

Swarm Coordinator's report 2018

Given the protracted winter of 17/18 it was unsurprising that swarm calls began late but disappointing that total numbers of genuine honeybee swarms throughout the summer were down on the previous year.

That said, the trend continues of members of the public finding beekeepers living close by to them, using either of the Roseland or BBKA websites. Though this means that the numbers of reported swarms are not actually known it does also mean that the information contained on the sites is valuable. Callers have also confidently and correctly identified honeybees from the websites.

Conversely calls from outside the area seemed to be greater this year but were easily passed on using the CBKA site.

Thanks goes to all members who've responded to swarm reports with a particular shout out to those members who have either passed the swarms onto Newbees and who have taken Newbees with them for their first experience of collecting their own starter colony.

Calls continue all year round from householders or builders who suddenly find renovations held up by long established colonies in roofs and wall cavities – perhaps a particularly Cornish phenomena!

Asian Hornet Action Team

In response to increasing concerns nationally about the arrival of the Asian Hornet the Roseland group built on the swarm coordinating activity to develop an action plan to respond to any local reports. Thankfully, especially in the light of sightings in Cornwall, the plan was only actioned once and the report was found to be negative.

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