

J A N U A R Y 2 0 2 0

# Am Hles



“The Swarm”

Newsletter of the West Cornwall Beekeepers' Association

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Visit our website: [www.wcbka.org.uk](http://www.wcbka.org.uk)

## From the Chair...

I trust that all you lucky beekeepers have had a splendid Christmas and that all your wishes have been granted. 2020 seems to have crept up on us all too rapidly and yet another beekeeping year has started. I am sure, like me, that everyone has all their equipment cleaned thoroughly and stored ready for the new season! (Well...most of mine is!) I just hope that the hives don't disappear into the mud in the meantime. I gather that last year's crop in general, was excellent. Hopefully our bees will see it safely through the winter and emerge even stronger for this new season.

The honey show and Christmas party went well and was enjoyed by all those who attended. Our thanks to Derek Laity in his capacity as Marazion Mayor, for attending and handing out the assorted certificates and cups. It was a good evening with plenty of festive food and music. Some of us attended the varroa treatment session at Chy Vellan before Christmas. I demonstrated my new gas powered Apibioxal sublimating tool, which seems to work very quickly and nicely. Some of us from the AHAT team will be attending a training session shortly, hopefully to keep abreast of the Asian hornet problem and learn of any recent developments. Let's hope that they leave us alone this year at least but we must remain vigilant. The more we can spread the word, the more likely that these pesky Hornets can be dealt with. We have posters available so please try to get them into any suitable venue. Members of our AHAT team will always assist in whatever way necessary.

Finally, just to wish everyone happiness and every success in this New Year!

*Graham Caines*



“When you shoot an arrow of truth, dip its point in honey”  
- Arab Proverb

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## Save the Date!

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020**  
First Winter Meeting of 2020!

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020**  
First Better Beekeeping Meeting of 2020!

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February**  
Holsworthy Bee Convention

More events and details can be found on page 5

# News in Brief

## Membership Update

The WCBKA Membership Year runs from 1<sup>st</sup> November to 31<sup>st</sup> October every year, therefore renewal fell due on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019. A big thank you to all who have already renewed, paid your subscriptions and sent in your forms. We do need a completed form for each person as this helps us to keep in line with Safeguarding and Data Protection rules and legislation. If you have not already renewed, please do so as we do not wish to lose you.

I would like to thank Mac Rowley-Hawkins for his hard work and commitment to the membership secretary role prior to my appointment at the AGM in November. I won't be as speedy as Mac, but I hope to have all membership cards and BBKA bee disease insurance receipts issued by end January 2020.

Phil Green  
Membership Secretary

## Tutors for the summer season at Chy Vellan

Sessions at our training apiary will be more formalised next year, with different streams for different abilities. We will have a team of tutors who will supervise the sessions.

If you are interested in becoming a tutor, then please contact Kate Bowyer via email [katebowyer@outlook.com](mailto:katebowyer@outlook.com) in the first instance. There will be a selection process, dependent on attained assessments and experience.

## Holsworthy Beekeepers Convention – 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2020

The Memorial Hall, Holsworthy

Reception opens at 9am, breakfast butties on sale (£2.50 each), last orders 9:45.

Lectures start approx 10am and the day finishes at 3.30pm.

### Main Speakers:

- **Dr Anthony Williams** from the COLOSS team: The causes of Colony Collapse Disorder
- **Paula Carnell**: International Bee Consultant. Keeping healthy bees
- **Professor Stephen Martin**: Salford University: The evolution of natural Varroa-tolerance mechanisms in various beekeeping populations

Tickets include all Teas and Coffees, homemade cakes, and lunch with hot puddings!

See website for more details & booking [www.holsworthybeekeepers.org.uk](http://www.holsworthybeekeepers.org.uk)

Bookings can also be made by telephoning John Conniss or Deirdre 01237 440165.

