



Asian Hornet in Hampshire

With an Asian hornets' nest having been reported by the NBU in New Alresford this honeybee predator is now just 20 miles from the West Sussex border!



The National Bee Unit confirmed in September a sighting of the Asian hornet (*Vespa velutina*) in the Fowey area of south Cornwall. Since this initial sighting a second nest has been found and destroyed. More recently a hornet was found at New Alresford, Hampshire and the nest destroyed by the NBU. Previous outbreaks of the Asian hornet have been successfully contained by APHA bee inspectors who promptly tracked down and destroyed the nests.

Members are asked to remain vigilant for this predator in our region. It may be seen hawking at the entrance to hives. Traps may be set up in the apiary and this [video](#) shows how to make your own.

For a full description of the Asian hornet and its comparison to our native hornet view this document:

<http://www.nonnativespecies.org/alerts/index.cfm?id=4>



European Hornet



Asian Hornet

Any sightings should be reported to the non-native species team at: alert_nonnative@ceh.ac.uk

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Apimondia 2019

The 46th Apimondia International Apicultural Congress will be held in Montréal, Canada from 8th - 12th September 2019.



Apimondia's major objective is to facilitate the exchange of information and discussions by organizing Congresses and Symposia where beekeepers, scientists, honey-traders, agents for development, technicians and legislators meet to listen, discuss and learn from one another. Apimondia meetings are fabulous events that offer great opportunities to learn about all the aspects of the beekeeping world. During these meetings participants explore various exhibits and learn about cutting edge research from all parts of the world.

West Sussex BKA is looking to put together a small delegation to visit Montréal next September. If you would like to be part of the group please let me know. However, it will be at your own expense!

Further details at www.apimondia2019.com/

Graham

secretary@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk

National Bee Unit Forum

In August the NBU held a South-East Region Forum in Guildford hosted by Sandra Gray, our Regional Bee Inspector. Our representatives, chairman Melvyn Essen and Chichester Beekeepers' Harry Boxall joined 18 others from local Associations.



Kirsty Stanton from Fera Science Ltd. presented on her work sequencing AFB & EFB, the most widespread honeybee disease in the UK.

David Rudland provided an overview on the Bee Farmer Apprenticeship Scheme. With the average age of bee farmers in the UK now 66 a 3-year apprenticeship scheme has been set up for 16 - 24 year olds. The plan is to widen this age band.

Nigel Semmence from the BEE Health Advice Service at the NBU spoke about the Asian hornet in the UK.

And finally, Sandra Grey reported on the 2018 South-East Regional bee inspections.

Thanks to Harry Boxall for allowing me to plagiarise his report from the Forum. If you would like a copy of his full report contact me - Ed.

Around the Divisions

All Members are welcome to attend any Divisional meeting, but please advise the organiser if you plan to attend.

Central Sussex Division

Details of the Division's activities from Debbie Rowland: chairman@centralsussexbka.org.uk or website: www.centralsussexbka.org.uk

Chichester Division

Tuesday 9th October - 'Atakorum Bees Project' with Trisha Marlow from Bees Abroad at the Fishbourne Centre, Blackboy Lane, Fishbourne, Chichester, PO18 8BE at 7:30pm. Trisha will be speaking about Relieving Poverty Through Beekeeping Projects in Ghana, a cause supported by CBKA. Further details from Nick Brown: secretary@chichesterbeekeepers.co.uk or website: www.chichesterbeekeepers.co.uk

Wisborough Green Division

Saturday 6th October - 'Annual Supper' at Wisborough Green Village Hall from 7pm.

Tuesday 16th October - 'Practical beekeeping tips and hints' from Tom Moore at 7:30pm. Venue to be confirmed.

Further details from Tess Clarke: secretary@wgbka.org.uk or website: www.wgbka.org.uk

'Share your Division's activities with readers of the County News'

Worthing Division

Saturday 6th and Wednesday 24th October - Out apiary meetings from 2pm.

