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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019 - GROUP EVENTS REPORT

We did not attend any local village events this summer – partly because many of them were becoming a little stale and partly because we had been asked if we would engage in a summer ‘residency’ at the Lost Gardens of Heligan.

The events marquee was based at Heligan for six Wednesdays of the school holidays, expertly managed by Simon Kellam. Thanks must go to all the volunteers who helped out. Having a colony close to hand to use for the observation hive proved very successful. The bees remained relatively calm and the fact they didn’t have to be transported to and from different locations every week must have helped out to some degree. We also took part in the Heligan Harvest Festival in October. No observation hive (a little late in the year for the bees to be disturbed), but we used our microscopes to allow visitors to get close up to bees. We also had a good display of honey products on show, honey tasting and candle rolling.

The Heligan events were very well received and they have asked if we could repeat our attendance next summer. We have agreed to do this. Being hugely in demand, we have also already had several enquiries from the organisers of the village shows that we have previously attended bemoaning our absence and exclaiming how much we were missed this year!

Inclusion in Heligan’s activities is such a massive opportunity for us that it would be difficult to turn down the invitation; by contrast, the past few years’ attendance at the village shows has put an enormous strain on a relatively small core of volunteers, for a noticeably diminishing return in terms of visitors (the shows simply haven’t attracted the same numbers as in previous years). Therefore, I have not committed us to definitely attending any events – I will however agree to do so if there are sufficient members of the group who would be willing to staff specific shows and stock the observation hive (we will be unable to utilise colonies from the apiary as these will be used at the Heligan events). More details on this will be sent out a little later in the year.

We can only continue to attend events thanks to the dedication and enthusiasm of volunteers from within the group who help with erecting the marquee and staffing our display. I am hopeful that we will receive sufficient support to enable us to attend both Heligan and other events during the coming Summer months; our role in educating the public about beekeeping and honeybees is very important, so the more people we can reach the better. Although I’ve made it sound like hard work, volunteering is also a great opportunity to get more involved with RBG, to get to know other group members better, to have a great deal of fun and to experience some fantastic events.

If you would like to get involve with events in 2018, please don’t hesitate to get in touch – it is a very rewarding experience.

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*Roseland Beekeeping Group is a member of Cornwall Beekeepers Association
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