

# BRIDGEND AND DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

England & Wales · Charity number 1159663

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2014-12-17

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** 41 Heol Y Ffynnon  
Efail Isaf  
Pontypridd  
Mid Glamorgan  
CF38 1AU

**Phone** 01656648472

**Email** [enquiries@bridgendbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@bridgendbeekeepers.co.uk)

**Website** [www.bridgendbeekeepers.co.uk](http://www.bridgendbeekeepers.co.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** THE ENCOURAGEMENT, IMPROVEMENT AND PROMOTION OF BEEKEEPING IN BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH AND SURROUNDING AREA.

**Activities:** Bridgend & District Beekeepers Association encourages, improves and advances beekeeping in Bridgend and the surrounding areas for the benefit of all. The Association provides both theory and practical courses and a programme of talks on beekeeping and associated topics for beginners and more experienced members. Those who do not keep bees but are interested in the topic are also welcome.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Animals, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- Bridgend
- Neath Port Talbot
- Rhondda Cynon Taff
- Vale Of Glamorgan

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£11,182	£7,658	-	-
2024-03-31	£15,187	£13,450	-	-
2023-03-31	£9,019	£11,894	-	-
2022-03-31	£9,014	£9,346	-	-
2021-03-31	£28,772	£17,049	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>Gregg Nuttgens</b>	Chair	2023-10-02
Ceri John		2021-08-19
DAFYDD THOMAS PETT		2021-03-23
Graham Roderick Tierney		2016-05-09
HUW EVANS		2016-05-09
Janette Ann Davies		2024-07-01
Jonathan Griffiths		2022-07-04
Julia Martin		2023-09-04
Martin Bullock		2025-07-14

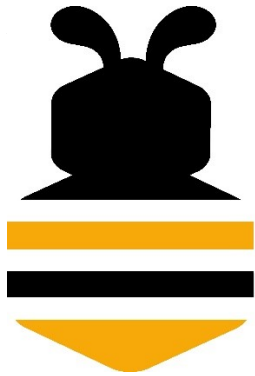
**BRIDGEND AND DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION**

England & Wales - Charity number 1159663

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# Accounts

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

# Bridgend And District Beekeepers Annual Report 2025

Charity No 1159663

## **Trustees**

**Greg Nuttgens – Chairman**

**Ceri John - Secretary**

**Graham Tierney - Treasurer Membership Secretary**

**Dafydd Pett – Website/social media Manager**

**Jonathan Griffiths – Education Trustee**

**Martin Bullock – Asian Hornet Coordinator**

**Huw Evans - Trustee**

**Julia Martin – Trustee**

**Janette Davies - Trustee**

## **B&DBKA Chairman's report, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025**

During the year, the Committee welcomed two new Trustees, Jan Davies and Martin Bullock. Martin has taken on the role of Asian (or Yellow-legged) Hornet Coordinator for the Association. Fortunately, there were no records of the Hornet in Wales, but we remain vigilant.

The 2024 Beginners' Course was fully subscribed, though as usual the numbers attending declined during the course.

During the year I stood down as organiser for the Beginners' Course, and Jonathan Griffiths has now taken on the role of Education and Training Officer, organising both the Beginners' Course, open Apiary sessions and monthly meetings.

The 2025 Beginners' Course was fully subscribed.

The Association has reviewed and upgraded policy documents as required by the Charity Commission. An updated Risk assessment for working with learners in the Apiary has been produced and approved

The Association continues to provide training for Beginners, and ongoing support for all members, by means of our annual beginner's course, Apiary meetings, evening meetings and visits. This year we had another visit to the National Botanic Gardens of Wales, to look at the research they are carrying out on bee forage, and a visit to Coed Hills Community Garden to look at the hives managed by Eifion Owen. Our annual Honey Show was well attended, and in October we had a practical session demonstrating honey extraction. Members also set up a stall and display for National Bee Day, in Bryngarw Country Park.

As a result of the decision taken last year not to invite visiting speakers to our meetings, monthly meetings became opportunities for members to discuss a wide range of beekeeping topics. We would be grateful for any offers from members for talks or apiary visits.

Chris Jones, our Apiary Manager and Trustee, has resigned as of June 2025. Over the past few years, Chris has done a huge amount of work in improving and upgrading our apiary in Bryngarw Country Park, and he will be greatly missed.

**Greg Nuttgens Chairman June 2025**

**Bridgend and District Beekeepers Association**  
Registered Charity 1159663

**Accounts for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 prepared using the Receipts and Payments method.**

**Bank Accounts**

Cash on 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2025	- Current Account	345.85
	Deposit Account	13,879.02
	PayPal	0.00
	WIX	<u>0.00</u>

£14,224.87

Cash at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	- Current Account	417.37
	Deposit Account	10,283.75
	PayPal	<u>0.00</u>

£10,701.12

Surplus for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 £  
3,523.75

The financial situation in previous years was: -

Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 a surplus of £1,463.25

Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 a deficit of £2,152.25

Income was from membership fees, shop sales and the sale of Honey from the Apiary. There were no charitable donations in the year.

Following a stock check in January the value of Stock for sale and Apiary equipment in the container at Bryngarw, and at the Garage in Porthcawl on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 was:

Stock for Sale	
£10,100.00	
Apiary & Equipment for rent	£
<u>4,911.00</u>	

Total £15,011.00

A small quantity of equipment is in the garage we rent in Porthcawl

The stock value is within the value declared to our insurers.

The total value of Stock (£15,011) and cash (£14,224.87) on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 was £29,255.87

The accounts have been audited; a copy of the Auditors report is attached.

**Graham Tierney - Treasurer**

**BRIDGEND BEE KEEPERS**

**EXAMINATION OF ACCOUNTS 1<sup>st</sup> APRIL 2024 - 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025**

On examination of the association's accounts (01.04.24 – 31.03.25), these were found to have been meticulously kept, following standard accounting procedures. The association uses bank current & deposit accounts with money transfers made by cheque, Paypal and BACS, where all transactions had been accurately recorded and monitored.

There are no risk areas to be noted.



Helen Embling ACIB  
Ty Coch  
The Court  
Coychurch  
Bridgend  
CF35 5EH

29<sup>th</sup> April 2025

**Graham Tierney – Hon Treasurer**

## **Bridgend and District Beekeepers Association**

### **Membership report for 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 - 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025**

Membership fees were adjusted from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 in line with the WBKA Capitation and BDI insurance premiums.

On 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025, we had a total of 108 paid up members, an increase of 5 from the number registered with WBKA in 2024. The comparison with previous years is as follows: -

2017 - 112	2019 - 95	2021 - 110	2023 - 103
2018 - 109	2020 - 108	2022 - 105	2024 - 103
2025 - 108			

In addition, there were 21 Partner Members, one more than 2024. This is the second year we have had named Partner Members following the changes to the WBKA insurance rules in 2023

The total membership for previous years was: -

2018 - 125	2019 - 119	2020 - 116	2021 - 123	2022 - 114	2023 - 119
2024 - 112					

Approximately 76% of the membership are individuals, 19% Families the remainder are Schools, Corporate and Members with no bees.

