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## **our June Newsletter**

Welcome all to our latest newsletter. The 'June gap' is here where there is a shortage of forage for our bees. The weather has not been kind lately either. Make sure that

you check that your bees have enough food/stores. As soon as the blackberries are with us, things should turn around.

Also, we have been informed that American Foul brood has been confirmed in the Gwent area. Please be vigilant.

### **Members indoor meeting - dates for your diary.**

There will no more indoor meetings until September.

Meetings are at Llandaff Parish Hall and start at 7.30pm

- **September 10th** - Preparation for the Honey Show. This year we will be focusing on Candles, cakes and displaying and showing your honey
- **On October 8th**, we will be joined by Liam Olds who will be talking about colliery spoils and the nature that lives there.
- **October 12th**, will be our Honey Show. Again, details to follow.
- There will be change to the venue for our annual

Christmas party. We will confirm this in due course.

## **Out Apiary Events**

- **22nd June** - there will be an out apiary session at Dinah and John Sweet's house. We will be looking at swarm management. The session will start at 2pm and end at 4pm
- **6th July** - a visit to the National Botanic Gardens of Wales has been arranged for all members. The event includes a tour of their apiary, a talk on their work with pollinators, a study of the honey bee and foraging and of course, access to the wonderful gardens. The tour and talk is expected to last 90 minutes. There will also be a bird of prey display included. Tickets are £10 each and are to be paid for on the day. We will meet at the ticket office at 11 am. Members must use their own transport. To give us an idea of member interest, please email [meriel@cardiffbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:meriel@cardiffbeekeepers.co.uk) if you intend to join us.

- **August 3rd** - Junior taster session at Bute Park apiary. The session will be 1.30pm to 3.30pm. Activities to include looking at the hives, equipment, making a frame and tasting some honey. More details and booking information to follow.

We are busy putting together our evening meeting events for next year which will include an evening looking at the basic beekeeping exam plus our usual talk from Professor Pickard! We welcome any suggestions for meeting subjects.

## **Association Apiary Managers report for May and June**

DYFFRYN APIARY MAY 2019

Variations in the weather are certainly making the inspection of colonies a little delayed, the more so as we have to phone ahead to gain access to our equipment shed. At present due to major repairs to the large doors at the rear of Dyffryn Gardens getting in with the car and equipment is not yet possible. Access to the storage shed is possible by one of the lesser gates to the

compound but on occasions failure of these gates to be opened has also been our lot.

However getting to the hives themselves can be affected by walking through the gardens and leaving a vehicle with spare gear in the main car park does suffice.

The hands on sessions for those on this year's course went well enough and although conditions could have been more favorable colonies were examined and a couple of Queens were observed. Frame assembly was demonstrated and practiced by several participants. All in all satisfaction with the sessions was expressed and bee handling confidence boosted.

Not everything is going as we would like it! 2 colonies are really thriving but 2 do require some assistance from us i.e. feeding and 1 has been reduced to a 6 frame nucleus box. Being a training apiary our colony examinations when beginners are present does mean that hives and frames of bees are exposed longer than is good for them, but that is the nature of a training apiary.

As ever when visitors to the gardens observe those of us engaged with the beekeeping, they remark on the fact that there is no information relating to the apiary at all or that there are no products of the hives on sale in the shop. It is not unusual for Barbara or me to give impromptu talks to these interested visitors who question the fact that such lectures should be contemplated and would be an interesting addition to their visits.

Let us hope for settled conditions to kick in and give us a chance to improve the lot of our colonies here.

#### DYFFRYN APIARY JUNE 2019

The indifferent weather patterns are having an effect on the colonies, some days they are out and some days they are in.

Additional supers are on some of the colonies and filling very nicely but before any thought of removing any of them can be considered a settled spell of weather is really required.

Colony No.6 is responding to our feeding regime and the 2 frames of eggs, larvae and sealed brood we gave them has produced positive results. Our colony that was reduced to a Nuc-Box is now a lot more active and well settled; transfer to a national brood box is now a possibility.

A call to a swarm in a compost bin in Cowbridge provided a lesson in patience, the bees were happy to enter the Poly-Nuc Box we used but on our return in the evening they were out of it and settled on a stack of upright paving slabs, they were induced to enter the poly box once again and eventually transporting them to Dyffryn went ahead. Next morning on our return to Dyffryn just as we got to the hives out came our Cowbridge swarm and we did think that was the end of them, however as we observed their

wheeling in the air they did seem to be settling just over the boundary wall so on leaving Dyffryn it was decided to investigate our assumption of them being over the wall and lo and behold there they were, very low down on a Blackberry bush.

Barbara suggested that we use a different nuc-box this time and it worked very well, this swarm is now at Barbara's apiary THE OLD MILL. What Barbara thought about the swarm's reluctance to stay in the Poly-Nuc was the fact that I had used Steam plus Washing-up liquid to clean it up and this was not to the bees liking at all. So 3<sup>rd</sup> time lucky! And of course a bit of a woman's intuition. Just like the bees it's the ladies that make the correct decisions.

Harold Williams.

**Coming soon.....**

..... a section of this newsletter dedicated to our junior beekeepers - the beekeepers of the future.

If you have any photographs or stories that you would like to include in this section, we would very much like to see them. Please make sure that you have the permission of the child's parents before you send them to us.

Also, send us your photographs for any unusual swarm positions or any photograph that you would like to have included in our newsletter. We would really like to see them!

### **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](mailto:louise@cardiffbeekeepers.co.uk)

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

### **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](mailto: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

# 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](mailto:sales@natureslittlehelpers.co.uk)  
Web: [www.natureslittlehelpers.co.uk](http://www.natureslittlehelpers.co.uk)



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Professional beekeepers with years of  
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**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](mailto:Louise@cardiffbeekeepers.co.uk)