

## **DOES BEEKEEPING HARM OUR WILD POLLINATORS?**



Join **Cambridgeshire Beekeepers' Association**

for a possibly controversial talk by

**Jonas Geldmann**

**7.00pm for 7.15pm start on Thursday April 11**

**The Studio, Storey's Field Centre, Eddington**

Talk is around 40 minutes with Q&A afterwards. Tea, coffee and biscuits provided.

“Saving the honeybee does not help wildlife. Western honeybees are a commercially managed species that can actually have negative effects on their immediate environment through the massive numbers in which they are introduced.” So wrote Jonas Geldmann and his co-author Dr Juan P. González-Varo in a paper published in the journal *Science* in 2018, and reported in the press:

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/science/2018/01/25/urban-beekeeping-harming-wild-bees-says-cambridge-university>

They argued that, contrary to public perception, die-offs in honeybee colonies are an agricultural and not a conservation issue and that the keeping of honeybees may be contributing to the biodiversity crisis of our declining wild pollinators due to competition for forage and the spread of diseases.

Should we classify honeybees as livestock or wild animals?

What can we as beekeepers do differently to help?

Does this issue relate only to urban honeybees or, potentially, all honeybees?

Such big questions - come and join the debate!