The total number of Colonies insured in 2024 was 694 which is an 8% decrease on 2023: -

2018 - 640	2019 - 693	2020 - 660	2021 - 651	2022 - 649	2023 - 753
2024 - 694					

The average number of colonies insured per year is 677

There were 38 members from 2024 that had not renewed their membership (33 in 2023) This includes 10 of the 21 Beginners on the course in 2024.

**Graham Tierney - Membership Secretary**

**AGM Report 2025**  
**Website & Social Media**

## **Website**

This past year has been another period of strong growth and development for the Bridgend Beekeepers Association's online presence. We have seen continued increases in website traffic, demonstrating sustained public interest in both beekeeping and the work we do. Much of this growth remains organic, which highlights the strength of our search engine optimisation efforts and the value of the content we offer.

In 2025, we focused on refining the user experience for both members and the public. Notably we added a "New to Beekeeping?" section tailored specifically for beginners, providing essential guidance and resources in a clear, accessible format.

Security and transparency remain top priorities. We've improved backend functionality to ensure our members-only sections remain safe and user-friendly, particularly in areas like the members shop and document archive. Feedback on these changes has been overwhelmingly positive.

The Asian Hornet awareness page has continued to be a vital resource. With increasing public attention on this issue, we have updated the section with clearer guidance and reporting procedures, which have helped improve public responsiveness and engagement.

## **Social Media**

Our social media platforms have grown both in reach and impact this year. We now have over 428 followers on our public Facebook page and 67 members in our private members-only Facebook group. These channels continue to serve as lively hubs for discussion, advice sharing, and community support.

Throughout the year, we've diversified our content to include regular video updates from local apiaries, seasonal beekeeping reminders, and spotlight features on our members and their hives. Our posts on pollinator-friendly gardening and local biodiversity have been particularly well received, helping us reach a wider, environmentally conscious audience.

## **Conclusion**

In 2025, our digital platforms have continued to play a central role in fulfilling the mission of Bridgend and District Beekeepers Association. They have enabled us to inform, educate, and connect — not only with our members but

with the broader community. As interest in sustainability and biodiversity grows, we are proud to be seen as a trusted, local source of information and inspiration. We are excited to build on this momentum in the year ahead.

**Dafydd Pett – Website & Social Media Manager**

### **Education Trustee AGM Report 2025**

Since the end of last year, we've made our monthly meetings more of a social and 'in house' nature giving our members the opportunity to meet up and discuss practical aspects of beekeeping. We've also now invited Members to put forward proposals for a discussion or presentation. Meetings so far have included the threat and management of The Yellow Legged Hornet, including from one of our members who has recently moved from France, wax recovery and swarm collection methods. These meetings have been well attended and have produced positive feedback. We hope to continue with this format with hopefully a diverse range of topics and encourage members to come forward with any suggestions.

**Jonathan Griffiths - Education Trustee**

### **Yellow Legged Asian Hornet Coordinator's Report**

Due to the increasing threat from the Asian Hornet the National Bee Unit requested every association to appoint a Coordinator to liaise with their association's members, the Bee Unit and members of the public.

I was asked if I would be interested (probably due to my many Facebook posts on the subject!) and now been in the role for nearly a year now.

Luckily there has not been much to report!

I have attended several online meetings with members of other Welsh associations, the WBKA and various representatives of relevant organisations.

The decision was made quite early on to use the name *Yellow Legged Asian Hornet* so that one of the identifiers became part of the name.

So far, we have been very lucky in Wales as most of the sightings have been in Southeast England. But to ensure we are prepared if it ever does come here, it was suggested we ask people to monitor where they can, to make sure we see it if it does.

I now have over 20 members taking part (more would be most welcome!) so hopefully we will be on top of the situation if it ever does occur.

I have also taken opportunities to talk to various non-beekeepers and hand out and display information leaflets on various notice boards around the area.

As I said, luckily there has been no visitors but I feel we are in quite a strong position to react if they ever do.

**Martin Bullock - Yellow Legged Asian Hornet Coordinator**

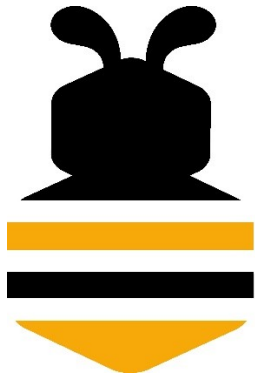
**BRIDGEND AND DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION**

England & Wales - Charity number 1159663

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# Accounts

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

# **Annual Report**

# **2024**

## **Trustees**

**Greg Nuttgens - Chairman/education**

**Ceri John - Secretary**

**Graham Tierney - Treasurer Membership Secretary**

**Chris Jones - Apiary Manager**

**Huw Evans - Association Shop Manager**

**Dafydd Pett - Website/social media Manager**

**Jonathan Griffiths - Trustee**

**Julia Martin - Trustee**

## **Chairman's report, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024**

The Committee welcomed a new Trustee, Julia Martin

With the retirement of John Gilbert as Chairman, I was appointed as the new Chairman, other Trustee posts remaining the same. Many thanks to John for his dedication to the Association over a number of years.

The Association has reviewed and upgraded policy documents as required by the Charity Commission, detailing how we deal with complaints, and procedures for working with vulnerable adults and children.

The Association continues to provide training for Beginners, and ongoing support for all members, by means of our annual beginner's course, Apiary meetings, evening meetings and visits. This year we had a visit to the National Botanic Gardens of Wales, to look at the research they are carrying out on bee forage, and well-known beekeeper Pam Hunter gave a talk on bee Viruses. Our annual Honey Show was well attended, and there were a number of social evenings at Coytrahen Community Hall. There was also a talk on Anaphylaxis, given by an advanced nurse practitioner in emergency care.

Attendance at evening talks given by visiting speakers continues to decline, partly as a result of the fact that WBKA and other organisations are increasingly using Webinars, often presented by prominent beekeepers and scientists, to inform members of the latest developments in beekeeping.

It has therefore been decided to discontinue, for the time being, the use of visiting speakers, who often have to travel considerable distances, at a considerable cost to the Association, only to meet with a handful of members.

Future evening sessions will be organised 'in house' with talks and presentations by Association members, and visits to members apiaries will also be arranged. We would be grateful for any offers from members for talks or apiary visits.

*Greg Nuttgens June 2024*

## **Bridgend and District Beekeepers Association** **Membership report for 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 - 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024**

Membership fees increased from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 due to the increases in WBKA Capitation and BDI insurance premiums.

On 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, we had a total of 103 paid up members, the same number registered with WBKA in 2023. The comparison with previous years is as follows: -

2017 - 112	2019 - 95	2021 - 110	2023 - 103
2018 - 109	2020 - 108	2022 - 105	2024 - 103

In addition, there were 20 Partner Members. This is the first year we have had named Partner Members following the changes to the WBKA insurance rules.

If the pattern follows previous years, the total membership for 2024/2025 should be between 117 and 120. The total membership numbers for previous years were: -

2018 - 125	2019 - 119	2020 - 116	2021 - 123	2022 - 114
2023 - 119				

Approximately 58% of the membership are individuals, 36% Families the remainder are Schools, Corporate and Members with no bees.