# AHAT Update: January

You will, I am sure, have seen the government statements regarding the work that has gone on this year to locate and destroy Asian hornet nests in mainland UK. The information published on the Gov.uk web pages tends to be factual whereas there have been numerous other press releases which vary from factual to wildly sensational. In order to raise awareness of the Asian hornet threat throughout West Cornwall (not just beekeepers) the WCBKA AHAT team drew up a comprehensive action plan which included the distribution of posters, information on what to look out for, how to identify, how to report sightings, presentations and talks and display stands at local events. I am pleased to report that the action plan has been 98% delivered – thanks to the effort put in by the individual AHAT team members.

During the early part of 2020 AHAT members will attend a meeting scheduled by the South West AHAT Group as well as attending an Asian hornet conference presented by the BBKA. Outcomes of these events will be shared with you at meetings and in An Hes.

*Phil Green*  
AHAT Coordinator



# WCBKA Honey Show 2019

Another productive year and plenty of exhibits at our Annual Honey Show which we combined with our Christmas Party.

It was very much a joint effort decorating the hall with lights and streamers, laying out the immense amount of delicious food, the hot punch and providing Christmas music to put us in the mood.

Our thanks go to the judges John Roberts and Carol Eddy for their difficult task and to Marazion Mayor, Derek Laity for presenting the cups and certificates.

The cup winners were Carrie Sparrow for sweeping the board in the honey sections, Kate Bowyer for best exhibit with her 'frame for extraction' and Polly Oliver won the cup for best novice.

Too many others to mention got first prizes; apologies to Janice Davis who would have got first prize for her Honey label if it hadn't been missed. And Chy Vellan honey won the best taste award so we can all lay claim to that!

Thank you to all who made the effort to exhibit and all those who attended and made the evening so enjoyable.

## Heather's Prize Winning Honey Brioche

- 1/3 cup warm milk
- 1tsp yeast
- Large tbsp honey

Mix these together and leave to activate

- 2 eggs
- 1 1/2 cups strong plain flour
- salt
- 1 1/2 tbsp butter

Add to the yeast mixture.

Knead gently and leave it to prove for 2 hours.  
Punch down, roll into rectangle and dot 1/4 cup cold butter over 1/3 fold then roll and repeat this a couple of times.  
Roll into a long sausage shape. Rest it for 20 minutes.  
Cut into rounds, pack into dish, cut sides up.  
Leave to rise. Brush with a beaten egg.  
Bake at 180° for 25 minutes.  
Once out of the oven brush with lots of warm honey.

*Heather Williams*



# What's On?

## Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020 - Winter Meeting

Anton from St John is joining us to talk about keeping safe including how to deal with bee stings

## Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020 - Better Beekeeping Meeting

Swarming: its management– including without finding the queen!

## Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020 - Winter Meeting

3<sup>rd</sup> February: Grant McTaggart – “**How to make creamed and soft set honey**”. Grant’s a Royal Cornwall Show winner for his soft set honey

## Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2020 – Sustainable Beekeeping 2020

Organised by the B4 project see [www.bibba.com/event-list/](http://www.bibba.com/event-list/) for details. This year’s event takes place in Callington

## Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020 - Better Beekeeping Meeting

Queenlessness, recognising and managing, procedures, uniting, which queen, drone-laying queens (DLQ) and laying workings (LW)

## Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2020 – Holsworthy Bee Convention

A full day of speakers with lunch included. Visit [www.holsworthybeekeepers.org.uk](http://www.holsworthybeekeepers.org.uk) for booking and details.

## Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020 - Winter Meeting

Natasha de Vere – “**Improving Forage for Bees**”. Natasha de Vere is from the National Botanic Garden of Wales and senior lecturer in Botany at the University of Aberystwyth. She has surveyed plants visited by honeybees (and other bees) nationally from samples submitted by beekeepers and is now working on green infrastructure to improve forage in the landscape for bees.

## Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020 - Better Beekeeping Meeting

Managing weak colonies, comb changing & why, feeders and feeding

## Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020 - Better Beekeeping Meeting

Nosema workshops, Asian hornet traps

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: The WCBKA’s **Winter Meetings** and **Better Beekeeping** sessions take place on  
: Mondays at 7:30pm at Marazion Community Centre, Gwallon Lane, TR17 0HW  
:  
: Tea & coffee are available and prizes for the raffle are welcomed  
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