

# NEWSLETTER

---

Spring 2022



## Spring is here!

---

The days are getting longer, and the air is becoming warmer. Are your bees bringing in pollen yet? Checking the colours they're bringing in lets you know what forage is currently out there for them.

We now have the electrical certificate for the Study Centre and we're getting the final touches done to our Study Centre. The loft insulation has just been put in, we've laid more grasscrete in the car park and we've seeded more wildflower seeds! We can't wait to welcome you to have a look around our new facility.

There's a number of events happening this year, read on to find out more details.

We'd also like to extend a warm welcome to our new Membership Secretary, Deborah Clarke and to our new Secretary Lorraine Flower!

## Join Our Swarm Calls Group

---

We have a dedicated WhatsApp group where we will be posting any swarm calls to. If you are contacted by a member of the public about swarms, or you are a swarm collector, or you would like to receive a swarm already collected, then this group is for you.

Get the link and our other WhatsApp groups by logging in to our website and following the link to the WhatsApp group pages.



(Page 1 of 9)



Gwent Beekeepers CIO  
The Holden Apiary & Study Centre  
Llanfair Kilgeddin  
Abergavenny  
NP7 9DY

[Secretary@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:Secretary@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk)

[Membership@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:Membership@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk)

[Newsletter@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:Newsletter@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk)



## In this newsletter;

Introduction.....(Page 1)  
 Wanted: Treasurer.....(Page 2)  
 Season's To Do List.....(Page 2)  
 From the Chair.....(Page 3)  
 Beekeeping Taster Sessions.....(Page 4)  
 New Event Material.....(Page 6)  
 Dates for your Diary.....(Page 7)  
 Contact the Committee.....(Page 8)  
 Ask a Beekeeper.....(Page 9)  
 Adverts.....(Page 9)

## Follow us on Facebook;

Let's stay in touch more!

Lots of our members post very exciting news and interesting information to our facebook group. Search for "Gwent Beekeepers" on facebook and you'll see a link for our page and a link for our group.

## Wanted: Treasurer;

This vital voluntary post will allow Gwent Beekeepers CIO to keep track of all our essential incomings and outgoings. It also allows us to claim and manage our Gift Aid donations.

This post would suit someone with previous accountancy experience.

If you're interested, please email [newsletter@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk)



## This season's to do list;

### FEED YOUR BEES

It's still a little cold in places so if your beehives are a little light, be sure to give them a helping hand with some fondant.

### CHECK FOR POLLEN INTAKE

Pollen intake can mean your Queen is laying so be prepared for swarming! Get in touch if you need advice.

OPEN HIVES IN T-SHIRT WEATHER  
Depending on where you are, you may be able to start opening hives to check for queen cells, drones, disease and stores. General advice is to open your hives if the temperature is ideal for wearing only a t-shirt!



(Page 2 of 9)



Gwent Beekeepers CIO  
The Holden Apiary & Study Centre  
Llanfair Kilgeddin  
Abergavenny  
NP7 9DY

Secretary@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk  
Membership@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk  
Newsletter@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk



---

## From the Chair;

---

Welcome to our Spring 2022 Newsletter. It has been a hard two years for us all coping with the many challenges that COVID-19 has brought on us. Even though the Public Health restrictions have been lifted in Wales, I still ask that anyone with COVID symptoms or a positive test to please stay away from the Holden Apiary and Study Centre until you are feeling better and test negative.

Firstly I would like to say a big thank you to Deborah Clarke, our new Membership Secretary, who you have all been in contact with for your renewals, BDI and magazine subscription renewals. Deborah has working hard to get up to speed with the Membership role and get all of the 250+ membership renewals sorted before the deadline.

Lorraine Flower has also joined the Committee to take on the role of Secretary. We are now looking for someone who can help out on the Committee with the Treasurer's role. This would ideally be suited to someone who has experience of financial systems and Gift Aid. If you think you have the right experience and the time, please get in contact with us.

This month I was told that Nick Hunt has hung up his bee suit for the last time and is now helping to manage the great apiary in the sky. Nick has been a long standing and much respected member (Since before John Holden joined GBK!) of Gwent Beekeepers Association. Our thoughts and prayers are with Nick's family.

