



Gwent Beekeepers

# Gwent Beekeepers CIO

THE ENCOURAGEMENT, IMPROVEMENT AND ADVANCEMENT OF THE CRAFT OF BEEKEEPING FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT.

FEBRUARY 2020

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## This months meeting

This month's meeting is on Thursday 13th February at Goytre Village Hall at 7.30.

Please note the Hall is being used prior to our evening session so Members are respectfully asked to arrive from 7.15pm onwards when we will have access to the hall.

We look forward to seeing you there and sharing refreshments afterwards.

**Next** April Lecture - Products from the Hive and the science behind it — 9th April 2020 @ 7.15pm

## Asian Hornet Co-ordinator

Could someone else please take on the Asian Hornet coordinator role as our current co-ordinator Matt is really pressed for time this year with all his other committee activities.

It involves:

- being named point of contact for cascading information from Bee Unit (i.e. forwarding any relevant emails to Peter Maloney our Communications secretary )
- urging vigilance and putting-up of inspection traps,
- liaising with Bee Unit if there are any sightings,

publicising AH identifications to public (ie putting fliers up on notice boards at Garden Centres etc).

If you are willing to take on the role please contact:

Matt at [membership@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:membership@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk)



## February Lecture

Megan Seymour  
"Turning Swarming to the Beekeepers Advantage"



February 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

Thursday, Feb 13th 2020  
7.30pm  
Goytre Village Hall

Please note the Hall is being used prior to our evening session so Members are respectfully asked to arrive from 7.15pm onwards when we will have access to the hall.

We look forward to seeing you there and sharing refreshments afterwards.

## New Apiary & Study Centre – Help Required



This is the moment we've been working towards for many years - it's almost time to put up our own apiary building!

As you know, work on the footings for our new apiary education building is progressing really well and we're now looking to pull in all those favours, gratefully accept all the offers of help and basically beg, borrow or steal everyone in the association to please lend a hand in putting up our exciting new facility.

The building itself will be delivered on Tuesday, 17th March in 'flat pack' and we need 'all hands-on deck' to put up the building, under the direction of our carpenter in the weeks that follow.



There's going to be quite a bit to do but many hands make light work and it promises to be great fun - it will mean that we can all contribute to providing a lasting legacy for future generations of beekeepers.

In an attempt to coordinate the number of people on site at any time, could you please click on the link at the bottom of the email to indicate which days you are able help.

This particular request is for assembling the actual building (in just the two weeks commencing 17th and 23rd March) and will necessitate some heavy lifting - we'll put out other similar calls for help for planting, painting, tiling etc in due course.



**P.P.E.  
must be  
worn in  
this area**

Please indicate as many dates as you could be available, and we'll try and share out the load so that no one person is overburdened. It could be that you're not needed on a day you've indicated (for reasons of inclement weather, too many available to accommodate on site, rapid (hopefully) or stalled prior progress etc. etc.) and if this is the case I (or someone else on the committee) will let you know the day before.

You will need to bring decent boots (preferably steel-toe-capped but not trainers) a pair of work gloves and a hard hat if you have one.

If you have any particular skills (plumbing, wiring, tiling etc.) that you think we could use, please let us know on the form.

Here's the link: <https://forms.gle/CU9gcBZQY3CoKWf66>

## Smart New Website

We have a new website which is functional but still a work in progress. Members are encouraged to make use of the website and pass any comments/suggestions for improvement to Dave Barrell [webadmin@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:webadmin@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk)

The web address of the new site is:

<https://www.gwentbeekeepers.co.uk>



This Month's Article:

## Honeyland – a documentary film worth watching

*Honeyland*, which follows wild beekeepers in the small village of Bekirlija in North Macedonia, is on the shortlist for the 2020 Oscars and is the first film ever to be nominated for the Academy Awards for International Feature and Documentary Feature in the same year.

A brief overview of the film can be found on Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Honeyland\\_\(2019\\_film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Honeyland_(2019_film)) which describes the film as follows:

*Honeyland* is a documentary about the life and labours of Hatidže Muratova, a Macedonian beekeeper of Turkish descent who lives in the village of Bekirlija in the municipality of Lozovo. As the village is in a secluded mountain, she has no access to electricity or running water. She is one of the last wild beekeepers in the country and the continent.

