



AUGUST 2019

An Hes

'The Swarm'

Newsletter of West Cornwall Beekeepers Association

Secretary: secretary@westcornwallbka.org

www.wcbka.org.uk

From the Chair...

Our Annual conference is now just weeks away, and we are looking forward to welcoming you all to the event. The booking form can be found on our new website: www.wcbka.org.uk, and further details on Page 9 below. As you will see we have been busy over the summer with our public education programme. Lots of members have volunteered to do various activities – so a big “Thank You” to all of them. The more you put into something, the more you get out, so I’m sure they all enjoyed themselves as well. We have also been planning improvements at Chy Vellan, with a permanent screened area, which will make discussion sessions easier. We hope this will be completed by the end of season. Planning for the winter meetings is under way, and if you are interested in taking any of the BBKA modules this is the time to start talking to Anne McQuade. Hopefully, you will now be enjoying a good harvest – remember to reserve some of your bumper crop for our Honey Show in December.

Kate Bowyer



“Half a bee, philosophically
Must, ipso facto, half not be
But half the bee has got to be
A vis-a-vis its entity, d'you see?”

But can a bee be said to be
Or not to be an entire bee
When half the bee is not a bee
Due to some ancient injury?”

- Eric Idle & John Cleese

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Save the Date!

Sunday 18th August 2019
WBCKA BBQ

Saturday 21st September 2019
A Bit of a Do

Monday 23rd September 2019
First of this year's Better Bee
Keeping Meetings



News in Brief

Local Honey Sales

I hope you have been looking at the new website. We have had a request to include a section on who sells honey locally. We do receive requests from people who ask where they can buy local honey. If you would like your contact details put on the public part of the web site please contact Val by email: wcbka.val@gmail.com. We are not proposing to include prices but would need to publish your name, postcode and how you prefer to be contacted (e.g. landline phone and/or mobile number and/or email address).

The Association Extractor

Is available to hire, if you want to put your name on the list please contact Mike Dunnell by email: gm.dunnell@gmail.com

Bee Buddie Request

One of our long-standing members has asked whether someone can help her with her bees maybe with a view to taking them over. She has seven colonies near St Agnes. If you want to know a little more please contact Jenny jenny.dodd3@gmail.com

The WBCKA request the pleasure of your company:

The West Cornwall Beekeepers Annual Summer BBQ

When: *Sunday 18th August -
Coals hot at 5pm*

Where: *Chy Vellan Apiary*

Please bring along food and drinks to share.

Your family and friends are welcome to join us.

Please park at the bottom of the meadow near the apiary

A Bit of A Do

Places at this Annual Event are limited - so reserve your space and order a pasty today! Download the booking form here:

www.wcbka.org.uk/event/a-bit-of-a-do-board/

Thank You to Gulval School

The children at Gulval School had great fun helping us with our display for the Royal Cornwall Show. As a thank you several members visited the school and spent the morning with the children looking at bees under the microscope, candle rolling, talking about honeybees and varroa mites and looking at an observation hive. At the end of the session when the teacher asked what they had learned about honeybees the responses ranged from that "they can only sting once and then they die" to "if you squeeze them, poo comes out!" Excretion is a characteristic of living things but this happened to be a dead bee!



