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**to our January 2020 Newsletter**

A Happy New Year to you all.

Let's hope that the weather is kind to us and we have a good  
beekeeping year.

### **Membership of the association is now due.**

Membership of the Association runs from January to December. Fees are  
being held 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

[Please download and complete our membership form, which can be found on our website, and returning it to the address show at the bottom of the form.](#)

Of course, we will also be taking membership renewals at our indoor meetings too.

If you have any queries on membership please do not hesitate to contact us.

**Members indoor meeting - dates for your diary. All events are held at the Llandaff village hall (unless stated otherwise) and start at 7.30 pm**

- **14th January 2020** - this will be our annual talk by Professor Pickard. This time he will be talking about beekeeping in Egypt, Mexico and Japan.

- **11th February 2020** - Our annual AGM at Llandaff Parish hall

## **Training News**

### **Beginners Beekeeping Course 2020**

Our Beginners Beekeeping Training course will cost £80 per person including individual association membership or £84 per person including family association membership.

Theory session 1 - **Sat 4th April** and Theory session 2 - **Sat 18th April** 1.30pm - 5.00pm

Practical session 1 - **Sun 19th April** and Practical session 2 - **Sun 26th April** - afternoons exact times tbc

Theory sessions will be at Thornhill Church Centre, Excalibur Drive, Cardiff CF14 9GA. Practical session venues tbc. All 4 sessions must be attended to complete the course.

Please email Peter Shaw for more information and to book your place - [treasurer@cardiffbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@cardiffbeekeepers.co.uk) or ring him on 01633 897195 and leave a message.

### **Improvers Course**

Details to follow.

## **Basic Assessment**

The Basic Assessment is an ideal way of consolidating your knowledge and give you confidence in your beekeeping abilities. Ideal for those who have managed a colony for a year or so. The assessment is completely practical/oral and takes place at the hive in a local apiary lasting approx 1 hour. Successful members of CVVBKA will have their fees reimbursed by the Association. Closing date for applications 2020 tbc. Keep an look out on future newsletters.

## **General Husbandry training**

The WBKA will be offering a three day training course in 2020 to help people who are working towards completing the *General Husbandry* assessment.

The location will be *Gregynog Hall, Tregynon, Powys, SY16 3PW*, utilising the apiary facilities of *Montgomeryshire BKA*.

The course is split into two parts. A weekend of theory on 14 & 15 March followed by a day of practical sessions on 17 May. The sessions will run from 9am to 5pm each day.

The course will cost £90 per person for the three days. This includes all tuition and refreshments but accommodation is not included.

The aim of the course is to ensure that candidates understand the breadth and depth of the *General Husbandry* assessment to enable them to prepare as thoroughly as possible. While the course is primarily aimed at people

wishing to take the assessment in the next couple of years, there is no obligation to do so. In addition, candidates who are not looking to take the assessment may find the course interesting to learn some new skills and understand what is required of them to improve their beekeeping.

Course requirements: You will need to have been keeping bees for at least three years and be a current member of an association. You will need to have passed your Basic assessment. We may ask for proof of this on application.

For further information and to register your interest on this course please contact Lynfa Davies ([lynfa.davies@btinternet.com](mailto:lynfa.davies@btinternet.com)). There are 14 spaces available and they will be offered on a first come first served basis.

Payment will be required in full in advance of the course.

When making your booking please inform us of any dietary or accessibility requirements that you may have.

## **Association Apiary Managers report**

DYFFFRYN APIARY NOVEMBER 2019

Still plenty of bee activity when suitable temperatures prevail. Mouse Guards are now in place. The 2 nucs and number 5 colony have definitely appreciated the feeding regime and along with the other colonies are very much out and about when conditions allow.

Access to the hives is no problem. However access to the storage shed is a problem. Not having vehicle access by way of the rear entrance to Dyffryn I can learn to live with, it would improve things if the management would issue us with a key to gain entrance to the compound where our storage

unit is sited, this would remove the need for me to always ensure that required items are with me in the car. The colonies do not suffer because of the present situation but there is room for improvement!