Hatidže lives together with her 85-year-old partly blind bed-ridden mother, Nazife, who is completely dependent on her daughter's care. means of restoring balance in the ecosystem.



Continues ....





Fungal extracts were mixed into sucrose solution and fed to bees using in-hive feeders

This is exemplified through moments when she chants the lines "half for me, half for you" to her bees when harvesting the honey. This principle is based on the customs and traditions of her ancestors, who taught her that bees need to use their own honey for nutrition to obtain more energy for flying and mating.

The documentary shows numerous shots of Hatidže during the beekeeping process, including the handling of the apiaries where the bees are kept and cutting honeycombs.



The peace and quiet of her home-place and routine life are disrupted by the arrival of Hussein Sam, a Turkish nomadic rancher who arrives with a trailer. Traveling with him are his wife Ljutvie, their seven children and several imported domestic animals.

Hatidže maintains good relationships with them and bonds with the family's children who frequently invade her privacy. She proceeds to pass on the advice she got from her ancestors to Sam, explaining to him the art of beekeeping and instructing him on how to start his own colony. In need of financial means to sustain his family, Sam decides to start his own colony of bees. Sam disregards her advice and proceeds to harvest the entire honey his beehives produce upon a customer's request to provide him with as much honey as possible. This leads to Sam's bees attacking Hatidže's in order to obtain honey during the resource-scarce winter period, thus bringing an end to Hatidže's way of living. Hatidže scolds Sam for not following her advice as she finds her bee colony collapsing. Her mother also passes away and when the nomadic family decides to move on, she remains alone in the village. Apparently, filmmakers Ljubo Stefanov and Tamara Kotevska camped in Hatidže Muratova's backyard for days at a time over the course of three years to capture the escalating drama; they succeeded so much that at times it's hard to believe *Honeyland* isn't scripted.

I watched the documentary film the other evening and it was certainly an eye opener into the sort of hard life that many people in our world have to endure. The film is very moving and shows how rapidly a sustainable form of natural beekeeping can be completely destroyed when you're your neighbours ignore the basic principles of living in harmony with the bees. There are some great scenes of how **not** to handle bees and I was left wondering how Sam and his children ever survived the number of stinging bees that they had to deal with. It's easy to take sides and empathise with Hatidže and her plight, particularly as she sees her bee colony's collapsing for no fault of her own. However, don't be too hard on Sam. Just try to imagine how you would cope if you had to provide for a wife and seven children in such a harsh environment. The film is thought provoking and has some amazing shots of the wild Macedonian wilderness in which Hatidže and Sam and his family have to survive. Not everyone's cup of tea but I would recommend you give it a try. – Ed.

## New Apiary & Study Centre – Update

Just a quick update on progress. Although the wet weather continues to cause problems, so far, the following has been done:

- water has been connected to the building
- Soak-a-ways have been dug for downpipe drains
- septic tank has been installed.
- slab has been approved by the building inspector.
- Contractor currently working on the apiary.
- The trench for the power cable has now been dug, the conduit is in and back-filled.
- Trees have been pruned.

A photo gallery to the new apiary section of the smart new web site.



## Ochran – End of an era

After another sterling effort to clear the site the Ochran apiary is no more. Here are three photographs of the completed work. Once again, many thanks to all those who helped to ship out the bees and clear the site and the storeroom. Special thanks to Miriam who co-ordinated the effort.





## January's Positive Thinking - Newsletter from Margret Wilson, President of BBKA.



Dear Members,

First of all, Happy New Year to everyone, let's hope that 2020 is a good one for everyone, hopefully for all mankind, not only the Beekeepers in the world, a frail hope, but it would be good if it could happen.

Back to the beekeeping world, yesterday Saturday 11th January was the day of the Annual Delegates Meeting, where all but a few associations sent their delegates to the meeting to see what has happened to the BBKA in 2019 and to make suggestions for the coming year, it is always an interesting meeting, never going exactly how it is anticipated, but that is a good thing, it certainly prevents complacency.

The first two sessions were on annual reports of happenings and the finances for the past year, which we are pleased to say were good, once again. This is the fourth year that we have had a surplus which means no increase in capitation once again.

We then went on to applications for membership and once again Laddingford asked for membership, this was supported by their current host association and the vote was taken but on a member vote, the application was then lost. This is the second time that Laddingford had applied and been refused.

