

Roseland Beekeepers: Swarm Co-ordination 2017

The total number of calls dealt with across the group is not known because, as last year, Colin's list of contact details for swarm collectors on our website appears to have helped the public to find advice and help close to where they live or have spotted a swarm. Certainly the calls received by myself (Carol) were mainly from the wider St Austell and Mevagissey areas.

Calls started in early June and continued into late July. I took approximately 20 and given that others in the group have told me that they have dealt with a number, the total swarms reported to the group could well be at least 40. Calls were mostly fielded to other beekeepers who in turn collected the swarms where possible (with the usual tales of daring do !) and leaving callers happy with the service. Some were satisfied with telephone advice eg how to deal with non honey bee issues or reassurance that certain swarms would move from chimneys with appropriate smoking and that others would be unlikely to cause a nuisance if left alone.

It seems clear that as well as providing assistance to the community, increasing colony stocks for members and start up colonies for newbees, we are also carrying out a valuable public education function about honeybees and beekeeping. Lots of benefit all round!

Carol Morrison