

UPDATED CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Change of programme due to unforeseen circumstances.
Margarita Lopez is not able to attend

EXCITING REPLACEMENT SPEAKER **STEVE MARTIN**

World renowned Bee Scientist and friend of beekeepers across Ireland



Emeritus Prof. Stephen Martin (University of Salford, Manchester, UK)

Stephen has studied social insects (bees, wasps, termites and ants) for most of his career. His areas of specialisation are the 'hornet ecology', 'pest and diseases of honeybees' and 'chemical ecology of ants'. He holds a Chair in Social Entomology in the School of Environmental and Life Sciences at Salford University, Manchester. Prior to that he spent 12 years working at Sheffield University, 7 years with the National Bee Unit and 7 years in Japan conducting research into hornets.

Stephen is best known for his work on the Varroa mite a global parasite of honeybees and its association with viruses, especially the Deformed Wing Virus, but more recently his expertise in hornet biology is in demand, both nationally and internationally. His research funded in part by beekeepers aims to understand why some honey bee colonies have become naturally tolerant to Varroa and see if this information can provide beekeepers with a long-term solution to their mite-problem.

UBKA CONFERENCE 2026

LECTURES - FRIDAY 13TH FEBRUARY

13.30	Reception	Registration and Trade Show open
14.00	<i>Trade Hall</i>	<i>Tea/Coffee on arrival</i>
14.30	Main Hall	Professor Grace McCormack – Chemical-free Beekeeping – a sustainable future for Irish Beekeeping?
16.45	Main Hall	Opening Ceremony
17.00	Main Hall	Professor Stephen Martin – Exotic travels of a bee scientist
18.00	<i>Comfort Break</i>	
18.05	Main Hall	Jonathan Getty – Queen Rearing – the Way Forward
19.00	<i>Main Canteen</i>	<i>Conference Supper and Entertainment (booking essential)</i>

LECTURES - SATURDAY 18TH FEBRUARY

9.30	Main Hall	Jack Silberrad - Diseases of Honeybees and their Management
9.30	Lecture Theatre	Rebecca Coleman – Beeswax for Beekeepers
10.20	<i>Trade Hall</i>	<i>Tea/Coffee Break</i>
10.50	Main Hall	Professor Stephen Martin – Adaptations between Varroa, Virus, and Honey Bees
10.50	Lecture Theatre	Ass. Prof. Alice Pinto – Honeybee Genetics made Simple
11.40	<i>Break</i>	
12.10	Main Hall	Peter Davies – Field Response to Asian Hornets in England
12.10	Lecture Theatre	Professor Grace McCormack – The importance of Preserving Apis Mellifera Mellifera in Ireland
13.00	<i>Lunch (Booking Essential)</i>	
14.30	Main Hall	Ass. Prof. Alice Pinto – How Modern Beekeeping has Changed European Bees
14.30	Lecture Theatre	Jack Silberrad - Life & Times of Beekeeping: Cultural & Technical
15.20	<i>Trade Hall</i>	<i>Tea/Coffee Break</i>
16.00	Main Hall	John Hill –Tropilaelaps – the Next Threat to Beekeeping?
16.00	Lecture Theatre	Peter Davies - Maximising your Honey Crop
16.50	Main Hall	Close

Please Note: Conference admission is free to Young Beekeepers under 18 years of age.
Contact the Conference Organiser at: bgrzymek@icoud.com for tickets.

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WORKSHOPS - SATURDAY 14TH FEBRUARY	
10.30	Microscopy – book in advance on TicketTailor
10.50	Beekeeping for beginners – Honey Extraction - Jackie Barry/Lorraine Wild
10.50	Candle Making for Beginners - Una and Jimmy McNeill
10.50	Mead Making – Trevor Dawson
10.50	Making Simple Skincare Products from Beeswax – Valentine Hodges
10.50	Skep Making - Louise McLean - book in advance on TicketTailor
14.30	Microscopy - book in advance on TicketTailor
14.30	Candle Making for Beginners - Una McNeill
14.30	Skep Making - Louise McLean - book in advance on TicketTailor .
14.30	The Challenge of Photographing Bees - Conall McCaughey
14.30	Mead Making – Trevor Dawson
14.30	Making Simple Skincare Products from Beeswax – Valentine Hodges

TRADERS AND SUPPLIERS

An extensive Traders and Suppliers Show will be held on Friday and Saturday in the main sports hall of the College.

Entrance is included in Conference Tickets but can be bought separately for those who wish to attend the trade show but not the conference.



PLEASE SUPPORT

International Meeting of Young Beekeepers (IMYB)
Northern Ireland

4TH - 8TH JULY 2026

To be held in Belfast

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Raising £120,000 to Help Us Bring the Buzz to Northern Ireland in 2026

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

IMYB 2 Belfast 4th - 8th July 2026

*Can you help? A range of help and roles available
Please contact us for more information*



IMYBNI26@gmail.com