

*As a member of Cardiff Vale & Valleys Beekeepers Association
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Spring Newsletter

Following our recent A.G.M, I would like to introduce you to our Association committee members. Chair - Meriel Jones, Vice Chair - Nick Mensikov, Dinah Sweet - Secretary, Peter Shaw - Treasurer, Louise Roberts -Minutes secretary and Newsletter editor, Lee Vickers -WBBKA Rep/Events Co-ordinator, Emma Davies - WBBKA Rep, Barbara Williams - Training, Harold Williams - Apiary Manager, Lynette El Khatib - schools and Tony Evans and David Corrick.

To contact any of these members, contact details can be found on the website.

A Reminder

Our annual association fees are now overdue. Fees are remaining at £20 for individual members and £24 for family membership.

This allows you to come to lectures, apiary visits and access to the library. It also give you access to the support of experienced bee keepers, where you can exchange ideas and questions helping to increase your beekeeping skills. Benefits of Membership include:

- Free Association Newsletter
- Quarterly 'The Welsh Beekeeper' magazine
- Support and advice from experienced beekeepers
- Public and Product Liability Insurance
- Bee Disease Insurance (BDI)**
- Access to the Association Library**
- Access to Association Equipment**
- Training / Information Courses**
- Practical demonstrations and out apiary visits

** Small surcharge charge applies

To download your membership form, please go to our website www.cardiffbeekeepers.co.uk - members - joining.

You will also be able to pay at our indoor events.

Membership must be paid by 31st March as your BDI insurance will no longer be valid. You will also be removed from any future correspondence.

Newsletter receipt

We are currently updating our website and hope to have all up to date news and information on there soon.

We are also looking at our member contact information. If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please contact

louise@cardiffbeekeepers.co.uk to be removed from our contact list.

Members indoor meeting - dates for your diary.

1. On Tuesday 9th April 2019, we are lucky to be joined by Bob Hogge from Jersey. Bob will be talking about his recent experience with the Asian Hornet. This will take place at Llandaff Parish Hall at 7.30pm

2. Tuesday 14th May 2019 we hope to be joined by Roger Paterson, who will discuss queen breeding. This will be confirmed as soon as we can.

All other future events and out apiary sessions will be confirmed as soon as possible, please keep an eye on the website.

Beginners Training for 2019

The beginners training for this year will take place on Saturday 13th April and Saturday 27th April 2019 at Thornhill Community Hall, CF14 9GA.

This course is nearly full. If you know of someone who would like to join us, we ask that you contact Peter on petershawnlh@hotmail.com as soon as possible to confirm any availability.

Registration and refreshments will be served from 1.30pm for a prompt start at 2pm. Information covered will be hives and equipment, clothing, role of queen, the bee keeping year and much much more.

Practical apiary places will be allocated on the first Saturday.

We very much look forward to meeting you all.

Improvers Training Course 2019

Thank you to the 25 members that attended this course, including the 2 junior members. It was a huge success and we hope that this will become an annual event.

Association Apiary Managers report for February and March

DYFFRYN APIARY MARCH 2019

From a very spring like February to a very stormy and unsettled March! The colonies are venturing out whenever the rain and wind abate a little but the pollen from the crocuses that have provided the kick start is now diminishing rapidly, however the celandines are out plus some dandelions so there are sources to be utilised. The Heather beds that once flourished here at Dyffryn and provided a much needed early start for the emerging Bumble bees and the honeybees no longer exist because those who manage the gardens decided that they did not provide a grand enough vista for visitors to start their tour of the gardens. The loss of habitat for wildlife is taking place everywhere. Nonetheless all of the colonies here at Dyffryn are active and of the 6 colonies only one has had feedstuff added. Our access to the apiary is straightforward enough at this time of the year when external checks of the hives is all that is required, we can use the main car park and walk through the gardens, but very shortly we will need to access equipment that is in our storage shed. The shed is in a locked

compound and to gain access a call to Dyffryn staff has to be made prior to each visit, as the weather and not office hours dictate beekeeping activities this is far from satisfactory. The redeeming factor here is that it is an excellent apiary site and of course the bees do add to the pollinators that inhabit the area and they are a benefit to the gardens. So who knows, one day we may be trusted enough to have keys of our own and be able to manage the apiary as it should be managed i.e. when the weather and the bees dictate operations.

Summer is a coming in! Our new intake of would be beekeepers will soon be able to get hands on experience in the apiary. Being comfortable and confident when examining a colony of bees is a must if one is to become a beekeeper.

Harold Williams.

DYFFRYN APIARY FEBRUARY 2019

Spring is just around the corner, lots of Snowdrops about plus a great profusion of Crocus. Honeybees and Bumblebees are busy on the Crocus. Let us hope that a repeat of last year's let down does not occur again i.e. The Beast from the East! At present the mouse guards are still in place and they will remain so for a while yet. Winter weather has been very spasmodic, with mild and dry weather being predominant; this pattern of weather has meant that the bees have been out and about on a regular basis. No settled dormant period at all. All this activity demands recourse to an energy supply! i.e. in house stores. With temperatures set to go into the high teens the colonies will step up their foraging behaviour putting yet more demands on an energy supply. The Queens are laying by now and new bees will be emerging and these new colony members require access to an

energy supply. Remember that the weather dominates all; a drop in temperatures will require the beekeeper to monitor colony activity and to heft a hive to get a rough estimate of its contents. Starvation is not unknown at this time of the year.