The total number of Colonies insured on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 was 753 which is a 15% increase on the average for the previous 5 years: -

2018 - 640	2019 - 693	2020 - 660	2021 - 651	2022 - 649
2023 - 753				

On 31<sup>st</sup> March, there were 33 members from 2023 that had not renewed their membership (44 in 2023)  
8 of the 20 Beginners on the course in 2023 have not renewed their membership.

*Graham Tierney - Membership Secretary*

## **Bridgend and District Beekeepers Association**

Registered Charity 1159663

**Accounts for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 prepared using the Receipts and Payments method.**

### **Bank Accounts**

Cash at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	- Current Account	417.37
	Deposit Account	10,283.75
	PayPal	<u>0.00</u>
10,701.12		

Cash at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023	- Current Account	274.92
	Deposit Account	8,962.95
	PayPal	<u>0.00</u>
<u>9,237.87</u>		

Surplus for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024

£1,463.25

The deficit for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 was £2,152

Income was from membership fees, shop sales and the sale of Honey from the Apiary there were no charitable donations in the year.

A stock check was not carried out in January, however the estimated value of stock based on the value on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 plus stock purchased between April `23 and March `24 is as follows: -

“Shop” & Apiary stock at March 31<sup>st</sup> 2023

£ 7,452.00

Stock purchased in the year

9,182.21

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Total

£16,634.21

Income from “Shop” sales

8,919.46

Estimated Stock Value on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

**£ 7,714.75**

The stock value is within the value declared to our insurers

The total value of Stock (£7,714.75) and cash (£10,701.12) at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 was £18,415.87, the value in 2023 was £21,039.04 a reduction of

£2,613.17

The accounts have been audited; a copy of the Auditors report is attached.

*Graham Tierney - Hon Treasurer*

**BRIDGEND BEE KEEPERS**

**EXAMINATION OF ACCOUNTS 1<sup>st</sup> APRIL 2023 - 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024**

On examination of the association's accounts (01.04.23 – 31.03.24), these were found to have been meticulously kept, following standard accounting procedures. The association uses bank current & deposit accounts with money transfers made by cheque, Paypal and BACS, where all transactions had been accurately recorded and monitored.

There are no risk areas to be noted.



Helen Embling ACIB  
Ty Coch  
The Court  
Coychurch  
Bridgend  
CF35 5EH

2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024

## **Education Officer's report, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024**

### **Beginner's course 2023**

This year, the beginner's course reverted to its original format, with theory sessions held at Coytrahen Community Hall on Thursday evenings, followed by practical session at our apiary on the following Sunday. However, after the first Apiary session, European Foul Brood was found in one of the apiary hives, resulting in the closure of the apiary for 6 weeks.

We were fortunate in finding two alternative sites to carry out the practical sessions. Apiary Manager Chris Jones kindly allowed us to use his hives at Coed y Mwstwr, and we were able to use the hives at the Coed Hills Community Garden. Many thanks to Eifion Owen and the staff at Coed Hills for this, without which we would have been unable to complete the course.

A total of 23 people signed up for the course, with the majority of participants attending all or most of the sessions, unlike previous years when there has been a considerable drop-off in numbers over the weeks. Thanks to Chris Jones, Jonathan Griffiths and Graham Tierney for delivering both the theory and practical aspects of the course.

After the course was finished, the participants set up a WhatsApp group so that they could keep in touch with each other and with Association events.

*Greg Nuttgens education*

### **The Training Apiary Report 01/04/23 - 31/03/24**

Land maintenance of the site has continued, with the hedge line being trimmed and maintained at a manageable height with new whips and rabbit guards added to strengthen the hedge as cattle has encroached onto apiary site.

Unfortunately, we have had another outbreak of EFB in the apiary 13<sup>th</sup> April 2023, so this put a stop to the new beginners having full access to site and tuition. On this occasion it was thought best practice to remove all stores, BIAS and destroy by bagging all infected items and being incinerated off site, this however saved a lot of hassle on our behalf. We lost two colonies to EFB the remaining were shook swarm onto new frames and foundation with torched brood boxes. The site was given the all clear on the 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023. From here we carried out several open events for both old and new members.

From here the colonies recovered well and colonies lost have been replaced or carried out splits in the apiary. All colonies checked over the quiet season and varroa treatment carried where necessary.

*Chris Jones - Apiary manager*

## **Swarm Management**

Due to the high volume of calls and difficulties experienced getting volunteers to collect swarms as the season progresses, a decision has been taken by B&DBKA Trustee Board to signpost the public to the WBKA swarm map. The association website has been amended to reflect this change.

## **Bridgend Beekeepers Association Social Media & Website Report - 2024**

### Website

Over the past year, we have made significant progress developing the associations online presence with us reaching record numbers of site visits which has been obtained organically via rankings on google and social media which demonstrates a growing interest in beekeeping within our community.

In line with our commitment to fostering community engagement and accessibility, we have made significant strides in enhancing our online presence and the functionality of our website. We have developed new features which give our members transparency such as our archive documents page which features a range of documents, archive reports and forms. We have also improved members only features such as the shop while retaining robust security measures which is our top priority.

Over the years, our educational initiatives have been a cornerstone of our success which is why we have paid particular attention to developing areas for both beekeepers and members of the public to grow their knowledge about bees, but we have also developed an area to educate members of the public about the Asian Hornet and what to do in the occurrence of an Asian Hornet sighting.

### Social Media

I am proud to say that our social media presence has grown massively over the past year. We currently have 387 followers on our Facebook page and 59 on our members only Facebook group (@District Beekeepers Association - Members Only) which remains a valuable area for members to share knowledge and ask questions with more experienced beekeepers.

We have focused on providing valuable educational content related to beekeeping, including tips for beginners, updates on beekeeping

practices, and information about the importance of bees in our ecosystem. This has helped us establish ourselves as a reliable source of beekeeping knowledge.

In conclusion, both our website and social media channels have played instrumental roles in advancing the mission of Bridgend and District Beekeepers Association. They have not only helped us reach a wider audience and raise awareness about beekeeping but have also facilitated meaningful connections and knowledge sharing within our community. We look forward to building on this progress in the year ahead.

*Dafydd Pett - Website & Social Media Manager*

**BRIDGEND AND DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION**

England & Wales - Charity number 1159663

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# Accounts

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# BRIDGEND & DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Charity Registration Number 1159663



**Annual Report 2023**

## **Trustees**

**John Gilbert - Chairman**

**Ceri John - Secretary**

**Graham Tierney - Treasurer Membership Secretary**

**Chris Jones - Apiary Manager**

**Huw Evans - Association Shop Manager**

**Dafydd Pett – Website/social media Manager**

**Jonathan Griffiths - Trustee**

## **Volunteers**

**Greg Nuttgens - Education**

## **FROM THE CHAIRMAN – ANNUAL REPORT**

**1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 – 31 March 23**

The weather in the summer of 22 was glorious and hopefully you enjoyed your beekeeping and were presented with a bumper harvest.

