

# BRIDGEND & DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Charity Registration Number 1159663



**BRIDGEND**  
**BEEKEEPERS**  
GWENYNWYR PEN-Y-BONT



## ANNUAL REPORT 2017

### TRUSTEES:

Clive Farrant - Chairman  
Shirley Myall - Secretary  
Graham Tierney - Treasurer  
Ellen Davies - Spray Liaison Officer  
Huw Evans  
John Gilbert  
Greg Nuttgens - Education Officer  
Michael Pett - Shop Manager  
Paul Whatley - Social Media Manager



## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Because of the many changes that took place in the previous year and the change of Trustees in several of the key roles of the Association, last year must be considered a time of consolidation for Bridgend & District Beekeepers. The process of moving from an Association that was an unregistered charity to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation has involved considerable efforts by many people behind the scenes and went on well into last year. I trust that the continuing changes have not affected the most important people in the Association - you, our Members.

In particular, I would like to thank Shirley who has worked tirelessly as our Association Secretary, she continues to inform Members of important issues and events and to guide her fellow Trustees through the working year with great skill and sensitivity. Our financial position continues to improve and the new systems that Graham has set up allows us to allocate funds for different aspect of our work safe in the knowledge that the Association funds can withstand to costs. The Association Shop through Mike's efforts continues to be an asset envied by many other associations and beekeepers. We consider it to be one of our unique selling points, as only those who join our Association can benefit from its array of low cost supplies. The bonus is that shop is local to us all, you just have to do is give Mike a ring to arrange a collection time and the job is done!! Finally, I would like to thank the other Trustees who have as usual, worked tirelessly in our training programmes, communicating and linking with Members, activities and events.

You may recall from last year's Annual General Meeting that the Trustees want to make the Association as democratic as possible. As a starting

point, we published a list of potential projects that we thought might interest you and we asked for your views as to whether they were your priorities or if you had other ideas so that we could agree a list of future projects and decide in what order you would like them progressed. Well, we have been able to progress several of the high priority items you identified and we also completed the replacement of some of our failing equipment.

We consider the most important achievement of last year, and a major priority identified on the list, was the signing of a license for the Training Apiary site at Bryngarw Country Park. Many of you will be aware that we occupied the area without any formal agreement and this has held us back from making any substantive improvements to the site. With the control of the Park now with the AWEN Trust we have been able to develop an excellent working relationship with their management team and sign a five-year running license that effectively allows us a permanent presence in the Park. We can now start to achieve some of the improvements at the site that were identified by you as a priority.



Other projects such as "Places to Bee" where we worked with Natural Resources Wales to identify apiary sites on land they control

for our Members had a less productive outcome. Whilst it was listed as the number one priority in the returned responses, there was insufficient interest registered by Members to allow us to progress this opportunity. The third most requested project was for us to link more with other local Beekeeping Associations to share speakers. This has worked very well and is something we will continue from this point on.

Because of our limited time and resources, we will work through the list of priorities you set us as quickly as we can. However, if you have any further suggestions that you would like added to the list please contact one of the Trustee and discuss it with them. We can't make improvements if we don't know what you want!!

Many Thanks

Clive Farrant  
Chairman

## THE ASSOCIATION'S EDUCATION PROGRAMME

One of the most important objectives of the Association is to encourage, improve and advance beekeeping in Bridgend and surrounding areas and to assist in achieving this objective an annual Beginners Course is organised.

For those who started the Beginners Course in January 2016, their course continued with sessions in the Association's Training Apiary from April to July 2016. As in previous years, the numbers of those attending the sessions in the Apiary was lower than those who attended the theory course.

We also offered an Open Apiary Session on a fortnightly basis for all members of the Association to come to share problems and experience. The numbers attending these sessions was variable but an interesting opportunity to generally improve beekeeping skills was welcomed by those attending.



The 2017 Beginners Course started at the beginning of February with lower numbers than in previous years, with only 19 registering. However, the small number has made for a more informal feel to the sessions and will make practical sessions easier to manage!!

## THE ASSOCIATION TRAINING APIARY

The apiary itself is operating satisfactorily with a small group of members maintaining the container and the hives. The container has been moved to a new position and an additional container is to be purchased, which will ease pressure on the space within the container.

All eight colonies in the apiary survived the winter, which is a better record than many members experienced this winter. The nucleus of bees purchased from Ricky Wilson has done well.

We are delighted to receive the donation of the Flow Hive and have also purchased an Abelo polystyrene hive to the apiary and both of these will undoubtedly generate interest. During the



next year we will consider introducing other types of hives and we will work with members to see what they would like to see at the apiary.

## WINTER TALKS PROGRAMME

During the year the Association has arranged a programme of talks for its members and the following topics have been covered; we are very grateful to all our speakers who include: Professor Robert Pickard talking about the history of beekeeping around the world; Stuart Roweth talking about the Bee Gym; Derek Mitchel talking about hive insulation and Robert Jones talking about the native bees. In April 2016 the Association ran a Nosema Workshop, where members were able to test their bees using microscopes to determine whether Nosema was present.

We have been somewhat unfortunate this year with two other speakers who had to cancel at short notice because of illness, however, we have rearranged these talks for the Winter 2017!!

If members have any suggestions for talks or speakers they would like included in future please let either one of the tutors or the Secretary know.



## SWARMS REGISTER

Members of the public reporting a bee swarm can contact the Association in several ways, such as making direct contact by using the Association's website to gain contact details with the two members who operate the Swarms Register system or by contacting Secretary or Chairman. However, a large number of calls come via local Councils' call centres.

Many of the calls received concern bumblebees or wasps and it proves very helpful if the caller can send a photograph of the offending insect for identification.



Other calls are about bees (bumblebees or honeybees) already established in a building. Callers are encouraged to leave nests in situ and many agree to do so, but where this is not possible they are asked to contact reputable pest control companies to arrange removal or destruction.

During the year nearly 200 calls were received with approximately 20 of these being genuine swarms. Details of swarms were then circulated to the 27 members registered for swarm collection and the first to respond was given the full information.

This is an important way in which the Association supports the local non-beekeeping community.

## ASSOCIATION SHOP

Members of Bridgend & District Beekeeping Association are indebted to Mike Pett who not only manages the Association shop but also does all the ordering, stock control and stores the sales items in his personal garage!!! The shop is available only to members of the Association and is operated on a not-for-profit basis, the benefits of bulk purchasing and discounts being of enormous benefit to our members - Mike always aims to get the best price!



## MEMBERSHIP

The Association is very grateful to Graham Tierney who has taken over the role of Membership Secretary alongside his role as Treasurer.

At 19 March 2017 there were a total of 112 paid up members, this compares with 120 registered with WBKA in 2016.

The breakdown of membership into categories is:

Individuals 64;  
Families 23;  
Juniors 1;  
Supporters 2;  
Corporate Members 2;  
Schools 1;  
New Members 3;  
Beginners 16.

35 members from last year have not renewed of which 5 were Beginners last year.

9% of members paid their membership in 2016;  
60% paid in January 2017;  
22 paid in February 2017;  
9% paid in March 2017.

The majority of renewals 70% were via Paypal or Bank Transfer, however, 34 (30%) of members paid by cash or cheque.

61% of members insured up to 3 hives;  
13% insured up to 5 hives;  
11% insured up to 10 hives;  
7% insured up to 15 hives;  
4% insured up to 20 hives;  
3% insured up to 25 hives;  
1% insured up to 30 hives.

