



Aberdeen and District Beekeepers' Association (SCIO)

- promoting the study and development of apiculture, and advancing the heritage, culture and science of beekeeping amongst its membership and throughout the wider community

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Established 1910

Scottish Charity Number SC031754

The **2016 Annual General Meeting** of Aberdeen and District Beekeepers' Association (SCIO) will be held at 7.15 pm on Wednesday 25 May. *Please note that the venue for the meeting will be announced in the May newsletter.*

The positions of Honorary President, Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, as well as the other committee members are elected each year at the AGM.

Nominations for the above positions can be made by any member of the association. Importantly though, the person being nominated must have given their approval. All nominations should be notified to our Secretary, Rosie Crighton, either by post, telephone or email, at least one week prior to the AGM. The deadline this year is Wednesday 18 May. You'll find Rosie's contact details on the left of this page.

If there is more than one nomination for any of the office bearing positions, then a vote by a show of hands will be held at the AGM. If there are more than 15 nominations for the remaining committee posts, the vote will be by pre-prepared ballot forms, and the count will be conducted at the AGM. All ADBKA members present at the AGM are eligible to vote.

Unless they have previously intimated their resignation by the 18 May deadline, current office bearers and committee members will automatically be nominated for re-election alongside any new nominations.

The business part of the AGM will be followed by a short presentation by David Morland: 'A Whole School Bee Project - Spreading the Word'

AGM 2016: NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS



The dandelions are starting to bloom - this specimen, on the 28th of March. Hip, hip!

The orangey-yellow pollen from dandelion is oily and can tint the wax produced at this time of year. Look out for yellow tinged comb.

Circulated with this month's Newsletter:

- The Agenda for our 2016 AGM
- The Chair's Report 2016
- The Abbreviated Accounts for the period to 31 December 2015*

** If you would like to see a copy of the full Annual Report and Financial Statements, or have any queries, please contact Leona Lowe, Honorary Treasurer - see contact information in side bar on this page.*

Through bulk buying on behalf of our members, we are able to sell on honey jars at around half the price you'll find elsewhere. A box of 72 jars with screw-on metal lids will cost you just £24.

Why not take the chance to stock up when you come along to our Bring and Buy Sale at Cuminstown on 29 May? *See page 2 for details.*

We've had a good response to the invitation to visit Murray McGregor's new queen rearing facility near Coupar Angus on Saturday 25 June. Murray runs a major bee farming operation and many members will have enjoyed visiting his heather sites in the north east over the past few years.

If you want to join the group making this trip, please contact me on 013398 82038 or email adbkanewsletter@btinternet.com

Graham

**DEMONSTRATION:
DEEP SPRING INSPECTION**

Saturday 30 April 2016 at 1.30pm
ADBKA Apiary
Crathes Castle
Banchory AB31 5QJ

(Make sure you bring your bee suit.)

**ABERDEEN AND DISTRICT
BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Wednesday 25 May 2016 at 7.15pm

Please note that the venue for the meeting will be announced in the May newsletter.

BRING AND BUY SALE

Courtesy of the Seed family, at midday on **Sunday 29 May** we will be gathering at Auchry Farm, Cuminestown, where we will enjoy a barbeque and a chance to blether about how the season is progressing.

BRING AND BUY - members are invited to bring along any surplus beekeeping equipment that they want to sell (at a reasonable price!) and to have a poke around what others are selling on. *Please note that if you have a large quantity of equipment you wish to bring to the event, we can assist with transport.*

HONEY JARS - take the chance to buy your honey jars for this year at a price that won't be matched elsewhere. We will have a large stock available.

THROUGH THE MICROSCOPE - see page 3

NEW EQUIPMENT AND BEEKEEPING BOOKS - we will have a good selection of new beekeeping equipment and books to browse.

Full directions to Auchry Farm will appear in our May newsletter.