We would like to begin monthly Apiary meeting sessions at the Holden Apiary. While COVID restrictions allow, we are bringing back the 2nd Sunday of the Month 'Members Apiary Sessions' starting in May, and going through to September. Starting on Sunday 8th May, at 2.15pm the first session will be a 'meet and greet' at the Study Centre with plenty of tea/coffee and cake. This will give you the opportunity to see our new facility. We will also be setting up the microscope and having a demonstration of a Nosema analysis. If you'd like to bring a sample of about 30 bees from one of your hives, we can take you through the process of checking for Nosema in your colony. Directions to the Holden Apiary and Study Centre are on our website.

We will need a team of Apiary helpers, with hospitality skills and to coordinate the afternoon. If you would like to help for an hour (or longer) on the afternoon, then please email [contact@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:contact@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk).

**Dave Barrell**  
Trustee, Chair & Web admin GBKCIO



(Page 3 of 9)



Gwent Beekeepers CIO  
The Holden Apiary & Study Centre  
Llanfair Kilgeddin  
Abergavenny  
NP7 9DY

[Secretary@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:Secretary@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk)  
[Membership@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:Membership@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk)  
[Newsletter@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:Newsletter@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk)



---

## Beekeeping Taster Sessions;

---

Last year we ran 8 two-hour taster sessions for members of the public to come and experience beekeeping. We talked about honeybees, the important of pollinators and then we took them down to the apiary in beekeeping suits. Here they got to see inside a working hive and many even got to handle frames of bees.

These sessions were fully subscribed to and it was good to meet many of the people who attended the taster sessions later on in the New Beekeepers training course. For 2022, we are planning nine taster sessions split between Wednesdays and Saturdays.



**In order for us to run these sessions, we rely on members giving up their time to help us run these. Thank you to everyone who helped in 2021 - please let us know if you are able to help again this year. We'll be publishing on the website the dates and times for the Taster Sessions this year.**

---

## New Beekeeper Training;

---

In Spring 2021 we ran the New Beekeepers Training Course for 28 “NewBees”. These lectures were delivered over nine weeks via zoom and were followed up by weekly Apiary sessions on Tuesdays.

In June 2021 we tried something new and delivered intensive two day training courses over one weekend. Morning delivery with afternoon hands on practical work. Attendees were invited to join the beginners Tuesday evening apiary sessions. This format is used by several Associations but it is difficult to condense the BBKA eight-week training into two days. Trainees found the wealth of information overwhelming and it restricted the time that trainees had for background reading on the discussed areas.

It's a good introduction to Beekeeping, but not suitable for beginning beekeeping. In spite of our reservations, we had very good feedback on the course and its delivery, but we will be considering an alternative delivery this season.

The Spring 2022 “NewBees” training course is currently underway with 30 very keen trainees. We are offering dual access with face-to-face training at the Holden Study Centre or online via Zoom. This use of technology allows people who are isolating, work restricted, or unwell to still join us for the evening training. Attendance this year has been very good.



(Page 4 of 9)



Gwent Beekeepers CIO  
The Holden Apiary & Study Centre  
Llanfair Kilgeddin  
Abergavenny  
NP7 9DY

Secretary@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk  
Membership@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk  
Newsletter@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk



## New Beekeeper Training Continued;

Apiary sessions will begin on Tuesday evenings from 4pm until 7pm. We'll be able to facilitate some Basic Assessment study groups afterwards, 7pm to 8.30pm.

We would like to involve experienced beekeepers in the practical sessions and are calling for volunteers to work with a group of four who are looking after one colony through the season.

If you have overlooked ticking "Apiary or Mentor" box on your renewal form, please let Miriam know you would like to help by emailing [apiary@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:apiary@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk).

### Taster sessions;

Our Taster sessions will be 2-hour long sessions in the Summer.

Please email us to find out this year's and next year's dates - hurry, they fill up fast!



## GBKCIO Communications & Chat Groups;

You can sign up to our Chat Groups when you log in as a member on the Gwent Beekeepers CIO website. On the "Members Communications" you'll find a number of links you can use to join the different groups:

- GBK General Discussion
- GBK NewBees
- GBK Study Group
- GBK Swarms
- GBK Botany Microscopy
- GBK Asian Hornet Team



Please take a look and join the groups that interest you. If you have any problems, please let Dave Barrell know at [webadmin@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:webadmin@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk)



(Page 5 of 9)



Gwent Beekeepers CIO  
The Holden Apiary & Study Centre  
Llanfair Kilgeddin  
Abergavenny  
NP7 9DY

[Secretary@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:Secretary@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk)  
[Membership@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:Membership@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk)  
[Newsletter@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:Newsletter@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk)



## New Event Material;

The Event and Media Engagement team worked very hard last year to produce some new and up to date signage, labels, banners and a new Observation Frame. It even won us Second Place at the Usk Show for 2021!