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

Kim Dodge & Tim Yeates

WELCOME BACK to returning

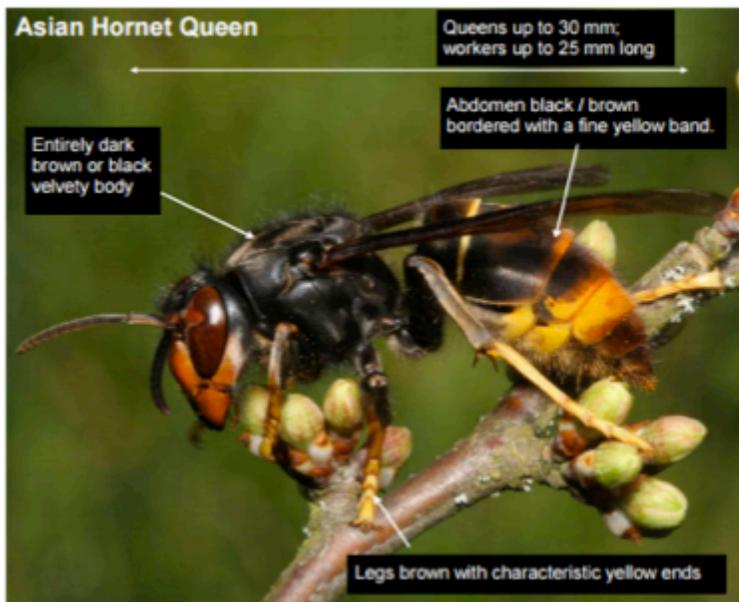
member: *Steve Clemo*



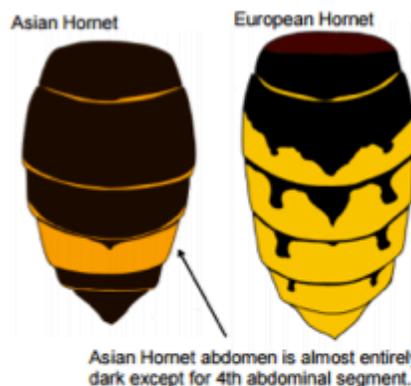
AHAT Update : AUGUST

Are you sure you know what an Asian Hornet looks like? Here's a reminder what you should be looking for:

Key ID Features



Photos from: J. Haxaire; Rachel Scoopes and Nigel Jones; Richard Ball



Put monitoring traps in your apiary with a fish bait. **Don't put out traps if you are unable to check them at least once daily and release the bycatch.**

Apicultural Intensification and Disease

by your local science correspondent, Pete Kennedy

Just published is a really interesting article looking at the impact of high-intensive (aka industrial) beekeeping on the prevalence of disease. This is the PhD work of Lewis Bartlett working on a UK-US research collaboration but focusing his research on contrasting high intensity and low intensity systems in the USA. It is generally assumed that intensification increases vulnerability to severe disease outbreaks, even though there is relatively little experimental data to demonstrate this. In this part of his work, Lewis used models simulating disease transmission and drift within an apiary to understand how increasing numbers and rows of colonies as well as changing management practices would impact common honeybee diseases (simplified by assuming disease transmission was greatest amongst nearest neighbours). His results were counter intuitive as he found intensification had a smaller effect than expected in increasing the prevalence of those infectious diseases already common in the beekeeping sector (e.g. *Nosema ceranae*, DWV). Interestingly, he did find that intensification increases the risk of novel pathogens (currently rarely seen in the beekeeping sector) to rapidly increase their prevalence if they took hold. Worthwhile improvements in the models were acknowledged e.g. exploring how colony structure varies under different intensity systems (e.g. where colonies are often merged under high intense systems), the proportion of drones (more readily infected and more likely to drift), the level of robbing, and how overstocking leads to forage shortages which can, in turn, affect immune resilience. Hopefully there will be further work to follow.

Bartlett et al. (2019). Industrial bees: The impact of apicultural intensification on local disease prevalence. *Journal of Applied Ecology*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2664.13461>.

Atlantic Positive Initiative

Last month saw the launch of the largest collaborative European project addressing the growing spread of Asian hornets. This € 2.3M project is supported by € 1.7M grant from the European Regional Development Fund and involves 10 full project partner organisations as well as 21 associated partner organisations working towards the “conservation of pollination services & control of the invasive species *Vespa velutina*” within the European Atlantic Area.

