



NEWSLETTER

October 2019

Here is the October 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.

This Month's Meeting

No lecture this month. There is still the possibility of having the annual dinner later in the month. We will let you know when and if details are confirmed.

Bees for Development

We have been asked by Bees for Development to bring to your attention an event this weekend and a 'Bee Safari' to western Uganda. See below for details.

In the News

Natural and treatment-free beekeeping with Leo Sharashkin

Bees for development have organised a weekend event on 5th and 6th October at Shire Hall in Monmouth. This will be a unique weekend on natural, treatment free beekeeping in horizontal hives with Dr Leo Sharashkin of Missouri, USA, on Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 October. You can attend either or both days.

Dr Leo Sharashkin is editor of "Keeping Bees With a Smile": A Vision and Practice of Natural Apiculture, a comprehensive resource on keeping bees naturally in horizontal hives. He is contributor to American Bee Journal, The Beekeepers Quarterly, and Acres USA, and speaks internationally on sustainable beekeeping, organic growing, and Earth-friendly living. He holds a PhD in Forestry from the University of Missouri and a Master's in Natural Resources from Indiana University, USA. The programme is as follows:



Saturday October 5 9.30am-4.30pm

NATURAL BEEKEEPING THAT WORKS

On Day 1 we discuss how honeybees live in the wild and how we can mimic their ways in our managed hives. We cover the main pillars of natural beekeeping, and how these can be beneficially applied in any apiary. We talk about the importance of using local honeybees and the keys to successfully attract swarms to bait hives to start or increase your apiary. Then we discuss the concept of "ideal" beehives: what makes a hive *bee-friendly* (and *beekeeper-friendly*, too); advantages of very deep combs and horizontal hives, plus an honest evaluation of pluses and minuses of conventional and alternative hive models.

Sunday October 6 9.30am-4.30pm

ADVANCED NATURAL BEEKEEPING MADE EASY

On Day 2 we go over the entire yearly cycle of caring for your bees, in much detail. Spring colony build-up; natural and artificial swarming, propagation, and breeding; honey flows and honey harvest; successful wintering. We discuss the advantages and limitations of each management procedure, how it influences productivity, well-being, and health of the colony. We cover practical ways to limit beekeeper's intervention and how to make your apiary low-input and sustainable. We cover local nectar resources, how to take advantage of them and avoid sugar feeding. Finally, bee health; treatment-free beekeeping; and crafting and marketing premium eco-pure honey and many other products of the hive. You can have a few thriving colonies, or make a living doing natural beekeeping - and Dr Leo shows you how.

Venue

The course will take place in Monmouth's historic Shire Hall, NP25 3DY, across the road from **Bees for Development**.

Course fees

The price includes tuition fee, materials and tea/coffee. VAT included

			ex VAT	Incl VAT
Sat & Sun	5 & 6 October	one place	£120	£144
Sat & Sun	5 and 6 October	two places	£230	£276
Saturday	5 October	one place	£65	£78
Saturday	5 October	two places	£120	£144
Sunday	6 October	one place	£65	£78
Sunday	6 October	two places	£120	£144

[Tickets for the course can be booked at https://shop.beesfd.org/product/bfd-course-treatment-free-beekeeping-with-leo-sharashkin/](https://shop.beesfd.org/product/bfd-course-treatment-free-beekeeping-with-leo-sharashkin/)

Please note there will be no live bees available to view.

This event follows on from Leo's much acclaimed course in June 2018: you can see reviews below.

- This is the second course I have attended where Dr Sharashkin was the Speaker and Trainer. Again, it was excellent. I started keeping some of my honeybees in horizontal hives last year. So, this course enabled me to learn some of the more detailed points of the techniques involved, whilst also providing a refresher on the overall principles. Dr Sharashkin's detailed practical and scientific knowledge is superb. I came away with a comprehensive list of improvements that I will be making to how I manage my bees both in horizontal hives and in conventional vertical hives. The techniques taught on the Course are the foundation stones for ethical and sustainable beekeeping for the future. I would recommend this Course to anyone who questions conventional beekeeping techniques and wants to learn about alternative bee-centred alternatives. (Selwyn Runnett - 9 months ago)
- A comprehensive course expertly presented by a charismatic speaker. It gave me confidence to alter my beekeeping practice, and explain why, to those who prefer the industrial methods of beekeeping. (Gill Horrocks - 9 months ago)

- The weekend course with Dr Leo was a superb lesson in how to live with bees in a sustainable and mutually beneficial way. I had read 'Keeping bees with a smile' and was very interested in the deep frames in the Lazutin hives, and this workshop showed how deep frames are the most logical and bee friendly way to keep bees and give them the best chance for overwintering in our climate. It was good to spend time with others who want to move away from the industrialised methods of bee keeping with the high number of interventions required and move towards the bee-centric way. I would recommend this course to anyone interested in bees as well as beekeeping and thank Bees for Development for putting on this weekend. And as a bonus, Dr Leo's honey is absolutely delicious! (Susan King - 9 months ago)

Usk Show

Once again Gwent beekeepers were well represented at this years Usk Show. Many thanks to all those who helped man the stall and for all those who contributed to the competitions.



Events for Your Calendar

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

TBA	GBCIO Annual Dinner
Saturday 12 th November Goytre Village Hall 2.15 pm	AGM followed by talk Speaker Adam Parker
Thursday 12 th December Goytre Village Hall 7.30 pm	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 B uchler 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 Trinidad and Tobago Bee Safari is now sold out, but there are places on a new safari which Gwent members might be interested in: <http://www.beesfordevelopment.org/events-calendar/bfd-bee-safari-to-western-uganda/>



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All revenue from our shop supports our work with beekeepers in the world's poorest nations. UK Charity 1078803

Talk to us today
01600 714848
beesfordevelopment.org

Bees for Development
1 Agincourt Street
Monmouth
NP25 3DZ