Gwent Beekeepers CIO  
The Holden Apiary & Study Centre  
Llanfair Kilgeddin  
Abergavenny  
NP7 9DY

Secretary@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk  
Membership@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk  
Newsletter@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk



## Dates for your Diary;

### Wednesday 20th April @ 8pm | Online

Honeybees Fighting Back Against Varroa by Prof. Stephen Martin  
Register on [www.gwentbeekeepers.co.uk/calendar.php](http://www.gwentbeekeepers.co.uk/calendar.php)

### Thursday 21st April @ 7pm | Online

The Effects of Developmental Environment on Honey Bee Work Health and Behaviour by Alex Walton.  
Register on [www.gwentbeekeepers.co.uk/calendar.php](http://www.gwentbeekeepers.co.uk/calendar.php)

### Friday 20th May

World Bee Day

### Sunday 22nd May @ 2.15pm | The Holden Apiary & Study Centre

Our monthly Apiary Session meet-and-greet and Microscopy session.  
Bring a 30 bee sample to test for Nosema.

### 20th - 26th June

Pollinator Week

### 27th June - 3rd July

Solitary Bee Week

### Sunday 3rd July @ 10am - 4pm | Chippenham Fields

Monmouth Bee Festival 2022

### 5th - 11th September

Asian Hornet Awareness Week

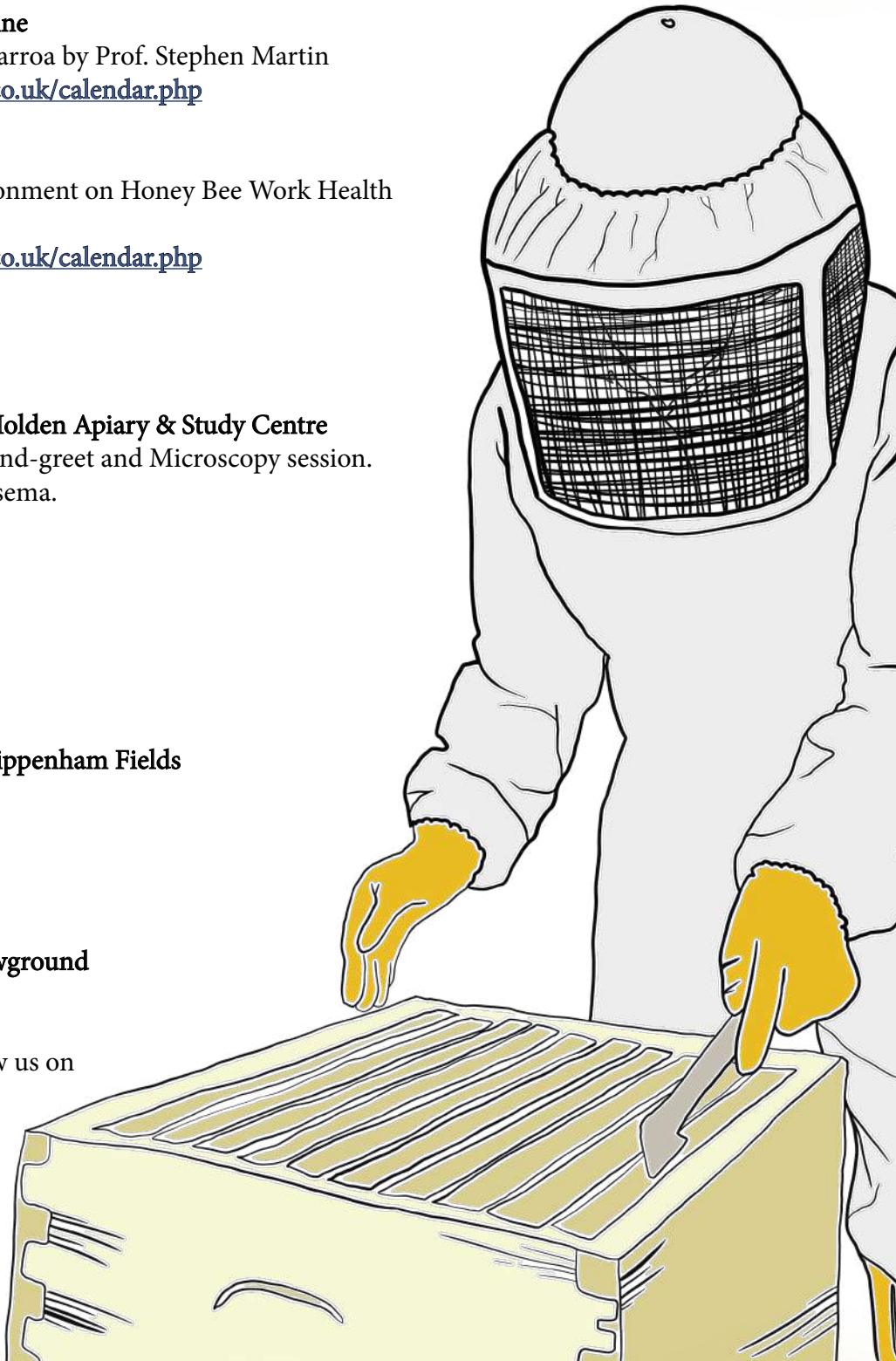
### Saturday 10th September | Usk Showground