1. Central Foundation for Euroregional Studies in Galicia and North Portugal (FCEER)
2. University of Vigo (UVIGO)
3. University of Santiago de Compostela (USC)
4. General Directorate of Natural Heritage, Regional Government of Galicia (DXPN)
5. Basque Institute for Agricultural Research and Development (NEIKER)
6. National Institute of Agrarian and Veterinary Research (INIAV)
7. University of Trás-os-montes e Alto Douro (UTAD)
8. French National Institute for Agricultural Research, France (INRA)
9. University College Cork (UCC)
10. University of Exeter (UNEXE)

plus 21 associated partners (government departments, agencies, beekeeping associations, universities and colleges) ... incl. Defra and APHA/NBU.



Co-ordinated by FCEER, this Atlantic alliance intends to build on existing knowledge across participating partners to gain further insights on Asian hornet biology, behavior and impact, develop a variety of methods to locate nests, assess effectiveness of different traps and baits, explore options for biological control, build predictive models of their distribution based on ecological and biological factors, and understand their socio-economic impact. The project will culminate in the provision of training and education for relevant stakeholders, an International Congress (2021) and the development of a transnational strategic plan to slow the expansion of Asian hornets across Europe.

Vigo in Galicia (Spain), the location for the opening project meeting, was no easy place to get to. My luggage even took an additional 24 hours to join me. But, having made the journey, it made sense to also combine it with working alongside colleagues from the University of Vigo and train them in our radio-telemetry technique for tracking hornets to their nests. A local apiary was already being plagued by 150 Asian hornets per day (those just the ones that the beekeeper was catching with an insect net). After a short period, showing them the principles of attaching radio-tags to live hornets and interpreting the received signal to determine the location of the tagged hornet ... success! Just 2 hours after releasing the tagged hornet at the apiary, we had located the nest over 20m up a pine tree in the middle of a eucalyptus forest, approximately 800m (just under ½ mile) from the apiary.

Pete Kennedy



The Royal Cornwall Show 2019



Thousands of visitors came into the Bee and Honey Section at the Royal Cornwall Show in June. I hope you were amongst them. It was a great success. One of the visitors said “it was the best one I could remember” and another said “honeybees are so fascinating and I have learned so much about them today”. If you couldn’t make it, here is a glimpse of what it was about and a big thank you to all the volunteers.

All the Beekeeping Associations in Cornwall work together planning our part of the show for eight months. The theme this year was “The Beekeeper’s Year”. We demonstrated what we do, divided into the seasons with different Associations taking the lead on a season each. West Cornwall showed the needs of the colony and how we work with bees in the summer. Some of our members made some amazing contributions for our particular stand: Mark Richards made a huge varroa and honey bee; Carrie Sparrow made a very realistic swarm complete with recordings of bee sound effects; and Barbara Barnes made a massive tapestry wall hanging which included the rhyme “a swarm in May is worth a load of hay, a swarm in June is worth a silver spoon, and a swarm in July is not worth a fly”.

The children from Gulval School all got involved in the display by making a massive number of paper flowers and bees which were displayed on the back wall of the marquee to create a meadow effect. Many thanks to Gulval School as the display was beautiful and somehow survived the cold and wet weather on the Friday. Many children came to look round and peer down the microscope to have a closer investigation of honeybees and to try on the mini bee-suits (many thanks also to Andy Beard for the loan of the suits). The kids also took part in a Bee Quiz. All the answers could be found by carefully looking round the exhibition and the reward was a little badge or lollipop. The observation hive always seemed to have a crowd of people round it. Thanks to Jenny Lewis for supplying the bees and explaining to visitors what they were seeing. We also had a posters and leaflets to inform visitors about the threat of the Asian Hornet and to be vigilant, encouraging them to download the Asian Hornet Watch app.