**BEEKEEPING SUPPLIES AND FREE EQUIPMENT LOAN FOR
ADBKA MEMBERS ACROSS THE NORTH EAST**

Honey extractors; Mini-melters; Heather honey press; Wax extractor; Wax foundation press

Contact: Sandy Gordon on 01224 484540

DANESTONE AB22 8AJ

Heated uncapping tray; Electric uncapping knife; Heather honey press; Wax melter; Unimel stainless steel 3 frame tangential extractor

BUY AND SAVE: CANDY AND SYRUP

Contact: Erling Watt on 074294 54572 email watterlingg@aol.com

LONGSIDE AB42 4XQ

Heated uncapping tray; Electric uncapping knife; Heather honey press;
Wax melter; Universal lightweight 9 frame radial extractor

BUY AND SAVE: CANDY AND SYRUP

Contact: Joan Gilbert-Stevens on 019755 81369 email craigmill@btinternet.com

MUIR OF FOWLIS AB33 8NX

Combimel stainless steel radial 9 frame extractor; Heated uncapping tray; Electric uncapping knife;
Refractometer; Candle-making kit

BUY AND SAVE: CANDY, SYRUP AND HONEY JARS

Contact: Graham Torrie on 013398 82038 email adbkanewsletter@btinternet.com

CRATHES AB31 5QJ



**Swammerdam
Single-Lens
Microscope
(circa 1670s)**

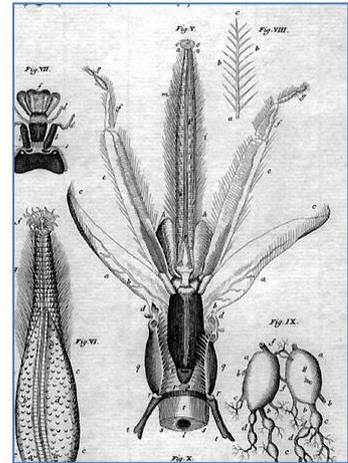
17th century Dutch beekeeper and all-round genius **JAN SWAMMERDAM** was responsible for a great leap forward in our understanding of honeybees. Using this early microscope he produced incredible drawings such as the one on the right, showing the complex structures that make up the bee's mouthparts.

In the name of science, he had a go at eating some honeybee larvae. His verdict: raw - "very disagreeable", tasting of "rusty bacon"; and boiled - "they have a somewhat more agreeable taste, but if one continues chewing them, the former taste prevails again."

(If any of our members are tempted to recreate this experiment, we would love to share the experience in a future newsletter.)

Swammerdam lived through a period known as the Dutch Golden Age, rubbing shoulders with the likes of the artist Rembrandt, the mathematician and astronomer Christiaan Huygens, and the philosopher Baruch de Spinoza.

If you are interested in finding out more about Swammerdam, go to <http://www.janswammerdam.org/> from where these pictures were sourced.



Don't forget, ADBKA's own microscopy experts, Hugh Donohoe and David Morland, will be on hand at our **BRING AND BUY SALE ON SUNDAY 29 MAY** to give you a glimpse into the wonderful world of pollen identification and bee disease diagnosis, and to demonstrate the modern equivalent of Swammerdam's microscope. (Do you think Hugh or David have ever tasted honeybee larvae?)

If you haven't done it already, look out the bits and pieces of beekeeping equipment that you don't need and earmark them for our Bring and Buy sale.

See our Members' Events panel on page 2 for more details.

*Stocking
up on
pollen
from
Daphne,
mid-March*



WHY NOT PLANT -

Daphne mezereum, commonly known simply as **DAPHNE?**

It's an early flowering shrub with a strong scent sure to draw in your bees, who will take full advantage of its generous offer of pollen and nectar.

Expect to pay £5-£6 for bare root plants and around £20 for a sturdy specimen in a 5 litre pot.

What's in a name? *In Greek mythology, Daphne was a nymph who (for reasons best known to the gods) was turned into a Laurel. In the Broons, Daphne was a lassie who wasn't too proud to try out a lampshade as a hat.*



A group of around a dozen enthusiastic volunteers gathered at our Crathes apiary on 3 April to begin this season's work, which will now be going on, usually on Sunday mornings between 10am and midday.

As well as managing our stocks of bees, our duties include all the less glamorous tasks necessary to keep our training apiary in good order. If you want to join us, just turn up and you'll be made very welcome.

