honey farm. He is an active member of the Bee Farmers Association, was trustee and Chairman of the International Bee Research Association, is a BBKA Master Beekeepers and Examiner; and holds the National Diploma in Beekeeping. He runs 120 - 140 double brood Modified Commercial hives, migrating between various farm crops in East Devon, and raises queens for prolific, productive and healthy qualities. Outside the beekeeping season, Dan undertakes teaching for the BBKA and NDB.

### Chris Park

Chris keeps bees on organic farmland around the Oxfordshire / Wiltshire border and the Upper Thames valley. He has worked extensively with ancient technologies, experimental archaeology and traditional crafts. After researching and experimenting with varying styles of skep beekeeping, Chris teaches and lectures on skep making, beekeeping and beekeeping heritage / history around the UK. Chris is Chairman of the Beekeeping History Trust. He says that the practice of skep-beekeeping is not everyone's cup of tea, but it can be educational, rewarding and bee centred, in his experience creating healthy and happy stock.

### Dr Peter Kennedy

Peter is a Senior Research Fellow in Professor Juliet Osborne's Pollinator Research Group within the Environment and Sustainability Institute at University of Exeter's Penryn campus in Cornwall. He has a B.Sc. in Biology from Southampton university and a PhD in Agricultural Ecology from Bristol University. Peter has over 25 years experience as a field ecologist studying the behaviour and population dynamics of beneficial insects. His research has involved studying the impact of multiple stressors on honey bee colony development and survival, as well as factors affecting foraging behaviour. He is also a beekeeper and was a seasonal bee inspector.

### Anne Rowberry

After a career in teaching Anne moved to work for a charity involved in sustainable agriculture in Africa. She is a Master Beekeeper and keeps around 20 hives in Avon. She enjoys teaching beekeeping to pupils at a local school, is Chair of Avon County BKA and is also a trustee for the BBKA. What she loves about bees is that they do not read the books and keep us on our toes.

### Will Steynor

Will started keeping bees in 1964 having built a WBC hive in a woodwork class at school. In the mid- 70s he decided to expand his hobby into a business running 70 hives as a sideline alongside his career as an airline pilot. He ran his business until 1993 when he sold his operation and returned to the ranks of the hobby beekeeper where he continues to enjoy making things.

**Tickets and Pasties can be booked after 1st July from:**

**Heather Williams, Quillet Cottage, Leedstown, Cornwall TR27 6BP. [heather@quillet.org.uk](mailto:heather@quillet.org.uk)  
More details on [www.westcornwallbka.org.uk](http://www.westcornwallbka.org.uk) or contact Mark or Sue Houlton on 01566 774618**

# What's On?

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>, Friday 8<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June**

[www.royalcornwallshow.org](http://www.royalcornwallshow.org)

Good luck to everyone exhibiting this year – if you want to share your anecdotes, or photos\* in the next issue of An Hes email them to [deludedfaery@gmail.com](mailto:deludedfaery@gmail.com)

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June**

**Bee Health Day**

This event takes place at Lostwithiel Community Centre. There a couple of spaces left so if you want to attend contact Kate Bowyer as soon as possible!

[chairman@westcornwallbka.org](mailto:chairman@westcornwallbka.org)

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018**

**Annual Bee Safari with Hazel Vallis**

The Bee Safari is back – contact Val if you have any queries [wcbka.val@gmail.com](mailto:wcbka.val@gmail.com)

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

**WCBKA Member's Apiary Visit - Penryn**

A chance to visit Bob's new native bee apiary in collaboration with B4Group and BBiBBG/Bipco – email Bob for details [bob.black@talktalk.net](mailto:bob.black@talktalk.net)

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

**WCBKA Summer BBQ at Chy Vellan – 2pm**

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2018**

**A Bit of A Do - Truro College**

Tickets and pasties can be booked through Heather Williams from 1<sup>st</sup> July

[heather@quillet.org.uk](mailto:heather@quillet.org.uk)

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

**Kelhelland Apple Day**

\*We need written permission from anyone who can be identified in photographs so if you want us to print them – inanimate exhibits/objects are the way to go!

## Equity Policy

West Cornwall Beekeepers Association endeavours to provide a positive environment so all of our members can enjoy attending and participating in meetings and events. An Equity Policy has now been approved and the full details are on our website: <http://www.westcornwallbka.org.uk/member/>

If you feel you have been discriminated against or harassed report this to the President or Chairperson of the Association, or in the event that they are the perpetrators, to one of the Trustees.