The nominations for President, new Trustees and the exam board were all approved, so we go into the new year with a full board of Trustees.

We then went onto the ratification of the Trustee Discipline and dispute procedure and with one minor change completed immediately, that too was approved.

Last year we asked for volunteers to be the Treasurer for the BBKA however there were no applicants and as we had just covered two years without a Treasurer and with the new robust system in place it was felt that we no longer needed one, that too was passed.

We then had some changes to the eReturn2 (eR2) membership database explained by Martin Smith and all approved, I believe that every association will already have the details of the changes now.

The West Sussex proposal regarding proxy voting failed so we will carry on as we have before.

The proposition from Newcastle to change Chairman to Chair was approved.

Martin Smith then took the stand to talk about the Yearbook, indicating that this would now be available on the eR2 system.

There was a proposition from Surrey regarding insurance for the AHAT teams, but we had put that in place with our insurers in 2019, Bob Maurer spoke about it and thanked David Hudson from the Insurance company for his time in explaining the cover available to trained officers

We then had the proposition from Buckinghamshire regarding pollinator awareness within the professionals at Town Halls and Landscape institutions, this was passed but I have to say that Pam Hunter is and has already been involved in this sphere and she explained that it is difficult to actually get to speak to the correct people in such establishments but that the BBKA does work with other agencies who are trying to do the same.

As requested by Essex, it was agreed that the BBKA should apply to join Apimondia via CONBA.

It then remained for Margaret Murdin to present the new president with the Chain of Office, this was completed, and I humbly accepted the Chain.

The meeting could not close without thanking Margaret Murdin for the contributions she has made to the BBKA in her 8 years as Trustee, Vice Chair, Chair and President. Not even including her continuing contributions to the exam board throughout this time.

The ADM is a time for meeting beekeepers from across the country and catching up with friends you only meet occasionally, I do hope that everyone who attended had a good day and it was also good that we did in fact manage to end the meeting in daylight, as per the request of many delegates who had driven to the event.

Margaret Wilson

January 2020



**Friday 3, Saturday 4, Sunday 5 April 2020**

**Harper Adams University, Newport, Shropshire TF10 8NB**

## The Beekeeping Event of the Year!

- **20+ Lectures; 50+ Workshops & Seminars for all levels of beekeeping experience including BBKA Funded Research Session Friday**
- **Large Trade Show Saturday ♦ Not for Profit Exhibitors Friday and Saturday**
- **Excellent facilities; great value catering and accommodation available**

Click on the **BLUE** links below for more information

Download the [Full Programme](#) or [FAQS](#)

Read [How to Book](#) using the web-based system.

Further information available at: <https://www.bbka.org.uk/event/bbka-spring->



# Events for Your Calendar

<https://gwentbeekeepers.co.uk/calendar.php>

Events					Q
Date-Time ▲	Day	LOCATION	EVENT	DETAIL	
20-02-13 19:30	Thu 7:30 PM	Goytre Village Hall	Lecture "Turning Swarming to the Beekeepers Advantage"	Megan Seymour	
20-03-12 19:30	Thu 7:30 PM	Goytre Village Hall	Lecture "Wye Valley Meadery"	Wye Valley Meadery	
20-04-09 19:30	Thu 7:30 PM	Goytre Village Hall	Lecture "Hive Originals"	Claire Barker	
20-05-10 14:15	Sun 2:15 PM	TBC	Apiary		
20-06-14 14:15	Sun 2:15 PM	TBC	Apiary		
20-07-12 14:15	Sun 2:15 PM	TBC	Apiary		
20-08-09 14:15	Sun 2:15 PM	TBC	Apiary		
20-09-10 19:30	Thu 7:30 PM	Goytre Village Hall	Lecture "Metamorphosis"	Ivor Davies	
20-11-10 19:30	Tue 7:30 PM	Goytre Village Hall	Social Evening		
20-11-22 14:15	Sun 2:15 PM	Goytre Village Hall	Annual General Meeting - Lecture	TBA	



## Bees for development

### Sell your honey with us!

Known locally as *The Bee Shop*, we are Monmouthshire's favourite Beekeeping shop. We sell fondant and foundation, and are your local Thorne's stockist.

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](http://beesfordevelopment.org)

**Bees for Development**  
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