We are now at the back end of the pandemic, yes Covid will continue to re-infect us all at times and we all hope our levels of immunity will keep us safe. So, looking back to 2019, the Association had been talking with AWEN Cultural Trust who operate buildings and enterprises for the Local Authority. In respect of Bryngarw Country Park and the B-leaf horticultural project we had some hopes that our path to our Apiary might be improved, and an adjacent classroom might be built with a bee room or at least a bee viewing area. In the end these things didn't happen. However, Chris our Apiary Manager together with some of our members took time in the winter to make significant improvements at our Apiary. We now have new Bee Stands, wider levelled areas to make hive inspections easier and safer and the damaged fence has been replaced / repaired. Surrounded by new 'whips' to thicken the hedge we have hopes it will deter our neighbour's cattle or intruders from breaking in. It has taken time but it has been done at minimal expense and looks very neat and tidy, so thank you Chris and anybody who went along and helped.

Greg our Education Officer still comes to Trustee meetings by invitation but without any voting rights. Not being a Trustee has not diminished his enthusiasm, and once again he has taken the lead on the Beginners course (ably supported by Graham and Jonathon) and has continued to try to get guest speakers to our meetings. I recall that Greg was very quick to book Master Beekeeper Lynfa Davies to present a Microscopy Course on pollens during the afternoon of Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June 22 and then in the evening Lynfa presented the Mike Pett Memorial Talk on 'Plants for Bees'. The course had limited space and having invited our neighbouring Associations I am pleased to say all the spaces were filled. The evening talk was thin on the ground and once again the Trustee had to accept that speakers were getting harder to book either because they have already spoken before at Bridgend or because they preferred 'online presentations and a wider audience. Since then, we have asked members to volunteer to help us. Paul rescued the Honey Show in October, and I was very pleased to see the response, particularly the number of entries from new members. Then in March Steve Lintern volunteered presenting his views on Queen Rearing, particularly his focus on introducing virgin Queens into the hive. Thank you Steve, it gave me a lot to think about and I can see it makes a lot of sense to introduce a newly hatch queen into the hive to avoid rejection. You seem to have a well-rehearsed process in place, whereas I have been caught out by a lack of preparation yet again this year.

I am indebted to all our Trustees for sharing the workload to keep the Association going and I believe these individuals like what they are doing and they are in the right position.

We have repeatedly asked members to volunteer and become a Trustee and clearly the nomination process we use year on year doesn't work. As a consequence, we have to go

back to our Constitution and make an amendment. Some 8 years ago the then committee followed advice from the Charities Commission, and we introduced a requirement that committee members were forced to retire when they had completed two terms in office and they could not be reappointed for 5 years. The Trustees believe that this provision needs to be deleted. It would mean that a previous Trustee might be prepared to stand again but the old phrase 'don't hold your breath' comes to mind.

Having been a Trustee for over 8 years it is now my turn to retire at this AGM and that leaves the Trustees in post at 6, being the minimum number required by our Constitution. Between publication of this report and the AGM I would love to hear of any expressions of interest from the membership who would like to put themselves forward as a possible Trustee. You don't need to be an expert beekeeper. Life experiences are of great value. And I will happily talk it through with you. Just use the 'contact us' facility on the website, and I am sure the message will get to me very quickly.

John Gilbert

Chair Bridgend Beekeepers

## **Bridgend and District Beekeepers Association Membership report for 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 - 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023**

On 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, we had a total of 103 paid up members, this compares with 105 registered with WBKA on the same date in 2022. The comparison with previous years is as follows: -

2017 - 112	2019 - 95	2021 - 110
2018 - 109	2020 - 108	2022 - 105

Approximately 58% of the membership are individuals, 36% Families the remainder are Schools, Corporate and Members with no bees.

The total number of Colonies insured on 31st March 2023 was 649, the same as 2022, which compares with previous years as follows: -

2018 – 640	2019 - 693	2020 – 660	2021 - 651	2022 - 649
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If the pattern follows previous years, the total membership for 2023/2024 should exceed 115 which bucks the trend of falling membership numbers in the years before Covid. The total membership for previous years were: -

<b>2022 - 114</b>	<b>2021 - 123</b>	<b>2020 - 116</b>	<b>2019 - 119</b>	<b>2018 - 125</b>
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On 31<sup>st</sup> March, there were 44 members from 2022 that had not renewed their membership (27 in 2022)

The changes to the BDI insurance categories and fees, which take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024, will affect all members but will have a bigger effect on Family Memberships due to the way family members are classified.

This information has already been included in newsletters and will be circulated again before the end of the year.

Graham Tierney - Membership Secretary

## **Bridgend and District Beekeepers Association**

Registered Charity 1159663

**Accounts for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 prepared using the Receipts and Payments method.**

### **Bank Accounts**

Cash at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023	- Current Account	498.14	
	Deposit Account	8,464.81	
	PayPal	<u>274.92</u>	9,237.87
Cash at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2022	- Current Account	260.05	
	Deposit Account	11,130.07	
	PayPal	<u>0.00</u>	<u>11,390.12</u>
Deficit for the year ending 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2022			£2,252.25

The deficit for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 was £332.22

Income was from membership fees and shop sales, there were no charitable donations in the year.

A stock check was carried out in January to establish the value in the association "Shop" and the apiary store, the value of stock is as follows: -

"Shop" stock	£ 7,452.04
Apiary store	<u>£ 2,836.66</u>
	£10,288.70
Additional stock purchased between January and 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023	<u>4,782.92</u>
Stock Value on 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023	<b><u>£ 15,071.62</u></b>

The stock value was more than the value declared to our insurers; we have therefore increased the value of cover as a result.

The total value of Stock (£15,071.62) and cash (£9,237.87) at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 was £24,309.49, the value in 2022 was £22,629.38

The accounts have been audited; a copy of the Auditors report is attached.

Graham Tierney – Hon Treasurer

**BRIDGEND BEE KEEPERS**

**EXAMINATION OF ACCOUNTS 1<sup>st</sup> APRIL 2022 - 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023**

On examination of the association's accounts (01.04.22 – 31.03.23), these were found to have been meticulously kept, following standard accounting procedures. The association uses bank current & deposit accounts with money transfers made by cheque, Paypal and BACS, where all transactions had been accurately recorded and monitored.

There are no risk areas to be noted.



Helen Embling ACIB  
Ty Coch  
The Court  
Coychurch  
Bridgend  
CF35 5EH

24<sup>th</sup> April 2023

## **The Training Apiary Report 01.04.22 - 31.03.23**

Land maintenance of the site has continued, with the hedge line being trimmed and maintained at a manageable height with new whips added to strengthen the hedge.

The apiary's stock proof fencing had been trampled by livestock and the new hive stands had been knocked off at an angle, all the hives were also knocked off at an angle but stayed on their stands. The stock proof fencing has been repaired and strengthened; new posts have been put in with new barbed wire to top fencing. There has been evidence of cattle moving around down the bottom part of apiary but no incursions to the apiary site.

Along the bottom and left-hand side of the stockproof fencing a new native hedge has been planted, this was a grant which I applied for through Llais Y Goedwig and the Woodland Trust.

I have introduced a top bar and a warre hive into the site, at present they are not occupied as this will be an ongoing project this year, it is mainly to show members/newcomers that there are different types of hive.

