

RBG Publicity Officer's Report, 2015/2016

This past year has been quieter than usual for some reason, at least on the school front. After teaching beekeeping courses at Probus School for I don't know how many years, yet having offered on more than one occasion to visit, my offer was at last taken up (though I think the request came independent of my offers!), and I took the obs hive and my various bits of equipment to talk to the children there. As usual when a beekeeper visits a school with bees, a lot of interest was shown and many questions asked – they loved it! I visited two CBKA Groups for Q&A evenings (one was Roseland!) and gave talks to interested organisations in Falmouth, Perranarworthal and Roche. I have also been invited back to our local Hub Radio station for another hour-long programme, which gives me a good opportunity to talk at length about bees. Radio Cornwall, Pirate FM and a new London radio station called Radio Wolfgang have also called me for interviews on topics ranging from neonicotinoid spraying, to swarms and swarming, reducing bee numbers and beekeeping in general. It seems beekeeping is again the hot media topic it was 2 years ago! In terms of the courses I run there has been a resurgence of interest from the general public, with two courses running in the autumn and though only one is running this term, I have more than my normal maximum number of students – Saturday is obviously very popular - with some very promising students. Some of those have already joined Roseland Group and others no doubt will do so, since they live in the area.

I still write my monthly blog for Roseland-online, though the winter months have proved a challenge this year owing to the mild and wet weather. Hopefully that will change very shortly and I can get back to talking about what the bees are actually doing, since they are already bringing in pollen and water.

Colin Rees, Publicity Officer