DYFFRYN APIARY DECEMBER 2019

With winter weather now kicking in there is not a lot of external activity. The gale force winds that have occurred do mean that a visit to the apiary is required just to ensure that no trees have shed their branches and fallen on the hives.

As ever the brambles are encroaching and a little time spent with the secateurs soon cures the problem. All drawn frames that are not required until spring are securely stored in plastic storage boxes along with a treatment of Acetic Acid soaked pads. The Acetic Acid soaked pads are there to prevent the development of Wax Moth eggs; it is when eggs develop into larvae that the damage to stored combs takes place. It pays to undertake this form of treatment as your frames will not be looked at for some months and Wax Moth damage can render drawn combs unusable come spring.

Harold Williams.

### **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)**

If you would like us to hire a particular speaker, you would like to know more about any topic to do with the World of beekeeping or simply some further training, then please get in contact with me. We would really appreciate your input as this is YOUR association.

## Wales Beekeeper News

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

### Request from WBKA

Dear fellow beekeeper,

You may know my name as the person that requests for stewards at a range of events for the WBKA in my role as Events Secretary. The WBKA are looking for someone to shadow myself in setting up the 2020 Spring Convention to take on the role of Events Secretary.

This is due to my new role in the WBKA as Vice Chair. You will be part of the Events committee, which are a small team of people who meet approximately 3 times a year to discuss the upcoming events and what is required to be done for them. This committee is chaired by the WBKA Vice Chair (myself). The work in organising the 2020 Spring convention is starting so if you are interested in taking on this role please contact me asap. or for any further details.

Jill Wheeler

WBKA Vice-Chair

[depchair@wbka.com](mailto:depchair@wbka.com)

## Asian Hornet Advice

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](#).

## **Beebase/NBU News**

### **December 2019 - Seasonal Bee Inspector Vacancy - Swansea, Neath Port Talbot, Merthyr Tydfil area**

The National Bee Unit has a vacancy for a Seasonal Bee Inspector (SBI) in the Swansea, Neath Port Talbot, Merthyr Tydfil area. If you are interested in applying for the job, please follow this [link](#).

If you have any questions regarding the position, please contact Frank Gellatly (Regional Bee Inspector for Wales) - 01267 202 732/07775 119 480 - [francis.gellatly@apha.gov.uk](mailto:francis.gellatly@apha.gov.uk)

### **December 2019 - 2019 Hive Count**

Don't forget we need you to update your colony records on BeeBase by 31st December. You can do this by clicking this link to update your Hive Count: <https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/beebase/secure/beekeeper/hiveCensus.cfm>

More details of this project, its importance and why we need your help can be found on the Hive Count page of BeeBase.

If you have any further questions, please contact us at [Hive.Count@apha.gov.uk](mailto:Hive.Count@apha.gov.uk)

## **Bee Craft Timely Reminders**

Now is probably a good time to visit your apiaries just to make sure all is well. Stands and hives secure - strapped and with weights on top? Roof on properly? Entrances clear? Entrance reducers and mouseguards in place? Netting over your hives if you have problems with predators?

Nothing you have missed? No equipment left lying around? Grass cut to make apiary visits over the next few months less wet and muddy after rain. You might even find that hive tool you dropped earlier in the year!

It used to be tradition to give your bees a Christmas treat. Did you?

If so, do you have the fondant organised? Do you have equipment ready to go in the form of an eke, inner hive cover with feeding hole, insulation to go around the container holding the fondant to reduce the cold empty space that this creates above the frames. Now the leaves have mostly fallen from the trees, don't forget when you are out for your winter walks to have a look for Asian hornet nests high up. These still need to be reported through the usual channels.

## **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)



## WELSH HANDMADE PRODUCTS

Hand and Body Balms, Lip Balms,  
Moisturising Creams and Soaps all made  
using only natural ingredients.

Professional beekeepers with years of  
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*

## Our Seasonal Bee Inspector contact details;

Daniel Baxter

07771038646

[Daniel.baxter@apha.gov.uk](mailto:Daniel.baxter@apha.gov.uk)

## 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)