

# BRIDGEND & DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Charity Registration Number 1159663



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



## ANNUAL REPORT 2019

### TRUSTEES:

Clive Farrant - Chairman  
Shirley Myall - Secretary  
Graham Tierney - Treasurer  
Ellen Davies - Spray Liaison Officer (to February 2019)  
Huw Evans  
John Gilbert  
Greg Nuttgens - Education Officer  
Paul Whatley - Social Media Manager

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Another year passes and again I am pleased to confirm that you have an Association that is financially stable and we have a permanent site from which to conduct our excellent training programme for beginners and where we are able house our shop.

### The Shop and Bryngarw Improvements

The shop is now operating effectively and offering an array of low-cost beekeeping supplies. The big bonus is that it is local to us all. The pre-payment system we have devised (via the Website) is necessary because it would be unwise to keep money in the container at Bryngarw. We hope that the Sunday morning collections are acceptable to those who use the shop. We would like to develop the Sunday morning collection times into informal meeting times so that Members can “chew the fat” on beekeeping matters, the weather or any other subject (as long as it’s not BREXIT!!!!!!).

To improve the facilities further at Bryngarw we have been in discussion with the AWEN Trust regarding improvements they intend to carry out near our apiary and after several meetings we have negotiated an improved access to our apiary entrance. There will be a cost for materials and nominal labour charges, but we have agreed a price for the work with them and identified a sum of money from existing reserves to cover the improvements. The work will be carried out by Bleaf and we hope it will meet with your approval. The timing of the access improvement will be reliant on AWEN, as it will form part of their more substantial composting project.

We have also been discussing with the AWEN trust a major bee related joint project at Bryngarw. At present the project is at conception stage and still subject to funding approval but if it goes ahead it will significantly raise the profile of Beekeeping and our Association within the area. I will keep

you informed about progress on this matter through the coming months.

### Trustees

The Board of Trustees has seen some changes in the last year. Unfortunately, Ellen Davies has decided to resign as a trustee which is a real loss for the Association. Ellen has been a stalwart of the Board for many years and her valuable input will be sadly missed. On the positive side, we have been able to second two new Trustees who are already contributing to our meetings. I hope you will be able to endorse Chrissie Langmaid and Richard Pett as Trustees at the Annual General Meeting.

As Trustees we were also conscious that we had no one to represent the younger generation of beekeepers within our ranks. We have therefore asked Daffyd Pett to attend our Trustees Meetings so that he can offer a youthful perspective to our deliberations. Daffyd as many of you will know has beekeeping knowledge and experience well beyond his age and we hope you will endorse him as our first Youth Ambassador to the Board.

Finally, I would like to thank all Members and Trustees for their support during the last year and hope that you all have a successful season.

Happy Bee Keeping

**CLIVE FARRANT**

**CHAIRMAN**



## THE ASSOCIATION'S EDUCATION PROGRAMME

During the autumn of and winter, a varied programme of talks and events was on offer to members, and these were generally well attended.

A new format for the Beginners Course was trialed in 2018. Instead of having the theory classes in January and February, followed by Apiary sessions in April and May, the two were combined, so that, commencing at the beginning of April, the weekly sessions consisted of an hour of theory (using the classroom at Bryngarw), followed by an hour of practical beekeeping at the apiary. It was felt that theory would be absorbed more readily if followed up immediately by practical application. I believe this has been an effective method of teaching.

Sticking to time with both the practical and theory parts of the course was a problem, so that most sessions overran considerably, with members having to leave before the end of the session to get their lunch! We need to be stricter about this in future.

Education Room, at no cost to the Association. Thanks are also due to the Tutors who delivered the course: Huw Evans, Glyn Canter, Graham Tierney and Ellen Davies.

If you have experience of teaching or delivering training, and would like to help with the course, please contact me. Even if your experience of beekeeping is limited, your input would be gratefully received, as would any suggestions for the monthly talks for the forthcoming year.

**GREG NUTTGENS**

**EDUCATION OFFICER**



## THE ASSOCIATION'S TRAINING APIARY

Following the end of the Beginner's course in mid May, 'open' apiary sessions continued through the summer when all members are invited to meet on a Sunday morning, it is disappointing that only small numbers attended.

The apiary hives produced a good crop of honey, mainly from Himalayan Balsam. Over 300 lbs of honey were eventually taken off.

The 'Flow' super produced a little more honey than last year, but was abandoned and sold in the autumn.

At the peak in mid summer, there were 7 active hives, and these were taken into the winter. A full super of honey was left on each hive, and these were 'nadired' (placed under



The course started with 21 members, but numbers did drop off towards the end of the course, with some course members clearly deciding that beekeeping was not for them. This structure for the Beginner's course will be repeated this year (2019), with some minor changes. The course for 2019 is fully booked, with 20 participants, including several 'family' applications.

Thanks are due to Dan and the staff at Bryngarw for their help in the use of the

the winter. A full super of honey was left on each hive, and these were 'nadired' (placed under the brood box) for the winter.

Two of the hives ended the winter as drone layers - one with a failed queen and one with laying workers. These will be culled so that we are now down to 5 hives. This is adequate for teaching purposes, but will produce less honey than previously.

Apiguard was applied in September, and Oxalic acid by trickling in January. Oxalic acid vapourisation was demonstrated on one hive. In May a new larger container was installed, which will act as a store for the Association shop, as well as for general Apiary equipment.

A new Observation hive, the 'ICB' hive, has been purchased. This can be left in situ in the Apiary, and can be taken to events as needed.

Several Association trustees and members have been involved in the maintenance of the Apiary and equipment. We need to involve more members in this., so if you can spare any time to help with management or general maintenance, please let one of the trustees know.

**GREG NUTTGENS**

## **SWARMS REGISTER**

Each year the Association offers a free swarm collection service to the general public and also gives advice to people who are finding that bees are a nuisance but they are not sure of the type of bee they have.

During the year in excess of 320 calls or emails from the public were dealt with resulting in members collecting swarms from 15% of the calls.

However, 70% of callers were given advice about bumble bees and 15% were given advice on wasps.

**HUW EVANS**

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Our Facebook page currently has 90 members with a good level of interest with regular applications to join. Key objectives of the Association are to involve the community and

engage with a younger audience to promote awareness and interest in beekeeping.

Social media in conjunction with our website are important tools in achieving these objectives both of which are successfully raising our profile and encouraging beginners to join.

Our star young member Dafydd Pett regularly contributes and as most members are aware is also producing his own YouTube videos on Bee Farming.

I suggest we circulate a message to members encouraging greater use of our website - the "Amazon" link and to raise awareness of our Facebook page

**PAUL WHATLEY**

## **MEMBERSHIP**

At the end of March 2019, we had a total of 95 paid up members, this compares with 109 registered with WBKA in 2018.

The total number of Colonies insured at March was 693 and was 640 in 2018

The breakdown of membership into categories is:-

<b>MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
INDIVIDUAL	38	60	64
FAMILIES	23	21	23
JUNIOR	0	0	1
SUPPORTER	1	2	2
CORPORATE	1	2	2
SCHOOL	1	1	1
NEW MEMBERS	11	2	3
BEGINNERS	20	21	16

At 31 March 2019 58 members from last year had not renewed of which 19 were Beginners.

Total Membership in 2018 was 121 and is currently (at 1 May 2019) 105 for 2019.

**GRAHAM TIERNEY**