With the coming of lock down restrictions coming to an end the apiary was prepped for a possible return of beginners and members. The hives had been inspected over this period and EFB was detected on the 10<sup>th</sup> July 2022 and confirmed by SBI on the 15<sup>th</sup> July 2022 and all procedures carried out by SBI's, so the apiary was put on standstill for six weeks. Hives were inspected during this standstill period and on the 26<sup>th</sup> August 2022 we were given the all clear. But now we have lost the time for the apiary to be open.

Committee purchased two new Nuc's to replace those lost through EFB, they were brought on and placed into hives.

Inspections were carried out throughout spring/summer/autumn/winter/spring 2022/2023 and the full supers of capped honey from the 2022 season were removed from the hives and passed on for extraction where some were put into containers and some jarred.

## **Swarm Management report 01.04.22-31.03.23**

For year 2021, we had approximately 260 calls regarding bees. We collected approximately 63 swarms and provided advice and guidance for the rest.

Huw Evans - Shop and Swarm manager

## **Bridgend Beekeepers Association Social Media & Website Report – 2023**

### **Social Media**

Our association recognises the significance of social media in reaching a broader audience and fostering community engagement. We have shared informative posts, captivating visuals, and important updates about our activities. By utilising social media platforms, we have expanded our reach and attracted new members, while also encouraging dialogue and interaction among our existing community. Our social media channels have had a large

increase in engagement both throughout public page and our members only group.

Within our members only Facebook group, we currently have 96 members. We have imposed an approval only system for members and posts which will protect the page from unrelated and spam posts. The Bridgend Beekeepers Facebook group allows members to ask questions, sell beekeeping items and be notified of any upcoming events.

Within our Public Facebook page, we have 352 Followers. Our Facebook page has reached 12,500 people within the last 12 months. This has been particularly helpful advising members of the public about our swarm services and raising awareness for beekeeping and sustainable beekeeping practices for already existing beekeepers.

We continue to encourage members to join the strong community of likeminded members on our Facebook group @Bridgend & District Beekeepers Association – Members Only, as well as like our public Facebook page.

### **BBKA Website**

Over the past year, we have focused on enhancing the functionality and user experience of the newly revamped Bridgend Beekeepers Association website. We revamped the design to make it more visually appealing and user-friendly, ensuring that visitors can easily navigate and access the information they need. We have also incorporated new features such as a document resource library, Online Loan Kit Form, FAQ, and a range of new features to enhance the user experience. Regular updates have been made to ensure the website remains a valuable resource for beekeepers and a hub for association-related activities.

Dafydd Pett – Website and Social Media Manager

## **Education Officer's report, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023**

### **Beginner's course 2023**

It was decided to continue with presenting the theory part of the course online, with sessions being held via Microsoft Teams on Thursday evenings, followed by practical sessions in the Apiary on the following Sunday. The theory sessions were presented by myself, Graham Tierny, Jonathan Griffiths and John Mosedale, and the practical sessions by myself, Graham and Jonathan, with assistance from Apiary Manager Chris Jones.

20 people signed up for the course, of whom less than half attended either the theory or practical sessions.

This may reflect the continuing anxiety about Covid. This year's (2023) Beginners' Course has had a much higher attendance rate.

### Monthly talks

With the lifting of Covid restrictions, we were able to resume monthly meeting with visiting speakers and Association members, listed below:

11<sup>th</sup> April, Giacomo Ciriello, Bees for Development, Natural Beekeeping

19<sup>th</sup> June, Lynfa Davies, Mike Pett Memorial Lecture, afternoon microscopy session and evening talk on Plants for Bees.

12<sup>th</sup> Sept, talk by myself and other members about preparing hives for winter.

14<sup>th</sup> Nov, Lynne Ingram, Honey and adulteration.

13<sup>th</sup> Feb 2023 Clare Densley and Martin Hann, Buckfast bees.

13<sup>th</sup> March 2023 Steve Lintern (BDKA member) , simple queen rearing

These talks were generally not well attended, numbers varying from 10 to 20.

### **Bee calls**

During the year, I dealt with numerous email queries from the public, through our website and through the Association's Facebook page, about bees. These were usually about bumblebees nesting in nest boxes and roofs, and showed how widespread Tree Bumblebees now are. There were also many queries about honeybees in roofs, walls, and chimneys.

**BRIDGEND AND DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION**

England & Wales - Charity number 1159663

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# Accounts

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# BRIDGEND & DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Charity Registration Number 1159663



## Annual Report 2022

## **Trustees**

**John Gilbert - Chairman**

**Ceri John - Secretary (from Dec 2021)**

**Graham Tierney - Treasurer Membership Secretary**

**Chris Jones - Apiary Manager**

**Huw Evans - Association Shop Manager**

**Dafydd Pett - Website Manager**

**Jonathan Griffiths - Trustee**

## **Volunteers**

**Greg Nuttgens**

**Paul Whatley**

## **FROM THE CHAIRMAN – ANNUAL REPORT**

**1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 – 31 March 22**

Annual reports are a time for looking back and in so far as it relates to Bridgend beekeepers last year was a continuation of the holding operation to keep the basics in place for when we came out of the Covid pandemic. My recollection was that the Covid Pandemic was easing, official ‘lockdowns’ had gone, those catching the virus stayed at home and regular personal testing was the order of the day as we opened. In November we held our first face to face social meeting, attendance was low, slightly below the numbers we might normally expected to attend but it was enjoyed, and members wished for similar meetings in the future. With the onset of winter infection rates escalated and membership meetings and Beginner Theory Training were all held online, and it wasn’t until this April that we again welcomed a speaker back to Coytrahen Hall.

To ensure effective governance of the Association the Trustees have continued meeting monthly through the year excluding August. I must say that it is a pleasure to work with such a strong and experienced team. In December Shirley Myall did finally get to retire having extended her time in ‘post’ beyond the years determined by our constitution. So, to Shirley a massive thank you and to Ceri, welcome. Whilst most of you haven’t had the opportunity to meet Ceri she has taken on the role as Secretary with all the efficiency and enthusiasm we could ask for. As a new beekeeper Ceri is keen to learn, but as our administrator, she is proof that you don’t need to be an expert beekeeper to be a Trustee, her common sense and a ‘get it done’ attitude make her an ideal Trustee. Also we managed to persuade Jonathan Griffiths to become a Trustee, Jonathan is known to some as he helps Greg with beginners, and is one of the few within our membership that has actually passed beekeeping qualifications through BBKA:-

Basic Assessment (Practical)

Module 1 - Honey Bee Management

Module 3 - Honey Bee Pests, Diseases and Poisoning (Written)

Dafydd Pett built us a new website allowing us to cancel our contract with TCRM. As might be expected there were some teething problems when the new site went live but I have every confidence that any access issues to the site can be dealt with quickly. Looking forward I hope to see critical Association documents maintained online and available to members. Suffice to say the trustee are happier now to deal with some-one who has the interest of the Association at heart and issues about charging and or service contracts no longer apply. The redesigned website is set up ensure that only 'paid- up' members can access the shop and view 'member only' material. Dare I suggest that some of us need to become more familiar with the site, remember our passwords and to renew our annual membership on time.

