



Newsletter

September 2016



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

President:

Mr R Wood
Forests Road
Banchory

Chair:

Graham Torrie
Hillcrest
Craigmyle Road
Torphins, AB31 4HN
Tel. 013398 82038
e-mail:
adbkanewsletter@
btinternet.com

Vice Chair:

David Morland
Middle Ardo
Udny
Ellon
AB41 6QX
Tel. 07768244420
e-mail:
david.j.morland@
virgin.net

Hon. Secretary:

Rosie Crighton
29 Marcus Cres.
Blackburn, AB21 0SZ
Tel. 01224 791181
e-mail:
aberdeenbeekeepers
@gmail.com

Hon. Treasurer:

Leona Lowe
70 Pittodrie Place
Aberdeen, AB24 5QT
Tel. 07966026564
e-mail:
leonalowe@
hotmail.co.uk

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2016 HONEY SHOW

SATURDAY 22 OCTOBER 2016 from 1.30PM

The Kinellar Community Hall, Fintray Road, Blackburn AB21 0SS

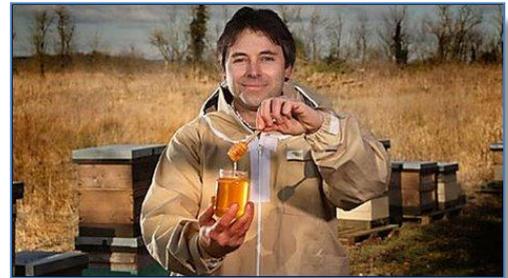
Circulated with this month's newsletter is our 2016 Honey Show Schedule. With 73 entry classes and categories, there are lots of opportunities to get involved. As well as honey, you can enter beeswax, mead, art, needlework, baking, photographs and more. Don't forget our 'gift table', which consists of show entries that are subsequently gifted to a local charity.

We are delighted to announce that this year our Honey Judge will be Willie Robson of Chainbridge Honey Farm, who will be carrying out his deliberations in the presence of members.

Even if you're not able to enter this year, why not come along to see what it's all about? There'll be beekeeping equipment and books to browse, fine refreshments to enjoy and an opportunity to blether with other beekeepers about the highs and lows of the season.

Please note the new arrangements for dropping off your show entries set out on page 1 of the schedule. You will need to print off and complete the entry form on page 2.

Don't miss the visit by this year's SBA Touring Lecturer, **Daniel Basterfield, NDB**. Daniel grew up with beekeeping around him, earning pocket money by clipping and marking queens. Having spent 15 years working in large companies, he returned to the family beekeeping business in Devon, expanding the business and building a brand new Honey Farm. He is a member of the Bee Farmers Association, holds the National Diploma in Beekeeping, and is a BBKA Master Beekeeper and Examiner. He runs 120-140 double-brood Modified Commercial hives, migrating between various farm crops in East Devon, and raises queens for prolific, productive and healthy qualities. Outside of the beekeeping season, Daniel undertakes teaching for the BBKA and NDB, for which he has developed a number of training courses. *See page 2 for details of Dan's talk.*



*All trophy holders should ensure that they return their trophies to the secretary **before** 22 October.*

It is with great sadness that we record the death of one of our senior long-serving members, **Edward 'Eddie' Lamb**.

Eddie's membership spanned several decades, and he served as a stalwart committee member for many years.

Eddie's contributions to the work of the ADBKA were numerous, and he will be particularly remembered for making the extremely high quality lined wooden containers, each individually designed, which house the Association's numerous trophies. Everyone recognised that Eddie had fine hands when working with wood, and the trophy containers will continue to serve for many years to come as a warm reminder of Eddie's skill and generosity.

Eddie was a modest, unassuming gentle giant of a man, and he will be greatly missed.

We offer our sincere sympathy to his wife, Frances, and their family for their sad loss.

Members' Events

BAKING MASTERCLASS

Baking with honey: hints and tips for making the perfect entry for the Honey Show

Saturday 24 September 2016 at 2pm

Kinellar Community Hall
Blackburn AB21 0SS

SBA TOURING LECTURER

DAN BASTERFIELD - "Reading Bees"

Friday 7 October 2016 at 7pm

Kinellar Community Hall
Blackburn AB21 0SS

2016 HONEY SHOW

See front page and schedule distributed with this newsletter.