Thursday 11th October - 'Making Mead' with Michael Badger. Ferring Village Hall, Ferring Street, Ferring, BN12 5JP at 7:30pm. Further details from Len Lewis: leonard-lewis@hotmail.co.uk or the Division's website: www.worthingbeekeepers.org.uk

... and a Date for your Diary



Thursday 25th - Saturday 27th October - 'National Honey Show', Sandown Park Racecourse, Esher, Surrey, KT10 9RT. www.honeyshow.co.uk. See the article in August's newsletter.



Melvyn's Missive

Chairman, Melvyn Essen, writes for the County News



Well, we are back from the cruise and managed to have a two-week UK news blackout. Our lasting impression is the lovely blue sea, the luxury of pulling back the curtains and opening the balcony door, sitting in bed with a cup of tea, and the view of the sea. We managed to have a fleeting glimpse of two apiaries from our tour bus, one in the Azores and one on the Canaries - a lot of hives close together. A visit to one smallholding on Faial island had various tastings of local produce and, of course, some honey. The chap communicated with some gestures that he used to keep bees and when stung he had a bad reaction (cut-throat gesture) we understood!

Back to reality - committee meetings, emails, more Asian hornets, messages, taking cleared supers off, seeing which colonies need feeding. The only difference is I don't need to go to work! I have been warned that I will get busier though and will have a job to find time for my two new hobbies, watercolour painting and dancing. Cruises have a lot to answer for.

At the recent West Sussex committee meeting, one day after my hols, the subject of Asian hornets came up with a lot of new concerns. I thought, what has happened? and reading between the lines I realised that there had been two more sightings and as a result two nests in Fowey*. We, WSBKA, have decided to act now by, first, contacting members of our own divisions and making sure baited, monitor traps are filled with sweet lures - a recipe can be found on the useful A.H.A.T. website: <http://ahat.org.uk/>. The next step is to set up our own West Sussex Asian Hornet Action Team.

Melvyn

chairman@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk

**An Asian hornets' nest has now been found and destroyed in Hampshire - Ed.*

Beekeepers' Safari to Trinidad & Tobago

Bees for Development Trustee, Gladstone Solomon is hosting an 11 day safari to the Caribbean islands of Trinidad & Tobago in February 2019. This event has taken place for the last 18 years.

Africanised honeybees reached the apiaries in Trinidad in 1979, whereas beekeeping in Tobago is with European races of honeybees.

Full details are on the Bees for Development website at:

www.beesfordevelopment.org/events-calendar/beekeeping-and-honey-safari-to-trinidad-and-tobago/



...and finally

Bees for development - Birthday Giveaways

The **Birthday Giveaway** prize for September is a fabulous weekend at **Humble by Nature** in the Wye Valley. The prize consists of two vouchers for Courses on the working farm owned by broadcaster and writer **Kate Humble**. The farm is home to a thriving rural skills centre offering a wide range of Courses including smallholding many traditional skills and crafts, food and cookery. All the tutors are experts in their fields, and Courses have small numbers to ensure personal attention and hands-on experience.

See all the options here: www.humblebynature.com.



Included with this special September prize is bed and breakfast at the fabulous **Inn at Penallt** www.theinnatpenallt.co.uk: a 17th Century traditional country Inn, with spectacular views of the Forest of Dean, adjoining a nature reserve, and branded by visitors as a 'little paradise'.

For a chance to win, simply enter your details at: www.beesfordevelopment.org/giveaway/index.html

Bees for development 

We're on the web:
www.westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk

MEMBERS' COUNTY NEWSLETTER

Thanks to all this month's contributors. If you don't have access to the internet and want further details of anything in this newsletter, please contact the Editor & County Secretary. Likewise, if you would like to contribute to future newsletters please send articles and photographs to:

Graham Elliott, Editor & County Secretary, no later than the 20th of the preceding month.
secretary@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk



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This and previous newsletters from the last 12 months are available on the website.

