



M A R C H 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...

Lots going on over the next couple of months in "bee world" – apart from delving into the homes of our bees, and chasing them over the horizon! Prof Pickard is always an entertaining speaker, and he will be talking at the CBKA centenary celebrations next week – book now! Royal Cornwall Show is almost upon us – an opportunity to enter something to show off your talents – more entries always welcome! Don't forget the Bee Health day at the University of Exeter, Penryn Campus- still places left for an opportunity to catch up on bee diseases, whatever type of bee or hive you favour...

And **congratulations** to Pete Kennedy and the team at the University of Exeter. I'm particularly interested in the project looking at the diet of the Asian Hornet - may just go to prove that honey bees are not the only delicacy....

Kate Bowyer



"I see the moon like a clipped piece of silver. Like gilded Bees the stars cluster around her"

- **Oscar Wilde**

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Save the Date!

Saturday 18th May 2019
CBKA Centenary Celebrations

Thursday 6th, Friday 7th & Saturday 8th June 2019
The Royal Cornwall Show

Saturday 22nd June 2019
Bee Health Day



News

Bees and Equipment for Sale:

A 12 month old poly dome hive with colony of bees, one full super & one nearly full super are all for sale. The hive is currently housed on a campsite & must be moved. Also for sale is a 2nd poly dome hive brand & full beekeeping equipment, all new & unused.

Sale of the above is offered at £350. If you are interested in this purchase please contact the seller directly, details below:

Francis Grose
01736787633 or 07968092135

Chy Vellan Summer Sessions

Mondays – 2pm to 4pm (weather permitting)

Weekly meetings at Chy Vellan (the WCBKA Apiary) have resumed for the season. All members are welcome to come along – a good opportunity to learn from experienced beekeepers, work with different colonies, meet fellow members and simply enjoy some extracurricular beekeeping!

Keep an eye on your emails at times of questionable weather as this is how cancellation will be communicated.

For location details please email:
chairman@westcornwallbka.org.uk

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 the 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.

CBKA Centenary Celebrations

Saturday 18th May sees the celebration of 100 years of beekeeping for the Cornwall Beekeeping Association. Professor Robert Pickard will be speaking at the event and WCBKA members are very welcome to attend.

Please see full details about the day-long programme later in this edition of An Hes.

Swarming season...

A couple of years ago Anne McQuade wrote an excellent article all about swarms, and you can read this on the WCBKA website <http://www.westcornwallbka.org.uk/swarms/WCBKA>

Did You Know...

13th – 17th May is “Invasive Species Week” - a good opportunity to alert the public to some of the issues:
<http://www.nonnativespecies.org/index.cfm?sectionid=132>

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

Andy Troup



Asian Hornet Project Funding

From Dr Pete Kennedy – Our Resident Science Correspondent

University of Exeter gets two new Asian hornet projects funded:

Prof Juliet Osborne and Dr Peter Kennedy are part of a consortium of European partners that have been successful in gaining funding to understand the spread and impact of the Asian hornet (*Vespa velutina*) within the European 'Atlantic Area'. The partnership involves academic researchers, government agencies and beekeeping organisations from 31 organisations across 5 countries (Spain, Portugal, France, Ireland and UK). The 3-year project aims to develop ways to constrain the continuing expansion the Asian hornet in Europe, and to minimise its impact on the ecosystem and socio-economic development. This will be through sharing & developing improved techniques for detection and capture, management of bee hives to reduce the impact of the hornet, and defining environmental factors that may have a bearing on its spread and control. The project incorporates developing a transnational Strategic Plan to constrain Asian hornets.



Atlantic-POSITIVE:
 Conservation of Atlantic pollination services
 and control of the invasive *Vespa velutina*.

The European project was followed, hot on its tail, by the announcement that Juliet and Peter were also successful in gaining a BBSRC research grant. Unlike the European grant, which is focused more on fostering cooperation between European countries, the BBSRC grant enables them to gain valuable data on potential impact of Asian hornets on both managed bees (i.e. honeybees) and wild pollinators. In conjunction with colleagues at the Exeter campus of the university, they aim to sample hornets and nests directly to explore the diet of invasive predators. Much of the work will, by necessity, take place in France and the Channel Islands (although can be relocated to the UK if appropriate) and benefit from their existing partnerships there. Nests will be located, amongst other means, by further developing their radio-telemetry technique for following foraging hornets. Data will also be gathered from flowering forage patches and apiaries that differ in the predation pressure they suffer from hawking Asian hornets and fed into their existing BEEHAVE models to predict the impact of Asian hornets on beekeeping and pollination services in general.

It's going to be a busy few years!