You will not be surprised to learn the WCBKA received the first prize and George Wright Memorial cup for our display and the Chair of Cornwall Beekeepers Association has written a letter of commendation to us. Many thanks to all the volunteers on our stand: Barbara Barnes, Andy Beard, Kate Bowyer, Graham Caines, Graham Fellows, Sue Higgins, Val Hitchman, Jenny Lewis, Mark Richards, Carrie Sparrow, Heather Williams and David Woods. Kate Bowyer, our Chairperson, is also the Honey Show Secretary at the RCS. It is an important role advertising the classes, obtaining judges and dealing with the entries. There were 187 entries this year from 47 different entrants. This is a huge increase as just a few years ago there were only 15 entrants. Beekeepers that exhibit their honey can also sell it there. Free publicity at a premier show! This year we sold out of all our honey! So think about putting aside some of your honey for the 2020 show. The list of winners (on page 6) includes some of our members who also won cups. A special mention to West Cornwall’s David Woods who volunteers at St Uny School and inspired the children to success. Lastly a thank you to BBWear for the loan of the Asian Hornet suit and Wyevale Lelant for providing us with plants for the display. If you want to volunteer in any way for the RCS in 2020 contact wcbka.val@gmail.com - it is really good fun!

Val Hitchman

RCS – The Winners



Bees and Honey Section – Winners Restricted Classes.

1. Two jars of Light Run Honey - Mr D Harris
2. Two jars of Medium Run Honey - Mr D Harris
3. Two jars of Dark Run Honey - Mr G. McTaggart
4. Two jars of Naturally Crystallised Honey - Mr D Harris
5. Two jars of Soft Set Honey - Mr G McTaggart
6. Two cartons of Cut Comb Honey - Mr D Harris
7. One Shallow Frame - suitable for extraction - Mrs V. Taylor
8. One Cake of Beeswax - Mr J. Roberts
9. Four blocks of Beeswax 28 gms (1 oz) in weight - Mr J. Roberts
10. Three Beeswax Candles - dipped or moulded, but all the same - Mr J. Roberts
11. A Collection of any four items - Mr J. Roberts

New Entrant Classes.

12. Two jars of Run Honey - Mrs V. Tyler

Schools and Junior Classes.

16. Two matching 227g, 340g or 454g jars of honey of any type - St Uny Church of England Academy
17. A piece of creative work inspired by bees and beekeeping - Isabelle Cartwright
18. An item of baking containing honey - recipe to be shown - St Uny Church of England Academy
19. A photograph or image of a beekeeping topic - postcard or A6 size mounted - St Uny Church of England Academy
20. A miniature bee garden - up to 300mm x 300mm - Rachel Margetts

Open Classes.

21. Two jars of Light Run Honey - Mr D Harris
22. Two jars of Medium Run Honey - Mr D Harris
24. Two jars of Naturally Crystallised Honey - Mr J. Roberts
25. Two jars of Soft Set Honey - Mr G McTaggart
26. Two jars of Heather Honey - Mr G McTaggart
29. One Shallow Frame - suitable for extraction - Ms K Bowyer
30. One Cake of Beeswax - over 454 gms (1lb) and at least 25mm (1in) thick - Mr J Roberts
31. Six blocks of Beeswax 28 gms (1 oz) in weight - Mr J. Roberts
32. Three Plain Moulded Beeswax Candles - Mr J. Roberts
34. Three Patterned Moulded Candles - Miss C. Sparrow
35. One Commercial Cake of Beeswax over 340 gms (12 ozs) in weight - Mr J. Roberts
36. A Display of any Four (specified) - Mr J. Roberts
37. One label for a Honey Jar, to comply with labelling regulations - Mrs V. Tyler



Commercial Classes.

40. Two matching jars of Run Honey - any colour, (11bs) - Mr G. McTaggart
41. Two matching jars of Run Honey - any colour - Mrs S. Hoult
42. Two jars of Naturally Crystallised Honey - any style of jar - Mr J Roberts
43. Display of Twelve jars of Honey – specified - Mr J. Roberts

Home Made Beekeeping Appliances and Photographs.

