

# BEEES SNIFF OUT DUMPED LANDMINES

## Peacekeeping pollinators' war zone role

BY JOHN GLOVER

**BEEES have been trained to find unexploded landmines in a former war zone.**

Scientists from St Andrews University taught the insects to sniff out ordnance left over from the Balkan conflict in Croatia.

They covered TNT with sugar syrup to make it attractive to the pollinators.

If the bees return to the hive carrying tiny traces of explosives, footage from drones is used to pinpoint where they picked it up.

Dr Ross Gillander, a physics research fellow at St Andrews, said: "Basically, we teach them by a version of reward like you do with dogs. The bees fly out of



**BOMBLE BEE** Insect at work their hive to go about their normal day to day job of finding pollen but instead of finding pollen they find explosives.

"It's the sugar syrup which draws them out.

"The training takes two days and is much faster and more efficient than training a dog."

Explosives were left behind during Croatia's

four-year struggle for independence from Yugoslavia, which started in 1991.

The bee tests started in Croatia in November, funded by NATO Science for Peace and Security.

If successful, they could be used to find millions of abandoned mines around the world.

Unlike dogs, bees are not affected by chemical compounds in explosives and can get to less accessible areas.

But they don't like working in the rain or the dark.

There has only been one casualty so far – PhD student James Glackin, who was stung three times while driving 6000 bees to the test site.

**MARGOT FOR IT**  
Star poses for Chanel and, right, as Harley Quinn



## Ad is in the bag for Mags

MARGOT Robbie didn't scrub up this well as Harley Quinn in *Suicide Squad*.

The Aussie actor looks a million dollars with a pricey handbag on her arm for a Chanel advert. It's her first for the brand, promoting their snowsports-inspired Coco Neige range.

PICTURE: KARL LAGERFELD

## Thugs shot at house in night attack

A SHOT was fired at a house in a targeted attack.

Two people were seen running away after the incident in Wishaw in the early hours of Sunday.

No one was injured but windows were damaged.

Police have appealed for witnesses to the shooting at McGregor Street in the Craigneuk area of the Lanarkshire town.

The suspects crossed the footbridge at Shieldmuir Railway Station.

Police said officers have been checking CCTV footage.

Detective Inspector Kenny Dalrymple said: "I believe this was a targeted attack which was intended to intimidate the occupant of the house."

## Nirvana Kurt jumper show

KURT Cobain's jumper from the video for *Smells Like Teen Spirit* will go on display at the Museum of Style Icons near Dublin.

The tragic Nirvana star's car, drawings and lyrics will also be displayed.