I hope that you will continue to support the Zoom or Webinar tutorials offered by the UK Bee Associations (Wales, England, Scotland, and Northern Ireland). We have all had the opportunity to improve our learning in the comfort of our own homes by simply listening to real experts. Presently these online seminars come at no addition cost above our basic Capitation for each member.

Finally, Greg Nuttgens and Paul Whatley are scheduled to retire as Trustees at this coming AGM. Once again, we will need to replace them in a numerical sense as our Constitution requires us to have a minimum of 6 Trustees. It should not be assumed that the roles that Greg and Paul do are automatically transferred to any person elected as a Trustee.

**JOHN GILBERT** Chairman

### **The Training Apiary Report 01.04.21 – 31.03.22**

Apiary site maintenance and inspections were continued during the reporting period despite Covid restrictions.

Land maintenance of the site has continued, with the hedge line being trimmed and maintained at a manageable height with new whips added to strengthen the hedge. The original plans for the site had to be modified as access became an issue and the weather was not suitable for moving material or machinery around, so the apiary has six new hive stands and some of the ground has been levelled and re-seeded, with

further work to be carried out at a later date. There were several members assisting with the project and the committee would like to thank them for all their hard work.

In the bottom left-hand corner, we still have a Japanese knotweed stand, although this has been treated there are a few shoots which will be treated again, this is an ongoing issue, but we are getting the upper hand.

The hives were inspected during the Winter/Spring/ months by me. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2021 we had a quick inspection of the hives for stores and condition, two of the four colonies had failed although they had plenty of stores, a sample of bees was taken away for testing, no disease found. During this period, we made several site inspections and all colonies had been flying, with weather permitting, so for these two to go was a shock.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> April 2021 the apiary was vandalised all four hives had been pushed over or been taken apart and left open to the elements. There was a very small cluster with a queen which we managed to put into a brood box, unfortunately these did not survive.

We informed Committee Members and started ball rolling with reporting to Police and advising B-Leaf to check their property. All hive parts were cleaned and placed back in the stores.

Committee purchased new Nuc's and they were delivered on the 18<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and placed on the lower set of stands and strapped, following day we placed all nucs into hives ready for the start of inspections for trainees in May. Hives to be kept strapped down from now on, just as a deterrent from further vandalism.

Inspections were carried out throughout summer/autumn 2021 and six full supers of capped honey were removed from the hives and passed on for extraction.

The hives were inspected 2021/2022 during the winter/early spring months by me and new beekeepers from the beginner's course, where we demonstrated hefting, varroa treatment, hive/frame construction and open discussions. With the start of the new beginners' course 2022 with the easing of restrictions all hives were available for use.

**Chris Jones** Training Apiary Manager

## **Bridgend and District Beekeepers Association Membership report for 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 - 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

On 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, we had a total of 105 paid up members, this compares with 110 registered with WBKA on the same date in 2021.

The total number of Colonies insured on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 was 649,  
(651 in 2021) (660 in 2020) (693 in 2019) (640 in 2018)

The breakdown of membership into categories, on 31<sup>st</sup> March, was: -

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
<b>Individuals</b>	53	61	60	38	60	64
<b>Families</b>	29	20	27	23	21	23
<b>Juniors</b>	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Supporters</b>	0	1	2	1	2	2
<b>Corporate Members</b>	2	2	2	1	2	2
<b>Schools</b>	2	2	1	1	1	1
<b>New Members</b>	10	17	1	11	2	3
<b>Beginners</b>	<u>9</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>16</u>
<b>Total to 31<sup>st</sup> March</b>	105	110	108	95	109	112
<b>Total for year</b>	<b>(120)</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>125</b>	

If the pattern follows previous years, the total membership for 2022/2023 should be approximately 120, an anticipated reduction of 2.4% which follows the pattern experienced in the years before Covid

The totals for beginners are not a direct comparison, year on year, as we have capped the number of people on the course to 20. For 2022 the total includes 5 Family Memberships, which we count as two people.

On 31<sup>st</sup> March, there were 27 members from 2021 that had not renewed their membership (23 in 2021)

Some Beginners from 2021 were included in the 2022 course.

**Graham Tierney - Membership Secretary**

## Bridgend and District Beekeepers Association

Registered Charity 1159663

Accounts for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 prepared using the Receipts and Payments method.

### Bank Accounts

Cash at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2022	- Current Account	199.53	
	Deposit Account	11,190.59	
	PayPal	<u>0.00</u>	11,390.12
Cash at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021	- Current Account	861.55	
	Deposit Account	10,860.79	
	PayPal	<u>0.00</u>	<u>11,722.34</u>
Deficit for the year ending 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2022			<b>332.22</b>
The surplus for the year ending 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021 was £709.99			

### Turnover

Cash through Bank accounts		32,166.34	
Less Payments		<u>20,776.22</u>	
Cash in bank on 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2022		11,390.12	
Cash in PayPal account		<u>0.00</u>	
		11,390.12	
Cash on 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021		<u>11,722.34</u>	
Deficit for the year		<b>332.22</b>	
Income was from membership fees and shop sales, there were no charitable donations in the year.			
We have not carried out a check to establish the stock value in the Association "Shop". An estimate of the value of stock is as follows: -			
The approx. stock value on 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021			£ 5,000.00
Additional stock purchased, during the year: -			<u>£ 6,239.26</u>
			£11,239.26
Sales during the year	via PayPal	3,296.98	
	via Bank Transfer	<u>3,076.19</u>	
			<u>6,373.17</u>
Estimated Stock Value on 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2022			<b><u>£ 4,866.09</u></b>

Following the 50% drop in sales last year, which was due to the various Covid restrictions, sales this year were closer to the value we normally expect. (£7,239 in 2019/2020)

This stock value is within the amount declared to our insurers.

The accounts have been audited, a copy of the Auditors report is attached

**Graham Tierney – Hon Treasurer**

**BRIDGEND BEE KEEPERS**

**EXAMINATION OF ACCOUNTS 1<sup>st</sup> APRIL 2021 - 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

On examination of the association's accounts (01.04.21 – 31.03.22), these were found to have been meticulously kept, following standard accounting procedures. The association uses bank current & deposit accounts with money transfers made by cheque, Paypal and BACS, where all transactions had been accurately recorded and monitored.

There are no risk areas to be noted.



Helen Embling ACIB  
Ty Coch  
The Court  
Coychurch  
Bridgend  
CF35 5EH

26<sup>th</sup> April 2022

## Swarm Management report

The management of the Association's swarms register is managed by Huw Evans, who deals with telephone enquiries and sends out text alerts to members registered on the register and Greg Nuttgens who deals with the enquiries that come in via email and the Association's Facebook page. 45 reports of honeybee swarms were received and put out to members for collection but, in addition, more than 250 other enquires were dealt with, in relation to be wasps, or bumblebees. Numerous email queries from the public have been received through our website and through the Association's Facebook page, requesting advice about bees. Advice and guidance are given to all who make contact.

## Bridgend Beekeepers Association Social Media Report 2022

We have 2 presences on Social Media through **Facebook** - a **Group** and a **Page**

The **Group** can only be accessed by paid up **members of the Association** web address <https://www.facebook.com/groups/BridgendBeeKeepers/> Those wishing to join are vetted to ensure they are members; non-members are invited to follow our Page instead.