Usk Show

To stay up to date with events, follow us on  
Facebook at [facebook.com/gbkcio](https://www.facebook.com/gbkcio)

To add your event, email us at  
[newsletter@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk)

(Page 7 of 9)



Gwent Beekeepers CIO  
The Holden Apiary & Study Centre  
Llanfair Kilgeddin  
Abergavenny  
NP7 9DY

Secretary@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk  
Membership@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk  
Newsletter@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk



## Thank you for being a part of Gwent Beekeepers CIO;

We've grown to nearly 250 members, covering all areas of Gwent. Thanks to your continual support, we're able to do so much for our honeybees and we're training and educating more and more people of all ages.

How can you contribute to GBK? We'd love to see your pictures, hear your beekeeping experiences or enjoy your tea-making skills at our next events. Please get in touch with us at [newsletter@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk). Thank you!

## Contact the Committee;



Chairman | **Dave Barrell**  
[Chair@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:Chair@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk)

Vice-Chairman | **Peter Maloney**  
[vicechair@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:vicechair@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk)

Treasurer | **Position Vacant**

Membership Secretary | **Deborah Clarke**  
[Membership@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:Membership@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk)

Secretary | **Lorraine Flower**  
[Secretary@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:Secretary@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk)

Apiary Manager | **Miriam Knight**  
[Apiary@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:Apiary@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk)

Events Officer | **Graham Evans**  
[grahamjevans@gmail.com](mailto:grahamjevans@gmail.com)

Beginners Administrator | **Eva Lindhe**  
[Beginners.admin@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:Beginners.admin@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk)

Website Administrator | **Dave Barrell**  
[Webadmin@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:Webadmin@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk)

Newsletter Officer | **Cyrene Dominguez**  
[Newsletter@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:Newsletter@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk)



(Page 8 of 9)



Gwent Beekeepers CIO  
The Holden Apiary & Study Centre  
Llanfair Kilgeddin  
Abergavenny  
NP7 9DY

[Secretary@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:Secretary@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk)

[Membership@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:Membership@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk)

[Newsletter@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:Newsletter@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk)





## Ask a beekeeper;



Do you have a question about beekeeping that you're too shy to ask us? Well now you can ask and your identity will be kept anonymous - hooray!

Send us your questions to [newsletter@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk) and we'll answer you honestly and to the best of our knowledge.

**Adopt a Hive**  
WITH GWENT BEEKEEPERS CIO

- HELP OUR HARD-WORKING BEES
- SUPPORT LOCAL BEEKEEPERS
- BECOME AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER
- GET A JAR OF LOCAL HONEY!

VISIT [WWW.GWENTBEEKEEPERS.CO.UK](http://WWW.GWENTBEEKEEPERS.CO.UK)



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.

### Bees for Development

1 Agincourt Street  
Monmouth  
NP25 3DZ

**01600 714848**    [www.beesfordevelopment.org](http://www.beesfordevelopment.org)

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



Gwent Beekeepers CIO  
The Holden Apiary & Study Centre  
Llanfair Kilgeddin  
Abergavenny  
NP7 9DY

[Secretary@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:Secretary@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk)

[Membership@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:Membership@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk)

[Newsletter@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:Newsletter@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk)