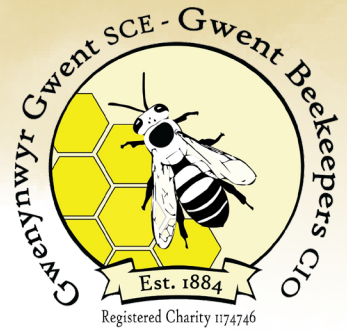


Newsletter

Summer 2022



Good to see you again;

Getting back into local events and meeting everyone face-to-face to talk about the magical journey of beekeeping has been great!

We never get tired of seeing children's faces light up when they see an observation hive for the first time, and they spot the queen. **Pics on page 4.**

Thank you to all of our voluntary Swarm Collectors

A very BIG thank you to all of our voluntary Swarm Collectors, from all of us at Gwent Beekeepers' CIO. There's been some really tricky callouts, and we've enjoyed seeing all your different collection pics. **Pics on page 5.**

Skep Beekeeping in the UK

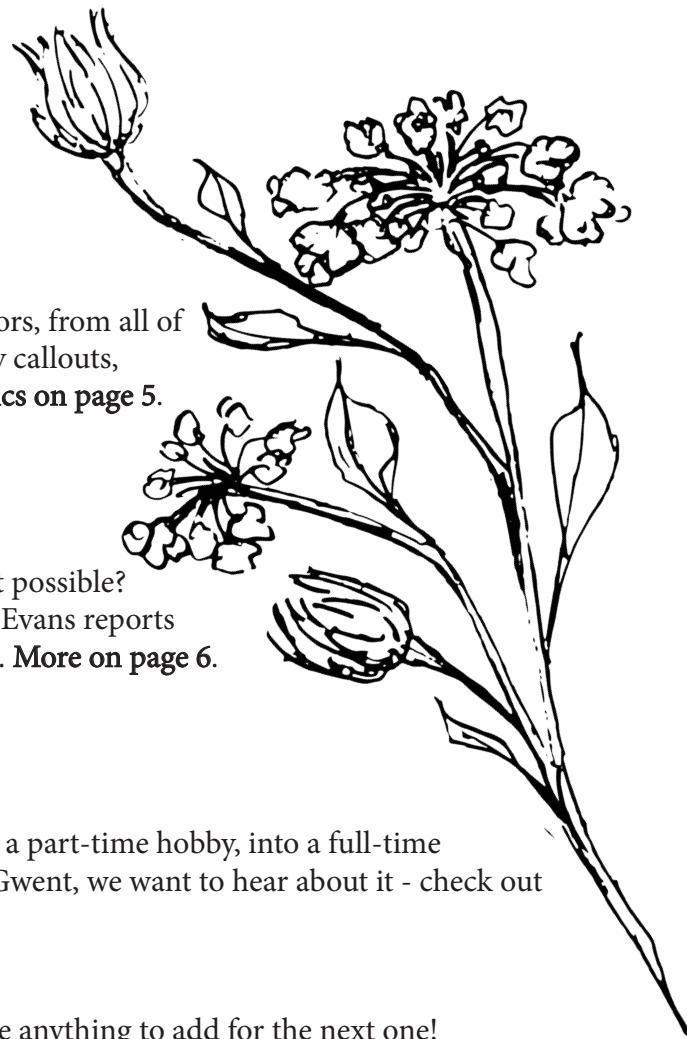
Skep beekeeping has always generated lively discussion - is it possible? How is it different to using a National or WBC? Alun Lloyd-Evans reports in with his experience, new to the world of Skep Beekeeping. **More on page 6.**

Celebrating local people making a living from local bees.

We love hearing about our members turning what started as a part-time hobby, into a full-time career selling bee-related goodies. If you have a business in Gwent, we want to hear about it - check out the link address to the form on the next page.

Hope you enjoy this newsletter, please contact me if you have anything to add for the next one!

Cyrene Dominguez
Your Newsletter Officer



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

Secretary@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk
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Calling all businesses;

If you're a member of Gwent Beekeepers' CIO and you have a business selling your bee-related wares, please visit the link below and fill out the form, and we'll include you in our Christmas Gifts Newsletter later this year!

bit.ly/3zWhUvT

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



This season's to do list;

Reduce hive entrances

Wasps and robbing colonies will soon be about, so pop a hive entrance reducer to help your bees defend a smaller space.

Re-use propolis!

Propolis - an annoying sticky substance, or an amazing natural substance that repairs holes and cracks on the outside of your hives? Stop water and draughts coming in the bee-tter way.

Give smaller colonies a helping hand

Now is the time to think about your smaller colonies - are they going to grow big enough in time before the Winter? Consider uniting them or feeding them to give them a boost.



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How Temperature Affects Honey;

Ever wondered the best temperature to use after harvesting your honey?

For **filtering**, the best temperature to use is between 35C and 38C, and the honey needs to be at this temperature for 3-4 days. However, if you're filtering Ling Heather honey, then it needs 49C instead.

Becareful going too high;

Becareful going too high in order to get quicker results, because going above 71C will **burn and spoil** your honey.

Though, if you want to **blend your honeys** together to get a unique mixture, then 49C is the best temperature to use to ensure all your different types of honey are runny enough to mix well.



Go too low, and you'll get crystallization;

Going below 14C will begin the **crystallization process**, and warming it back up to 32C for around 3 days will then produce **soft set honey**.

And if you're worried about fermentation, warming your honey up to 63C for 30 minutes will **destroy yeasts**.

Taken from Phil Khorassandjian's HACCP Plan for the Production of Honey at the Holden Apiary & Study Centre.



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Fantastic Events and People;



Left: Elisha and Andy at Usk Open Gardens. Pic by Dave.

Right: Learning how to spot a Queen Honeybee at Usk Open Gardens. Pic by Howard.



Big thank you to everyone who helped out at our events! Many hands make light work.

If you'd like to help out at our next events, please join our WhatsApp group "**GBK Show Volunteers**" - details on our website, or email newsletter@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk



Left: Dave proudly showing our new Observation Hive with our logo.

Right: Jess and Dave on the right side happily manning our stand. Pic by Howard.





This year's Swarms;

Swarms can settle in the unlikeliest of places, check out a few from this year.

Below, Left: Honeybees settling in old flower pots. Pic by Howard.



Right: Honeybees on the fence.
Pic by Howard.

Below: Honeybees out car shopping.
Pic by Andy G.

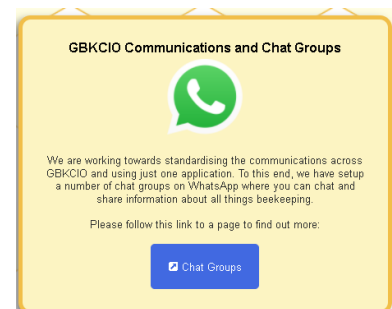


GBKCIO Communications & Chat Groups;

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, let Dave Barrell know at webadmin@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk





Skep Beekeeping in the UK, by Alun Lloyd-Evans;

We moved into our house around 18 years ago. It's a sixteenth century Welsh long house. The previous owner told us that there was some sort of bee hive in the boundary wall. We eventually found the bee bole and recently had it rebuilt and had it registered with the National Bee Bole Register (IBRA Number 1600).



Our friend and fellow druid Chris Park made us a couple of skeps.

The small skep started getting a bit of attention from a small swarm and I put some lemongrass oil on the larger skep and a few days later it was visited by (what we consider) to be a massive swarm.

The skep is currently full of brood and honeycomb!

For more information, find Alun on our Gwent Beekeepers CIO facebook group.



Top left: Rebuilding the old bee boles with Ken.

Top right: The finished product - complete with housed swarms.



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Dates for your Diary;

10th August | Autumn Management of Honey Bee Colonies | Online
August is a crucial time for beekeepers to support their colonies getting ready for winter. Winter is the season when more colonies succumb – to disease, starvation, queen failures or natural disaster – than any other time of the year. By Claire and Martin at the Cambridgeshire Beekeepers' Association.
Sign up here: bit.ly/3Jlj33b

8th September | From Hive to Jar | Holden Apiary & Study Centre @ 7.30pm
Our Apiary Manager, Miriam Knight will take you through an informational discussion of the process and legalities of harvesting, jarring and selling your honey. No booking necessary.

5th - 11th September
Asian Hornet Awareness Week

Saturday 10th September | Usk Showground
Usk Show - please get in touch if you're able to help our stand for a few hours.

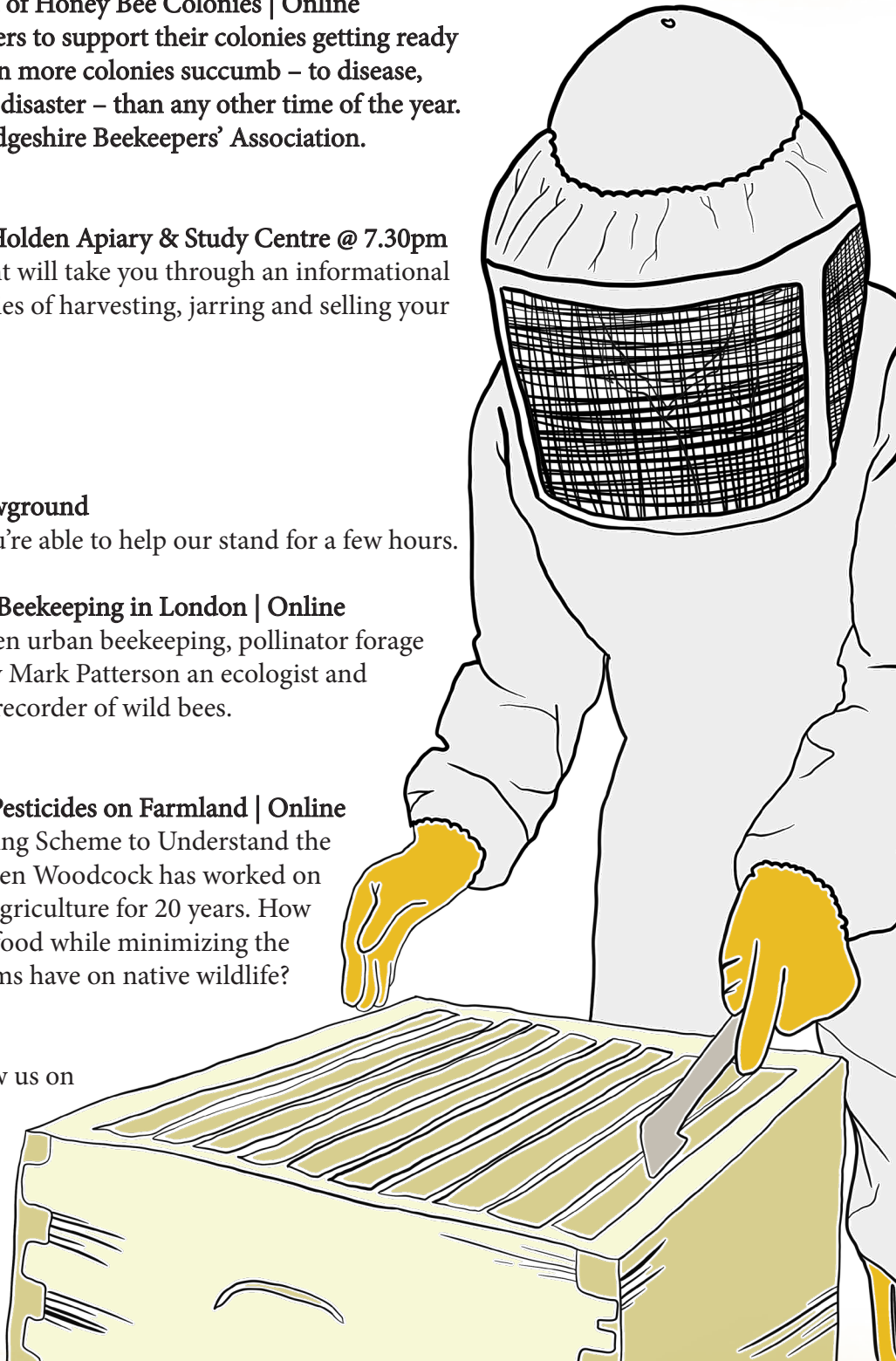
17th April 2023 | How Sustainable is Beekeeping in London | Online
Investigating the relationship between urban beekeeping, pollinator forage quality and wild bee populations; By Mark Patterson an ecologist and beekeeper in London and an active recorder of wild bees.
Sign up here: bit.ly/3SkF0Dl

18th May 2023 | Bees, Flowers and Pesticides on Farmland | Online
Using The National Honey Monitoring Scheme to Understand the Risks Posed to Bees in Farmlands, Ben Woodcock has worked on trying to get biodiversity back into agriculture for 20 years. How can we support farmers to produce food while minimizing the impacts that these production systems have on native wildlife?
Sign up here: bit.ly/3vyciVS

To stay up to date with events, follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/gbkcio

To add your event, email us at newsletter@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk

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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. Thank you!

Contact the Committee;



Chairman | **Dave Barrell**
Chair@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk

Vice-Chairman | **Peter Maloney**
vicechair@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk

Treasurer | **Position Vacant**

Membership Secretary | **Deborah Clarke**
Membership@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk

Secretary | **Lorraine Flower**
Secretary@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk

Apiary Manager | **Miriam Knight**
Apiary@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk

Events Officer | **Graham Evans**
grahamjevans@gmail.com

Beginners Administrator | **Eva Lindhe**
Beginners.admin@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk

Website Administrator | **Dave Barrell**
Webadmin@gwentbeekeepers.co.uk

Newsletter Officer | **Cyrene Dominguez**
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 and we'll answer you honestly and to the best of our knowledge.

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

VISIT 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

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