**Currently 104** Association Members are using our Facebook GROUP as a useful tool to exchange information, as we currently have approximately 120 members at present, an encouraging 86% are using it.

Our **Page** is a public free access platform for public discussion and promotion of Beekeeping in general.

web address <https://www.facebook.com/BridgendBeekeepers/>

There is also easy access via Google etc. **@BridgendBeekeepers**

We currently have 312 followers, several from abroad, with regular submissions, enquiries and posts of information to share.

However, in the in the last month after promoting our Swarm Collection Service **9082** people were reached with 159 people engaging with us

We would encourage more to use our Facebook presence as most of us are now familiar with how Facebook works.

This also applies to using our newly revamped and fresh website which has undergone a substantial change making it fresher and more user friendly, courtesy of our young star member and Trustee, Dafydd Pett, my personal thanks go to him for

his hard work doing this and enabling us to take full control of our website at which pleases our treasurer because of the considerable saving to the Association.

**Paul Whatley** - social media

### **Education Officer's report, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

Following the successful online beginner's theory course held in January and February 2021, and the lifting of restrictions on outdoor meetings, a series of practical sessions for those on the course were held during the summer of 2021. These were initially well attended, with nearly all the course participants attending, perhaps a reflection of the lack of opportunities at the time for communal activities! Numbers did begin to drop off later in the summer.

These sessions were conducted mainly by Graham Tierney and Jonathan Griffiths, with assistance from the Apiary manager Chris Jones. Following an injury to myself in May I was unable to attend the later sessions.

It was felt that the time lapse between the theory sessions and the practical sessions was too great in 2021, so for the 2022 course it was decided to change the format, with the online theory sessions being held in April and May 2022, with theory sessions on a Thursday evening being followed up by practical sessions at the apiary on the following Sunday. This format proved successful and was popular with participants.

In advance of the course, an introductory online session was held in February 2021, and a practical gathering to demonstrate hive and frame construction was held at the apiary.

A total of 20 people registered for the course.

Although we were not able during this period to host in person meetings at Coytrahe Hall, several online webinars were arranged, including an interesting talk by Dr Stephen Martin on Varroa resistance, talks by Lynfa Davies on queen rearing, and a talk by Abigail Lowe from the National Botanic Garden of Wales.

During the year, I dealt with numerous email queries from the public, through our website and through the Association's Facebook page, about bees. These were usually about bumblebees nesting in nest boxes and roofs and showed how widespread Tree Bumblebees now are. There were also many queries about honeybees in roofs, walls, and chimneys.

**Greg Nuttgens** – Education Officer

**BRIDGEND AND DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION**

England & Wales - Charity number 1159663

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# Accounts

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# BRIDGEND & DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Charity Registration Number 1159663



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



## ANNUAL REPORT 2021

### TRUSTEES:

John Gilbert - Chairman  
Shirley Myall - Secretary  
Graham Tierney - Treasurer  
Huw Evans - Shop Manager  
Greg Nuttgens - Education Officer  
Paul Whatley - Social Media Manager  
Chrissie Langmaid (to December 2020)  
Richard Pett (to March 2021)  
Dafydd Pett (from March 2021)  
Chris Jones (from March 2021)

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 – 31 March 2021

The heading above, identifies the reporting period and essentially this is the entire period of the Covid Pandemic, two lockdowns split by a rather short period of relaxation in late summer. I identified in my 2020 report that the Trustees delayed and then cancelled the 2020 AGM and outlined our immediate actions to comply with 'Lockdown' provisions whilst continuing to do enough to keep the Association functioning. I recall hearing a media comment that 'Locking Down' in a pandemic was easy but opening up again would be more problematic and I think that has proved to be true.

Life is gradually returning to a new normal, the Association is financially secure, our membership numbers have increased slightly and the shop did reopen. Trustees met online, beginners from 2020 and 2021 had some online sessions and we went online for a couple of Association meetings. We will just see whether we have an online AGM or a proper in-person meeting.

I can identify a real positive, being the large number of Zoom or Webinars tutorials shared by the UKs Bee Associations (Wales, England, Scotland and Northern Ireland). We have all had the opportunity to improve our learning and listen to some real experts. I hope this new practice will continue into the future.

### Apiary

Chris Jones and John Rees have shared the responsibilities as Apiary Managers and the Trustees value their efforts and Reports. (Reported last year we did have a further outbreak of EFB in two hives which were destroyed and the remainder were subjected to a 'Shook swarm'. Restrictions were lifted in July 20)

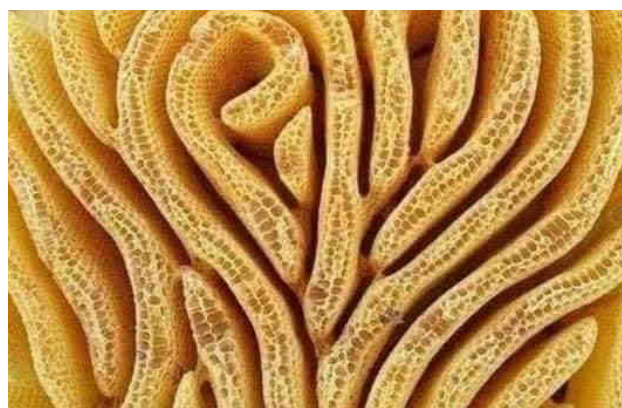
No progress has been made to make level areas within our Apiary site. Partly because of adverse weather and partly because the BLEAF didn't want heavy plant on their new track / pathway neither have they progressed any of their plans to redevelop buildings and grounds.

### Trustees

The Association is fortunate to have such a strong and experienced team of Trustees and I thank them all. However, having retired and been replaced, Shirley was prevailed upon to return as our temporary Secretary and to date we still haven't identified a replacement. This AGM needs to address this and also reconsider the length of time Trustees can serve. These are simple steps to address an immediate need but it is clear that the Association will always need a regular supply

individuals willing to take a turn to manage the Association.

## John Gilbert - Chairman



## THE TRAINING APIARY

Apiary site maintenance and inspections was continued during the reporting period despite Covid restrictions.

Land maintenance of the site was continued, with the hedge line being trimmed and laid and the hives manipulated so that their entrances faced outward to allow ease of access to the hives during inspection. Plans for future site maintenance were put on hold due to Covid restrictions and weather.

The hives were inspected during the Spring/Summer months by myself and John Rees and EFB was discovered in a couple of the hives, this was confirmed by the bee inspector and restrictions were placed on the Apiary, with infected colonies being destroyed on site, and restrictions were removed in June 2020. The number of hives were reduced to four.

Six full supers of capped honey were removed from the hives and passed on for extraction.

All four hives went into the Winter months with feed and were "hefted" and inspected towards the end of the Winter to check stores were okay and varroa levels, levels were okay no treatment needed. Toward the end of March, all colonies were showing signs of having come through the winter well and increasing in numbers.

## CHRIS JONES/JOHN REES

## JOINT APIARY MANAGERS

## THE ASSOCIATION'S EDUCATION PROGRAMME

As the year started with 'Lockdown' as a result of Covid 19, no training was undertaken during the summer of 2020. Some members continued to act as Mentors by phone and email during this period.