Looking forward over the next few weeks, our volunteers will at the apiary at 10am on the 17th of April, but the following Sunday (24 April) our session will be at 2pm in order to accommodate a big orienteering event taking place at Crathes in the morning. The week after that (1 May) we will have a day off due to the fact that the bees will have been stirred up with our members' event at the apiary the previous day (see details on p.2).

If you want to get onto our volunteers' mailing list, email abbkanewsletter@btinternet.com



Aberdeen Bee Supplies

Jock McGregor is the local agent for Thorne Beekeeping Equipment. Contact him on 01224 790468 or e-mail: aberdeenbeesupplies@hotmail.com

Bees Wanted: on Nat. frames - brood, split or nuc., what have you? (Of local provenance.)

Hives wanted: Any National hive parts in clean, sound condition, believed free of diseases (I understand the risks); any other useful equipment.

Tel.:- (01224) 580137

Mob. 07979 002388

e-mail: eric.viking@virgin.net

9-FRAME RADIAL EXTRACTOR (electric) – FOR HIRE £10 per hire period

STEAM WAX MELTER – available ON LOAN £10 deposit

Both items available from: Jock McGregor, 11 Marcus Road, Blackburn. Tel. 01224 790468

NEW MEMBER LOOKING FOR BEES

Please contact Chris Mawtus on 07920138800

email chris.mawtus@gmail.com

MANUKA, KANUKA, SCHMANUKA!

A report by the National Food Crime Unit and Food Standards Scotland has identified non-compliances in around a third of tested samples of products labelled as Manuka honey, in terms of quality, declared activity or botanical origin, compared to the declarations on the label. It seems that some honey marketed as being from the Manuka plant actually derives from Kanuka, a plant that grows in similar geographical areas, but tends to have lower levels of methylglyoxal, the chemical purported to give Manuka health benefits.

The report states: “Manuka honey attracts a premium price based on its perceived positive health benefits. As with similar premium products of this nature, this presents opportunities for offenders to pass off inferior honey products as Manuka in pursuit of fraudulent profits. Such fraud may already be apparent. Some media reporting has suggested large disparities between the quantity of Manuka produced and that sold. This has not, however, been confirmed by any official figures from the New Zealand Government.”

You can find the full report at

<http://www.foodstandards.gov.scot/sites/default/files/FCASA%20report.pdf>



According to.....

.....Arthur Dobbs Esq, in a letter published in the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London, on 1 January 1753: “M. Reaumur has very justly observed, that, besides the three transparent smooth Eyes, which the Bee has placed in a Triangle betwixt the *Antennae* on the Top of its Head, the Bee has also on each Side of its Head an Eye, or rather a Multitude of Eyes, form'd by a Number of distinct Lens's surrounded each with short Hairs, which are confirm'd to be Eyes, both from *Swammerdam*, and in his own Experiments to determine it; and that, when darkened by Paint laid over them, the Bees could not find their Way to their Hive, tho' at a small Distance, but soar'd directly upwards; nor could they find their Way when the three smooth Eyes were darkened.

“But there is one Observation, which I don't find he has made, which may have determined the Garden Bees to make almost all their Cells imperfect Hexagons. The Observation is this; that these opaque Eyes on each Side of the Head, consist of many Lens's, each of which is a perfect Hexagon; and the whole Eye, when view'd in a Microscope, appears exactly like a Honeycomb: Now, as the Eyes compos'd of these hexagonal Lens's, are in full View to the other Bees, does it not seem that Providence has directed them so as to be a Pattern set before them, for the Bees to follow in forming their Combs? Is it not also reasonable to believe, from the Disproportion of the Convexity betwixt the three smooth transparent Eyes, and the Lens's of the dark rough Eyes, that they are appointed for different Purposes? why may it not be thought that the Lens's are great Magnifiers, to view things high at hand, and by many Reflexions Objects to convey Light into the dark Hives, where light is still necessary; and that the three other Eyes are to observe Objects at a great distance, so as to conduct them abroad to Fields at a Distance, and back again to their Hives?”