44. Any Home Made Appliance of Interest to Beekeepers - Mr M. Hoult
45. One Black and White Photograph or image of Postcard or greater size - Mrs V. Tyler
46. One Colour Photograph of Postcard or greater size - Mr B Henderson Smith
47. A Sequence of up to Six Photographs of Postcard size - Mounted - Mr B Henderson Smith

The Winners – Part 2

Honey Cookery Classes.

- 48. Cornish Sticky Cake - Mrs C Syms
- 49. Four Honey and Ginger Cupcakes - Miss C. Sparrow
- 51. A loaf of bread containing honey - Mrs H Williams
- 52. A sweet food containing honey - Mrs Barbara Barnes
- 53. A savoury food containing honey - Mrs C Syms
- 54. One jar of Fruit Preserve containing honey - Mrs K Johnson
- 55. One jar of Chutney with Honey - Mrs K Johnson

In the next edition of An Hes we'll be publishing Barbara Barnes winning Raspberry & Almond cake recipe - yum!

Special Displays.

- 58. A commercial window display with exhibitor's own labels, which must comply with current labelling regulations. Accessories and decorations allowed - Mr G. McTaggart
- 59. One bottle of Dry Mead - Mr M. Hoult
- 60. One bottle of Sweet Mead - Mr M. Hoult

Cup winners- 2019:

Blue Ribbon - **Grant McTaggart**

Shelia Sleeman Candlestick, Hardcourt Williams Cup, Wadebridge Cup, The Gregory Wax Bowl, Show Committee Cup, and W H Bolitho Memorial Cup – **John Roberts**

Harrison Ashforth Cup, Pomeroy Prinn Cup and W G Wyatt Memorial cup – **David Harris**

President's cup – **Carrie Sparrow**

Jack Julyan Memorial Cup, and the Harrison Cup – **Mark Hoult**

Trevor Rowe Memorial Cup, Menabilly Cup – **Vanessa Tyler**

H Westley Memorial Cup – **Heather Williams**

The George Wright Memorial Cup – **West Cornwall Beekeepers' Association**

Brookholding Dawes Shield - **St Uny Church of England Academy**

The Nurture Cup – **Isabelle Cartwright**

Winning Recipe for Class 51: A Loaf of Bread containing Honey

Honey and Rosemary Bread

250gm wholemeal flour
 250gm strong white flour
 1tsp salt
 350ml warm water
 2tbsp honey
 40gm fresh yeast
 2tbsp chopped rosemary
 75gm chopped apricots
 seasalt flakes

Mix flour and salt; activate the yeast in warm water and honey; add the rosemary. Stir into flours; mix for 5 minutes to a sticky dough; cover with a warm cloth to rise (anything from 2 to 12 hours, depending on room temperature). Turn onto floured surface and knead; add more flour only if necessary. Divide into 2 balls; place on a greased tray; scatter surface of each loaf with more chopped rosemary and sea salt; cover for 20mins. Bake at 220C/Gas mark 7, for about 25 minutes.

I drizzled some warm honey over the loaves when they came out of the oven. Delicious eaten with goat's cheese and honey!

Heather Williams

What's On?

Sunday 18th August 2019 – WBCKA Barbeque

The annual BBQ takes place once again at Chy Vellan and as always family and friends are welcome. The coals will be hot at 5pm so bring food and drink to share. This is always a fun evening so do come along! If you have never been to Chy Vellan, contact Kate or Val for directions.

Saturday 21 September 2019 - A Bit of a Do

The Annual Cornwall and West Cornwall Beekeepers' Associations convention, returns with another exciting line up of speakers. There will also be trade stands, a gadget competition and local Bee Inspectors to answer all your questions. Visit www.wcbka.org.uk/event/a-bit-of-a-do-board/ to download the booking form. Further details of this event are on Page 9.

The WCBKA's **Winter Meetings** and **Better Beekeeping** sessions take place on Mondays at 7:30pm
At **Marazion Community Centre**, Gwallon Lane, Marazion, TR17 0HW

Hive tools down and diaries at the ready – here comes...