Saturday 22 October 2016

Saturday 27th August was a special day for the 39 folk who attended the study day with visiting speakers Clive de Bruyn and Steve Sunderland. Perhaps it is because many of the Association members are new and not familiar with Clive's name, that the turnout was poor but those who did attend were treated to nuggets of knowledge and experience in theoretical and practical beekeeping ranging from what hobbyists can learn from commercial beekeepers, to a fascinating insight to beekeeping in the Caribbean. I was particularly pleased to hear him talking about the '5 questions' we should all ask ourselves when we crack the crown board and look into the colony. He also talked about being able to recognise when something is wrong in a colony by becoming familiar with careful observation of 'normal', therefore abnormal being easier to spot. This intuition takes time to develop and can only be achieved by watching and quiet handling of the bees using the 5 q's as your guide.

Steve Sunderland updated those present on bee diseases and pests either directly affecting or threatening our bees, and both speakers answered questions from the floor. Clive was engaging and charming and it would have been easy to listen to him for many sessions more. He had expected about 70 members to turn up, as he had encountered when he had been in Aberdeen in the days of Bernard Mobus and he expressed disappointment that so few turned out. I too was disappointed, given the expertise that was made available for members, and so few benefitting. Future events of this calibre may not be organised if turnout remains poor.

Rosie Crighton

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 01224 484540

DANESTONE AB22 8AJ

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

Contact: Erling Watt 074294 54572

watterlingg@aol.com

LONGSIDE AB42 4XQ

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

Contact: Joan Gilbert-Stevens

019755 81369

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

Contact: Graham Torrie 013398 82038

adbkanewsletter@btinternet.com

CRATHES AB31 5QJ

SUPPLIES: CANDY, SYRUP AND HONEY JARS

Contact Erling, Joan or Graham

FREEBEES

In the event of a member of the public discovering a swarm of bees the association website details a list of local beekeepers that can be contacted who may be able to retrieve the swarm. My wife and I have been on this list during the summer months and at the height we were receiving almost one call a day from schools, businesses and distressed members of the public from within Aberdeen city limits. To our relief we were told that the local pest controllers refused to deal with honey bees.

The first time we received a call from a couple of homeowners who had a swarm in their garden we immediately gathered all our equipment and travelled almost twenty miles to discover the distressed homeowners had called every possible emergency service in their panic including a selection of beekeepers; if they had a phone number for the SAS they would have called that also without doubt. The swarm was efficiently dealt with by a local beekeeper and Britain's emergency services were stood down.

One thing we learned is that you can never predict what you will be faced with when you arrive. The next several calls included a colony of bumble bees that were nesting in a garden shed, mason bees that had found a hole in the ground in a garden, bumble bees that were flying into a hole beside a waist pipe and eating and destroying the homeowner's house; according to the homeowner.

We received a call regarding our first honey bee swarm; this swarm had landed outside the workshop of one of the main car dealers on the Lang Stracht. The second was from a school in Bielside; both of these swarms we were able to collect and re-house. During this period I'd guess that only about one in three calls warranted further investigation and one in ten was indeed a honey bee swarm.

I was therefore a little sceptical when I received a call from a Gent, late in the evening who advised me he had just returned from abroad to discover a swarm of bees in his kitchen. I immediately thought this must be someone who had just returned from offshore and gone straight to the pub with the boys and had a bumblebee in his kitchen when he got home; or a flea in the ear from the wife. I took his details and advised him I'd call him at 10:00 the next morning. I called the mobile number the next morning and as I expected the phone was not answered, out of interest I decided to call again at 11:00 and was surprised this time it was answered.

After a brief discussion it was agreed we'd meet at his flat which is not far from Bedford road in Aberdeen. The property is in a state of decay and the homeowner was in the process of organising a roofing contractor to see to the roof and team of joiners to renovate the interior. When my wife and I arrived we were met with a team of about six workmen who were standing on the street outside the property; having recently been flushed from the property by angry bees. One of the workmen advised they would not go back into the property until the 'B****Y BEES' were long gone.



