



NEWSLETTER

September

2019

Here is the September 2019 newsletter. Just a short letter with local news. Any contributions or ideas for future editions please email to:

newsletter@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk

Things to Think About.

Apiary Sessions

There is an apiary tidying session this Sunday 8th September at 2.00pm at the Ochran Farm apiary. If you have a blowtorch, please bring it with you.

Whilst the AFB outbreak at the Rhadyr Apiary has been resolved however we will not be moving any bees from the apiary for a further 12 months.

This Month's Meeting

The first of our winter meetings is entitled "Honeybee Feeding - Time for a Rethink?" Talk given by Ingo Scholler Goytre Village Hall 7.30 pm Thursday 12th September.

Local shows

A number of members have been very busy over the summer months by representing GBCIO at the various agricultural shows in the area. This includes Llanthony and Bedwelty (see photos). We are planning to attend the Usk show on Saturday 14th September. If you are interested in helping, please contact Peter Malone at pwlmaloney@gmail.com who will give you details. Also, if you have any honey or bee products that you want to sell then these can be sold on the stand let Peter know.



Woodland Trust – Tree Pack

We made an application for a Tree pack from the Woodland trust to plant out at the new apiary site and centre. The good news is that we were successful, and we will be receiving:

Medium Wild Wood (105 saplings),
Medium Wildlife (105 saplings),
Medium Wild Harvest (105 saplings),
Medium Wild Wood (105 saplings)

Sometime between 1st to 21st November.

Once received we need volunteers to help plant them to form a new hedge at the new apiary and study centre site. If you can help, please contact Janet Bromley (bromleyjan@hotmail.com).



Taster Sessions

Do you know anyone who is thinking of becoming a beekeeper or you can encourage to become one? Taster sessions are planned for Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd September.

Prospective beginners must attend a Taster Session at the association's apiary to experience beekeeping in action before being accepted on the Beginners Course. However, as applications for the course exceed the number of places each year, attendance at a Taster Session does not guarantee a place on the course.

Please contact the Beginners Course Tutor johnholden142@yahoo.co.uk or the GBKCIO Secretary secretary@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk for more information about the course and to book a place at a Taster Session.

In the News

Making hay while the sun shines

Trevor and Karen - one of this year's beginners - have cut the bracken and the have cut and baled the hay. They have 255aprox small bales for which they have a customer for 200 to take straight from the field. John Bromley helped gather and stack bales with Trevor - the first 150 were not too bad - after that they got hard going - but the job is done. Trevor is still looking for customers so if you know of anyone who needs organic horse hay bales - contact him. John Bromley has started scything the grass around the fruit trees but possibly a working party with a strimmer would be a good idea so if you can help contact John or Janet. (bromleyjan@hotmail.com).



New Apiary and Study Centre Update

We have now received approval for our smaller building as reported in the July Newsletter. We are awaiting a copy of the landscape plan and are obtaining quotes for a ground works contractor to take charge of the roads, trenches and slab. We are also in negotiations with a carpenter/builder to supervise and do the building construction.

Asian Hornet in UK Current Situation

An Asian hornet sighting was confirmed in the Tamworth area of Staffordshire on 2nd September 2019. This is the first report since July, when a single hornet was confirmed in New Milton, Hampshire. In each case they were spotted and reported by a member of the public.

Since 2016, there have been a total of 15 confirmed sightings of the Asian hornet in England and six nests have been destroyed.

Nine of these sightings occurred in 2018; an individual hornet in Lancashire (April) and Hull, three in Cornwall, two in Hampshire, one in Surrey (all September) and one in Kent (October).

The risk of an active Asian hornet nest being found in the UK is negligible during the colder winter months, but higher during the summer. Asian hornets have already been spotted this

year in countries close to the UK (France and Jersey) and a risk remains at all times of year of accidentally transporting an Asian hornet when returning to the UK from abroad.

It is crucial you report any possible sightings so our experts can take quick and effective action to eradicate Asian hornets.

Nicola Spence, UK Chief Plant Health Officer, said:

“By ensuring we are alerted to possible sightings as early as possible, we can take swift and effective action to stamp out the threat posed by Asian hornets.

“While the Asian hornet poses no greater risk to human health than a bee, we recognise the damage they can cause to honeybee colonies and other beneficial insects.

“Please continue to look out for any Asian hornets and if you think you’ve spotted one, report your sighting through the Asian hornet app or online.”

Events for Your Calendar

The following is a list of the Gwent Beekeepers programme for the remainder of 2019:

Thursday 12th September Goytre Village Hall 7.30pm	"Honeybee Feeding - Time for a Rethink?" given by Ingo Scholler
TBA	GBCIO Annual Dinner
Saturday 16th November Goytre Village Hall 2.15pm	AGM followed by a talk Speaker TBC
Thursday 12th December Goytre Village Hall 7.30pm	Social Evening

Other Events

The 88th National Honey Show

This year the 88th National Honey Show will be held between **Thursday 24th and Saturday 26th October.**

The venue is again Sandown Park Racecourse, Esher, Surrey, KT10 9RT.

The new schedule will be available from August, but last year's may be downloaded from the NHS website now. For booking Workshops; this will be available from 1st September.

Topics planned for this year's lectures include:

Ralph Büchler on *Varroa* resistance, *Varroa* sustain-able management, environmental adaptation and selection, and the link of honey bee complex biology to its health; John Donoghue on managing bees for the honey crop; Mary Montaut on bees and plants; Shona Blair on honey against superbugs; Jo Widdicombe on bee improvement; John Chambers on basic honey bee genetics; Irene Power on efficient beekeeping and Simon Rees on the Langstroth story, and how bees fly.

Younger beekeepers will again be well catered for with opportunities to look down the microscope; identify pollen grains; learn to draw a bee; colouring; try on a bee suit; quizzes, and much more ... _

For full details visit the NHS website: www.honeyshow.co.uk

Photograph courtesy of the NHS.



Bees for Development Bee Safari



The charity, Bees for Development is again organising a Caribbean Bee Safari in 2020. The 11-day trip is from 3rd to 13th February and will visit Trinidad and Tobago.

The visit to the islands will provide a unique insight into tropical island beekeeping with the experience of both European and Africanised honey bees. The proceeds from the Safari helps to raise funds for the charity's work in poverty alleviation and protecting bees and habitats. Full details on the BfD website:

www.beesfordevelopment.org/events-calendar/bfd-bee-safari-to-trinidad-and-tobago-2020/



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Talk to us today
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