



Beesearch and Development

Its been a busy year for Cornish Bees with some impressive success with Blacks Bee Breeding Programme

Blacks Cornish Bees have been working with research groups to help with research into the native black honeybee (*Apis mellifera mellifera*) of which we have a number of hives at Godolphin. This involved a DNA analysis of 36 colonies across Cornwall to find the presence and prevalence of the native bee. The results showed that 6 samples of Blacks bees contained some of the best examples of native bee stocks in the county. Godolphin which is a production colony was a fraction (0.006) outside of the required deviation to call them 'pure' native bees.

Blacks Cornish Bee results highlight their successful programme of careful selection, breeding and working

with nature. Blacks Cornish Bees have a clear aim to preserve and develop the Cornish variant of our native bees. The species is thought to be more resistant to Varroa mite which has been decimating other populations and the native species is more adapted to the British climate than European subspecies managed by other beekeepers.

Honey produced by the bees at Godolphin are sold in the Piggery. By hosting these hives, the gardens benefit from insect pollination and we are also doing our bit in helping to ensure a better future for the native bee.



In brief

Reeve Ceremony and Snail Race

Tuesday 02 Feb 2016

Starts at dawn: 07:54am.

Location : Godolphin

Join us for a fun re-enactment of the Reeve ceremony followed by breakfast in the Piggery. Please let Kate know whether you are attending and any dietary requirements by Friday 29 January, so we can plan catering.



Dates for your diary

Volunteer meeting: Wednesday 3 Feb, 10am-12pm

Pre-season meeting : Friday 26 Feb , 9:30am-1pm

Summer BBQ: Wednesday 31 August, 4pm-6pm

Christmas Party: Monday 12 December

Lapse, Camera, Action

Godolphin's gardener-in-charge, Juliet, has been busy researching and planning the Sunken Lawns project.

She has set up a time lapse camera which automatically takes a photo several times a day from an eastern elevation, looking over the first sunken terrace garden. It will capture the transformation over the seasons as well as visually recording the development of the Sunken Lawn Project.

There has been a lot of work carried out over the last year replacing some of the old planting around the sunken lawns to accentuate the structure of the garden and to prevent poor plant health. This work should be finished by Spring 2016.



Events for 2016

Things to look forward to this year:

Framing of Godolphin, 3 January – 29 Feb

Primrose Month, 1 March – 31 March

Cadburys Easter Egg Hunt, 25 March – 10 April

Bluebell Festival, 15 April – 15 May

Wild Food Walk, 21 May

Bare Foot Hike, 31 May and 4 August

Godolphin Bare Foot Festival, 21 August

Please tell as many people as you can and if you would like posters let us know.

Thanks to your hard work and enthusiasm we have had good feedback from visitors this Christmas.

Especially regarding the enlightening tour guides, Christmas decorations and activities. We have welcomed 1100 visitors compared to 700 last year. Many thanks for all your hard work and enthusiasm. For Christmas 2016, we will be opening the House as normal to visitors to discover Godolphin for themselves over 3 weekends at Christmas. We will be then be organising bookable events in the House on weekdays between 28 November and 9th December.



A Big Thanks from Tegen

I would like to thank **ALL** of you for making me feel as welcome as last year. Your support this Christmas has been magical. Thank you and best wishes for the new year.



House Opening Dates 2016

06-11 February

05-10 March

02-07 April

07-12 May

04- 09 June

02-07 July

Closed August

03-08 September

01-06 October

26-27 November

3-4 December

10-11 December



New people: we would like to give a huge welcome to the new staff at Godolphin which include: Visitor Experience Officer Kate Evans and Part-time Ranger John Cartwright. They will both be based here at Godolphin and we are looking forward to the year ahead with them.