Lindsey dismantles an Aberdeen kitchen and strikes gold

We met the homeowner and were taken inside and up to the second floor of the building where we saw the bees entering and leaving the building below a window sill. The window sill had rotted out and allowed the bees to access the void between the granite outer wall and the interior skin of the building. The bees were indeed inside the building but access to the colony could only be achieved by cutting through and removing the inner fabric of the building. I discussed this with the homeowner and returned home to collect tools and to draught up an agreement that detailed I had the owner's permission to remove some of the inner fabric of the building to access the colony and that I was not responsible for any repairs.

I returned with tools and cut through the lining boards to expose the colony which had built seven combs of almost perfect brood pattern, four of which were visible below the hatch I cut out. Olya carefully cut out each comb and placed them into a nucleus box and then blanked off the entrance hole the bees were using below the window sill. She smoked the remaining bees from their nest and they began to settle into the nucleus box that we placed in the window.

The next morning we opened the nucleus box in our garden and did our best to remove the combs intact and fix them into some brood frames and secured them in place with wire. In all it took us about twelve hours to retrieve the colony from the building and another two to locate them into a wooden hive with brood frames. Two days later we inspected the colony and were pleased and surprised to find the queen intact and laying eggs as if nothing had happened, removing a colony from within the fabric of a building was not without its casualties. If all goes well we plan to transport these bees to the heather to allow them to stock up with reserves for the winter.

Without doubt responding to honey bee swarms has been extremely interesting and we're looking forward to next year's swarming season.

Olya and Lindsey Macaulay



Aberdeen Bee Supplies

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

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

As part of its efforts to deal with the mosquito-borne Zika virus, officials in Dorchester County, South Carolina, have been spraying Naled, an insecticide that kills on contact. Usually dispersed from hand-held sprayers or from trucks, this time they decided it would be a good idea to use an aeroplane to blanket-cover the chemical over a bigger area. But no one told the local beekeepers. One victim, Flowertown Bee Farm and Supply lost around 2.5 million bees.

Read more on this story at

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/bees-dead-hives-colony-zika-south-carolina-mosquito-spray-a7220896.html>



BBwear DISCOUNTED CLOTHING OFFER FOR ADBKA MEMBERS

In order to get the 20% discount, you will need to contact BBwear directly, by email at sales@bbwear.co.uk or by phone on 01872 562731, and place your order. You'll also need to ask the ADBKA Chair or Secretary (see contact details on the front page) to email BBwear to confirm that you are a member of the association. Your order will then be processed.

You can see the range of clothing on offer at <http://www.bbwear.co.uk/> or you can request a catalogue by calling the above number.

Please note that you will not get the discount if you place your order online via BBwear's website, and discounts cannot be refunded after the order has been placed through the website.

(NB. Free gloves are not included with the full suits, however, a 50% discount is offered on BB10 and BB11 leather gloves or spats.)

According to.....

.....Charles Butler in his 1609 book *The Feminine Monarchie**, "But Hony they gather all the yeere: save onely in those 3 still moneths, when the weather keepeth in both Bees and flowers. And it is of two sorts: the one pure and liquid, the other grosse and solid, which we may by like reason tearme *Ambrosia*. For both serve for the food of the divine creatures.

"The grosse hony is gathered by their fangs: from whence it is conveyed by the fore-legs to the thighs of the hind-legs, and that so mimby, that unlesse you have a quick eye, you can scarce perceive it.

"Anent this leg-stuffe or grosse hony there is generall error. For, without all scruple or doubt, men doe count it and call it wax. But against (as I shall shew you) both sense and reason.

"If you put it on your tongue, it hath the taste of hony: which wax hath not. If you feele it between your warme fingers, it muttereth apart: where wax sticketh fast together. If you put it to the fire, it melteth not, as wax doth. And whereas wax is all of one colour, white at the first, even as those little fallings of the new swarms (which is wax indeed) this leg-honie is of divers colours, white, blacke, yellow, greene, red, tawny, orange, murry, and of sundry middling colours. Therefore sense doth say it is no wax."

**The full title of Butler's wonderful book is, The Feminine Monarchie: or The Historie of Bees SHEWING Their admirable Nature, and Properties, Their Generation, and Colonies, Their Government, Loyaltie, Art, Industrie, Enemies, Warres, Magnanimite, &c. TOGETHER With the right ordering of them from time to time: And the sweet profit arising thereof.*