Harold Williams.

Hive theft

It has been brought to our attention that there has been a recent theft of some hives in the Machen area. If you are unfortunately the victim of hive theft, we ask that you contact the Police for a crime reference number and also inform WBBKA at theftliason@wbbka.com. Both are keen to keep accurate records of any bee hive theft in the local area.

Basic Assessment Information.

The following is a message from Nicola Oulton, the new basic assessment officer for the WBBKA. The WBBKA is committed to getting as many beekeepers in Wales through the Basic Assessment as possible. Please consider taking this exam as any successful members of CVVBKA will be able to have their fees reimbursed by the Association.

Dear Beekeepers,

By the time you have managed a colony of bees for a year you will have built up your skills through practical experience and this is the ideal time to start thinking about taking the Basic Assessment. The Basic Assessment is an ideal way of consolidating your knowledge and gives you confidence in your abilities. The syllabus can appear daunting at first glance but closer inspection will show that it merely lists the basic things which all beekeepers should know. The assessment is completely practical/oral and takes place mainly at the hive in a local apiary and lasts approx 1 hour. Success in the practical will get you a certificate and you will be eligible to undertake further exams (modules) and, in due course, higher practical assessments. To take the Basic Assessment you should have managed at least one colony of bees for a minimum of 12 months. The closing date for applications is 1st May. The application form can be found by following the link to the WBKA Basic Assessment Syllabus.

<http://www.wbka.com/wbka-basic-assessment-syllabus/>

Ideas for our newsletter

If there is anything that you would like to see in our newsletter, any latest news, beekeeping items for sale or you have something you would like to add, then please send for the next edition to louise@cardiffbeekeepers.co.uk

WBKA events can be found on their [website](#).



Cymdeithas Gwenynwyr Cymru
Welsh Beekeepers' Association

Convention 2019

Saturday 30th March at 08:30

Tea and Coffee available from 08:00

Old Food Hall, Royal Welsh Agricultural Showground

Builth Wells, Powys, LD2 3SY

Mynediad/Admission: Oedolion/Adults - £9.00,

Advance Payment - £7.00 (see below)

Ieuenctid/Juniors (under 17) - am ddim / free admission

Guest Speakers:

Margaret Wilson

Chair of the British Beekeepers Association

Joyce Nisbet

Cut comb, chunk honey and sections

Clive Hudson,

Varroa Has Lost its Sting- Our Experience of
Treatment Free Beekeeping

Professor Robert Pickard

Honeybee Thoughts

“Beekeepers’ Question Time”

- your chance to ask the experts....

Trade stands and exhibitions.

Bargain beekeeping supplies. All day refreshments.

Free Parking.

Earlybird tickets (£7.00): Forms available on WBKA website
(www.WBKA.com)

Return completed forms plus payment to
Convention Secretary by March 23rd
Address and payment details on form.

Asian Hornet Advice

As it is that time of year, latest advice is as follows;



What to look out for

- *Vespa velutina* queens are up to 3 cm in length; workers up to 25 mm (slightly smaller than the native European hornet *Vespa crabro*)
- Entirely dark brown or black velvety body, bordered with a fine yellow band
- Only one band on the abdomen: 4th abdominal segment almost entirely yellow/orange
- Known as the 'Yellow legged hornet'
- Head black with an orange-yellow face
- *Vespa velutina* is a day flying species which, unlike the European hornet, ceases activity at dusk

If you think you have seen an Asian Hornet

1. Please use the [Asian Hornet Watch app](#) on your phone to send a picture and a location via GPS in the app straight to the non-native species secretariat and National Bee Unit.

2. If you cannot download the Asian Hornet Watch app, please use this [online recording form](#)

3. As a last resort, you send a picture and email with details of where you saw the Asian hornet with your contact details to alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk

If it is safe to do so, you can send in a sample to the [National Bee Unit](#) for

examination to confirm identity (please note the specimen must be dead before sending it in). However, **do not** under any circumstances disturb or provoke an active hornets' nest. For more information visit the Non Native Species Secretariat [website](#).

Bees and equipment for sale

John Jennings has some equipment for sale. He lives in the Caerphilly area and his phone number is 07977 150110.

Natures Little Helpers Lisvane Honey Farm

Unit 8, Mill Farm Industrial Estate,
St. Mellons Road, Lisvane, Cardiff, CF14 0SH
Tim Wright: 07970 289677 Pete Shaw: 01633 897195
Email: sales@natureslittlehelpers.co.uk
Web: www.natureslittlehelpers.co.uk



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experience offering a full range of
beekeeping equipment and stocks of bees.

**Orders being taken for 2019 nucs of bees
on 5 National self spacing frames £195.00**

Social Media

Don't forget that you can follow us on Facebook on Cardiff, Vale and Valleys Beekeepers Association.

Thanks,

Louise

Louise@cardiffbeekeepers.co.uk