...The Winter Programme for 2019-20!

August is the month when we really focus on preparing are colonies for the winter and maybe your thoughts are also turning to dates for our winter programme. We will be continuing to meet at 7.30pm on Mondays at the Marazion Community Centre. Don't forget that we have tea and coffee, and a raffle at the meetings and so if you can bring along a prize it is always welcomed.

Please save the dates. More details about the meeting will be in future editions of An Hes:

2019 Dates

Monday 23 rd September:	Better beekeeping
Monday 7 th October:	Winter meeting
Monday 21 st October:	Better beekeeping
Monday 4 th November:	WCBKA Annual General Meeting
Monday 18 th November:	Better beekeeping
Monday 2 nd December:	Honey Show and Party

2020 Dates

Monday 6 th January:	Winter meeting
Monday 20 th January:	Better beekeeping
Monday 3 rd February:	Winter meeting
Monday 17 th February:	Better beekeeping
Monday 2 nd March:	Winter meeting
Monday 16 th March:	Better beekeeping



A Bit More on A Bit of A Do

Saturday 21 September 2019 - A Bit of a Do
Fal Building, Truro College TR1 3XX



Cornwall's Annual Conference: alias “A Bit of a Do” , aka “BOAD”

Every year WCBKA and CBKA join together to bring speakers to Cornwall at our annual conference. Previous speakers have included Celia Davis, Clive de Bruyn, Dan Basterfield, Pam Hunter, Chris Park, David Aston and Margaret Murdin – to name a few. This year our conference returns with another exciting line up of speakers. There will also be trade stands, a gadget competition and local Bee Inspectors to answer all your questions. The speakers include:

Tony Harris, NDB: “Maximising your honey crop”, and “Swarming from the bees’ perspective”.

Dr Ben Woodcock, Centre for Ecology & Hydrology will speak on “Neonicotinoid pesticides & bees”.

Victoria Buswell will provide an update on her research into investigating the phenotypic and genomic basis of local adaptation in the UK native honeybee *Apis mellifera mellifera* (or European dark honeybee).

Biographies

Tony Harris is a bee farmer based on the Moray coast in Scotland, where he manages 150 colonies hives for honey production. He also breeds and sells local queens and nuclei. He is an assessor for the Scottish Beekeepers’ Association, a Scottish Honey Judge, a BBKA Correspondence Course tutor and a regular contributor to beekeeping publications in the UK. Tony is a Scottish Expert Beemaster and holds the National Diploma in Beekeeping qualification. He teaches beekeeping at the highest level, and gives presentations and lectures to community and beekeeping groups on all matters relating to bees, beekeeping and the environment.

Ben Woodcock is an Ecological Entomologist in the Community Ecology Group at CEH Wallingford. He is involved in research that develops applied management solutions to enhancing ecosystems service delivery and biodiversity within arable and grassland ecosystems. This has focused principally on the development of agri-environment schemes, which are the main policy mechanism for changing the management of UK farming systems. His research has included projects for both the UK government (e.g. Defra and Natural England) and private sector (Syngenta).

Victoria Buswell studies at the School of Biological and Marine Science, at the University of Plymouth, within the Ecology and Evolution research group. Currently she is working towards her MPhil/Ph.D. investigating the phenotypic and genomic basis of local adaptation in the UK native honeybee *Apis mellifera mellifera* (*Amm*, or European dark honeybee, aka the “British Black Bee”)

Registration from 9am (pick up name-tag & pasty voucher). Opening talk at 9:30am.

Tickets £15 in advance, or £18 on the door. Lunchtime pasties are an extra £3 & should be booked in advance (steak/cheese & onion/vegan/GF). Complimentary refreshments (tea, coffee, biscuits, & sometimes cake!) available all day. Tickets and pasty reservations are available from Heather Williams. Download the form here: www.wcbka.org.uk/event/a-bit-of-a-do-board/ and email it to: heather@quillet.org.uk