As it became clear that no 'in person' meetings would be allowed during the winter period, it was decided that the Association would run an online course for Beginners, using the Microsoft Teams platform. The course was broadly based on the Powerpoint presentations used on previous courses, with opportunities for questions and discussion by participants. Sessions were given by myself, Graham Tierney, John Mosedale and Jonathan Griffiths.

In all, a total of 29 participants signed up for the course, and the majority of participants attended all, or most, of the sessions. The sessions were recorded, and these recordings remain available to members. The course was followed up by practical Apiary sessions for the beginners in April 2021.

I believe the course was a success, and as far as I am aware, few local associations have run similar courses. Good training of beginners is particularly important at this time, as, judging by correspondence on social media platforms about beekeeping, many people are going into beekeeping as an environmentally sound activity which can easily be done while working from home or being restricted to home-based activities. Unfortunately, it appears that many of these people go into beekeeping with little or no understanding of the basic principles, leading to disillusionment when things go wrong.

Association monthly meetings also came to a stop, and existing arrangements for speakers were cancelled. However, in the autumn several meetings went ahead online, using Zoom or Microsoft Teams. Photographer Phil Savoie gave an excellent presentation on bees and photography, Dr Stephen Martin talked about Varroa resistance in honeybees, and Lynfa Davies gave two talks on queen rearing. Recordings of these talks are also available.

A number of online talks were also provided by WBKA, and many members attended these.

## GREG NUTTGENS - EDUCATION OFFICER



## SWARMS REGISTER

The management of the Association's swarms register is shared by Huw Evans, who deals with telephone enquiries and sends out text alerts to members registered on the register and Greg Nuttgens who deals with the enquiries that come in via email and the Association's Facebook page.

32 reports of honey bee swarms were received and put out to members for collection but, in addition, more than 130 enquires which turned out to be wasps or bumblebees.

Numerous email queries from the general public, through our website and also through the Association's Facebook page, were received requesting advice about bees. These were usually about bumblebees nesting in nest boxes and roofs, and showed how widespread Tree Bumblebees now are. There were also many queries about honeybees in roofs, walls and chimneys. Advice and guidance is given to all who make contact.

## HUW EVANS & GREG NUTTGENS

### SOCIAL MEDIA

We have 2 presences on **Facebook** - a **Group** and a **Page**

Our **Group** can only be accessed by paid up **members of the Association** web address <https://www.facebook.com/groups/BridgendBeeKeepers/> Those wishing to join are vetted to ensure they are members, non-members are invited to follow our Page instead.

The **Group currently** has 62 members using it as a useful tool for Association Members to exchange information. We have approximately 170 members at present, so only around 36% are using it.

Our **Page** is a public free access platform for public discussion and promotion of BeeKeeping in general. web address <https://www.facebook.com/BridgendBeekeepers/>

There is also easy access via Google etc.

#### **@BridgendBeekeepers**

We currently have 236 followers, several from abroad, with regular submissions, enquiries and posts of information to share.

We would encourage more to use our Facebook presence as most of us are now familiar with how it works. This also applies to use of the Association website which has undergone a substantial revamp, making it fresher and more user friendly, courtesy of our young star member and co-opted Trustee, Dafydd Pett. We are planning the launch it in the near future.

## PAUL WHATLEY - SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER

## MEMBERSHIP

On 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, we had a total of 110 paid up members, this compares with 108 registered with WBKA on the same date in 2020.

The total number of Colonies insured at March 2021 was 651, 660 in 2020, 693 in 2019, 640 in 2018.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY	2021	2020	2019	2018
INDIVIDUAL	61	60	38	60
FAMILIES	20	27	23	21
JUNIOR	0	0	0	0
SUPPORTER	1	2	1	2
CORPORATE	2	2	1	2
SCHOOL		1	1	1
NEW MEMBERS	17	1	11	2
BEGINNERS	19	15	20	21
TOTAL TO 31 MARCH	110	108	95	109
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP FOR THE YEAR		123	116	119

If the pattern follows previous years, the total membership for 2021/2022 should be approximately 125. In addition to the above 5 new members have joined since 1st April. The Covid lockdowns do not seem to have effected membership.

The final membership total of 123 for 2020 reversed a downward trend, numbers have been dropping year on year by between 2% and 4%

The totals for beginners are not a direct comparison as we have capped the number of people on the course to 20. For 2021 the total includes 5 Family memberships, which we count as two people.

At 31<sup>st</sup> March 23 members from 2020 have not renewed, all the Beginners from 2020 were transferred to the 2021 course which was held online. 24 joined the various online presentations.

## GRAHAM TIERNEY MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

## Bridgend and District Beekeepers Association

Registered Charity 1159663

Accounts for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 prepared using the Receipts and Payments method.

### Bank Accounts

Cash at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021	- Current Account	861.55	
	Deposit Account	10,860.79	
	PayPal	<u>0.00</u>	11,722.34
Cash at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2020	- Current Account	306.64	
	Deposit Account	10,705.71	
	PayPal	<u>0.00</u>	11,012.35
Surplus cash at the bank for the year ending 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021			<u><b>709.99</b></u>

The surplus for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 was £1,485.46

### Turnover

Receipts	28,771.63
Less Payments	<u>17,049.29</u>
Cash in bank at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2020	11,722.34
Cash in PayPal account	<u>0.00</u>
	11,722.34
Cash at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2019	<u>11,012.35</u>
Surplus cash at the bank for the year	<u><b>709.99</b></u>

Income was from membership fees, shop sales and Charitable Donations.

We have not carried out a check to establish the stock value in the Association "Shop". An estimate of the value of stock is as follows: -

The approx. stock value at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2020	£ 5,613.72
Additional stock purchased: -	<u>£ 3,097.23</u>
	£ 8,710.95
Sales during the year	<u>£ 3,491.66</u>
Estimated Stock Value at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021	<u><b>£ 5,219.29</b></u>

As predicted due to the various Covid restrictions this year's sales of £3,491.66 were just under 50% of the £7,239 sold in 2019/2020.

As normal we bought a large stock of hive parts in January 2020 to take advantage of sale prices; due to the Covid restrictions the majority remains in stock. Consequently, we did not buy additional hive parts in the January sales in 2021.

Stock is stored dry in the container so will not deteriorate in value and is covered by insurance.

The cancellation of our Beginners Course in 2020 effected our income by £1,375. The Trustees made the decision not to repay these fees by agreement with the members concerned and to carry them over for the 2021 course, which was eventually held online.

Graham Tierney – Hon Treasurer

## BRIDGEND BEE KEEPERS

### EXAMINATION OF ACCOUNTS 1<sup>st</sup> APRIL 2020 - 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

On examination of the association's accounts (01.04.20 – 31.03.21), they were found to have been meticulously kept, following standard accounting procedures. The association uses bank current & deposit accounts with money transfers made by cheque, Paypal and BACS, where all transactions had been accurately recorded and monitored.

There are no risk areas to be noted.



Helen Embling ACIB  
Ty Coch  
The Court  
Coychurch  
Bridgend  
CF35 5EH

12<sup>th</sup> April 2021