



**BEEKEEPING WITH LOCAL BEES
- WELSH CONFERENCE**

Speaker Biographies

Opening Address
Alun Jones
Chief Exec. Menter a Busnes



SIMON BILSBOROUGH

Simon Bilsborough worked for the Nature Conservancy Council and the Countryside Council for Wales prior to working for the Welsh Government. He is the Senior Biodiversity Policy Lead, and lead on implementing the Action Plan for Pollinators.

'opening address'

CONFERENCE TITLES

'Biodiversity'



KEVIN THOMAS WILLIAMS

Kevin was born and bred in Carmarthenshire. He has kept bees since he was fifteen or thereabouts. He currently has some twenty stocks of native type bees and is very keen to improve them and is working with a small local breeding group near Lampeter Ceredigion to this end. He gives talks and lectures on beekeeping and related matters.

'History + Traditions of Bkeeping in Wales'

He practices as a solicitor in partnership with his daughter in the Teifi Valley specialising in rural matters. He lives with his wife Edith on a farm near Llandysul where as well as beekeeping he enjoys the rural life including farming, gardening and running his own game shoot. He looks forward to passing on his knowledge of beekeeping in particular to his four grandchildren.



WILLIE ROBSON

Willie Robson began beekeeping in 1962 expanding his father's enterprise, which began in 1948, into a viable business by 1971. Willie helped increase both the number of hives (from 100 - around 1600 presently) and the diversity of products. Chain Bridge Honey Farm now supplies all manner of honey & beeswax products to outlets, small and large, throughout the UK, Europe, USA and Japan. W.S. Robson uses traditional beekeeping methods and native black bees to specialize in cut comb honey production. Sales have risen through the years and now exceed £500,000 in a good season. The farm currently employs 15 people including Willie and Daphne and their three children, Stephen, Heather and Frances. Visitors are welcome from all over the world to their free entry visitor centre.

'Bee Farming with Native Bees'



ROGER PATTERSON 'Improve your own bees using easy methods' ←

Roger Patterson started keeping bees in his native West Sussex in 1963. At one stage he kept 130 colonies for about 15 years. Apart from buying a few queens in his early days he has always produced his own from local stock. Roger has been teaching for well over 40 years, speaking and demonstrating widely, not only in the U.K. but abroad too. His presentations are practical, so relevant to all beekeepers, where he concentrates on helping beekeepers to understand and improve their bees so they are docile, productive and suit the climate.



PETER JENKINS 'Reflections on Queen Rearing the Jenkins Way' ←

Peter Jenkins was born in Cwrtnewydd near Lampeter, trained in Engineering at RAE Farnborough, holds a Masters Degree in Engineering and is a Chartered Engineer. Having spent a career working worldwide on mainly naval projects, he has spent recent years in Engineering Education including a period as Head of Engineering at Dyffryn Teifi School. He is a member of the Bee Improvement & Bee Breeders Association (BIBBA) as well as the Welsh Beekeepers Association (WBKA) and the Bee Farmers Association (BFA). Peter is dedicated to preserving the indigenous British Bee (*Apis mellifera mellifera*). Peter's bees are from a strain indigenous to the area which he inherited from his father Griff Jenkins, a rural craftsman, blacksmith and the last manufacturer of the Aberaeron Shovel. Griff had spent a lifetime preserving the genetic purity of these bees, work which Peter is now continuing. Due to the hardy nature and cold weather flying abilities of these bees, their much sought after honey is often distinctly different to that gathered by bees imported from warmer climates. Today, Peter continues with this tradition by producing "Mél ap Griff", pure raw Welsh honey.



STEVE ROSE 'Queen Rearing in North Wales and Colony Selection' ←

Steve was born in South Wales and gained an honours degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Bath in 1974. He started beekeeping in 2001. As a member of Derbyshire Beekeepers Association he was an active committee member and held the post of show secretary for 6 years. Despite his commitment to showing his main interest was in queen rearing and preserving his near native bees that he had obtained locally from stocks originally sourced by Beowulf Cooper, the founder of BIBBA. The importance and advantages of maintaining the purity of the race soon became apparent and his resolve to work towards the conservation of *Apis mellifera mellifera* has never diminished. During his time in Derbyshire he organized several training events for new members and became proficient in queen rearing. In 2008 he moved with his wife Lynn to a small holding in North Wales, between Bala and Corwen, where he has concentrated on bee improvement and queen rearing. He has held the post of North Wales Groups Coordinator for BIBBA and worked mostly with BIBBA breeding groups in North East Wales. These groups regularly meet and compare stock records, organise joint initiatives and swap genetic material. This has enabled him to build up to around 40 colonies from locally selected stock and to take particular interest in the range of behavioural traits of bees and environmental pressures encountered even within a relatively small geographical area.



PAUL CROSS 'Bee Research at Bangor University' ←

Paul keeps 15 colonies on Anglesey and runs the Bangor University apiary which is used for teaching and research purposes. He is involved in supervising a diverse range of bee-related research projects including the evaluation of bee-keeping as a poverty alleviating tool in Uganda and Tanzania, discrimination of bee races in North Wales (in conjunction with Steve Rose), identifying links between racial purity and disease resistance and finally two projects developing micro-electronic bee trackers.



ychwanegu gwerth trwy gydweithio
adding value through collaboration