UK Research
and Innovation

Asian hornets:
 Measuring and modelling the new emerging
 threat to managed and wild pollinators.

Asian Hornet Action Team Update: May

Workers produced early in the season are smaller than workers later in the summer (because they are reared by the queen). They are also less likely to hawk in front of a hive, but are more likely to visit flowers for nectar or to pounce on other pollinating insects.

Look at flowers in your garden and put out monitoring traps using a sweet bait of fruit juice and beer, and/or a protein bait (such as one or two defrosted prawns). **Don't put out traps if you are unable to check them at least once daily and release the bycatch.**

On the 22nd June the Annual Bee Health day is to be held at the ESI, Tremough campus. An opportunity to discuss any concerns you have with the Bee Inspectorate. (See advert).

Bee Health Day Saturday 22nd June 2019

Environment and Sustainability Institute, University of Exeter, Penryn Campus, TR10 9FE 9:30-16:30

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". Programme for the day is below:

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

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

2. **Please remember to bring your freshly laundered bee suits, clean wellies or 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



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100 years of beekeeping

The CBKA are planning a centenary celebration for the re-establishment of the Cornwall Beekeepers Association in 1919.

Saturday May 18th 10am to 3pm
At St Erme Community Centre

Talk by Eminent Speaker Prof. Robert Pickard 'Honeybee thoughts'

Renowned speaker Prof Robert Pickard, an Emeritus Professor in Neurobiology at Cardiff University, is an international authority on the biology of bees. He is a beekeeper and President of the Cardiff Beekeepers Association and the UK Central Association of Beekeepers. **This is a talk not to be missed!**

Followed by a short talk by our President entitled "A brief history of beekeeping in Cornwall"

Price £12.50 to include lunch
Cash bar available at lunchtime

Programme:

- 10.00 Registration and coffee
- 11.00 "Honeybee Thoughts" Professor Robert Pickard
- 12.15 Lunch
The bar will be open 12.00 – 13.00
- 13.15 "100 years of Beekeeping" Mary Trace, President CBKA
Times at lunchtime are approximate

To reserve a place RSVP to Vanessa Tyler : cbkacharity@gmail.com - payment by BACS preferred:

Account Name: Cornwall Beekeepers' Association

Account No: 00007630

Sort code: 40-52-40

Reference: Your surname & postcode

NB There will be a limit of 125 spaces so please respond ASAP to ensure your place. With such a renowned speaker you won't want to miss it!

Directions to St Erme.

St Erme Community Centre TR4 9BD is located 4 miles north of the city of Truro and 2 miles from the A30. There is ample parking on site for 70 cars. From the A30: continue towards Truro for approx 2 miles turn le& in to Trispen at 'Rowes Honda' then immediately le& and immediately right into 'Castle Field'. From Truro take the A39: towards Bodmin a&er approx 4 miles you will reach the parish of St Erme take the second turning right into Trispen at 'Rowes Honda' then immediately le& and immediately right into 'Castle Field'.

What's On?

Saturday 18th May 2019 - CBKA Centenary Celebrations - 10:00-15:00

St Erme Village Hall,

Guest speaker – Professor Robert Pickard

Saturday 25th May 2019 – Bee Trail at Cape Cornwall - 10:30 – 16:30

Visit the National Trust website for details

Tuesday 28th May 2019 – Bumblebees Workshop - 10:00 – 16:00

Newquay, £35 contact laura.fox@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk to or visit the Cornwall Wildlife Trust website for details

One of a series of ERCCIS biological recording workshops aiming to help develop identification skills. Our County Recorder for Bumblebees, Patrick Saunders, is leading a workshop to identify the bumblebee species found in Cornwall. There will be classroom time with a presentation as well as an opportunity to practice survey and monitoring techniques in the field. Organised by the Environmental Record Centre for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly (ERCCIS)



Thursday 6th – Saturday 8th June 2019

The Royal Cornwall Show

Even if you have not entered your wares for the show, this event makes for a wonderful day out. You'll find the Bees and Honey section manned by volunteers from WCBKA and CBKA so make sure you stop by to say hello!

If you're interested in volunteering, contact Val on wcbka.val@gmail.com

Saturday 8th June 2019 – Could Your Bees be Better?

Buckfast Abbey, Bee Department: 14:00-16:30

Learn how to read your colony and to recognise when they are out of kilter. You could steer them back onto the right track by using simple management techniques.

<https://www.buckfast.org.uk/product/tickets/could-your-bees-be-better>

Saturday 22nd June 2019 – Bee Health Day

At the Environment and Sustainability Institute, University of Exeter – Penryn Campus

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.