

Newsletter

August 2015



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

Established 1910

Scottish Charity Number SC031754

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NEW LOAN EQUIPMENT FOR ADBKA MEMBERS

In addition to the great range of loan equipment available from Sandy at our Honey Jar Store at Danestone (see page 2), the association can now provide heated uncapping trays, electric uncapping knives, two new heather honey presses, a refractometer and a comprehensive candle-making kit. All of this equipment is free for our members to borrow.

And for the more serious honey producers out there, there's our new, top of the range, Combimel stainless steel radial 9 frame extractor. It will take frames of all shallow sizes (including Manley) or 9 BS Deep, OSB, Langstroth Deep or 16" x 10" frames - all radially.



This equipment will be made available from two new locations; one to the north of our area and one to the west - watch this space for more details. In the meantime, if you can make use of it now, ring Graham Torrie on 013398 82038.



YOUR ASSOCIATION NEEDS YOU

- especially if you have book-keeping or accountancy skills!

We really need to give Louise a break, so if you are in a position to take on the role of Honorary Treasurer, please get in touch with Graham Torrie on 013398 82038.

Aberdeen and District Beekeepers' Association operates through the goodwill of those members who are prepared to give up a little of their time to keep the show on the road. If you think you might be able to help out but want to know a bit more about what's involved, why not ring Louise on 01224 313096 for a chat?

AUTUMN LECTURE SERIES

Our popular programme of lectures returns again this year. Held in the lecture theatre at Aberdeen Grammar School, the dates and topics are:

- 03 September: The Biology of the bee
- 10 September: The Beehive
- 17 September: What do I need to keep bees?
- 24 September: The products of the hive
- 01 October: Help – there's something wrong with my bees!
- 08 October: The beekeeping year

The six-week programme will cost £10, payable on the first evening of attendance. Attendees who are not currently members of ADBKA will be able to redeem the full course fee against their first year membership of the association.

The programme is ideal for those thinking about starting out on beekeeping, but would also be of interest to novices preparing to take the next step, or even experienced beekeepers wishing to update their knowledge.

In the Newsletter this month:

New Equipment	1
2015 Honey Show	1
Members' events	2
Honey Jar Store	2
Greenbrae PS	3
SBA Exams	3
Notice Board	4
According to....	4

The Aberdeen and District Beekeepers' Association



HONEY SHOW

SATURDAY 17 OCTOBER 2015

The Kinellar Community Hall
Fintray Road
Blackburn AB21 0SS



Why not join the growing number of members who share information and keep in touch through ADBKA's Facebook page?

The annual honey show is the highlight of our year. Help make this year's show the most successful ever by setting aside your best jars of honey, cut comb, sections, mead, candles, handicrafts or wax, all of which can be entered.

It's not only fun to show some of the results of your hard work, but also to see what other members have managed to achieve with their year's beekeeping.

Full details of the various show categories and how to enter will be circulated with next month's newsletter.

APIARY DEMONSTRATION:**At the heather – with professional beekeeper, Murray McGregor**

Saturday 15 August at 1.00pm

Raebush

*Half way along the minor road between the B9119 and the A97. From the south, pass the Burn O'Vat Visitors' Centre, then fork left, signposted 'Raebush'
- signage will be posted at site*

For those who want to meet up earlier, bring your own picnic to the Burn O' Vat Visitors' Centre car park (postcode AB34 5HB) at mid-day for an informal get-together before the apiary visit.

APIARY DEMONSTRATION:**Varroa treatment, feeding and preparing for winter**

Sunday 30 August at 2.00pm

ADBKA Apiary

Crathes Castle,

Banchory, AB31 5QJ

AUTUMN LECTURE SERIES:**An introduction to bees and beekeeping**Aberdeen Grammar School, Skene Street,
Aberdeen, AB10 1HT

Starts Thursday 3 September, 7.30pm-9pm

(See more on front page)

Aberdeenshire Council's Landscape Services Manager, Graham Wall, has recently announced an action plan that includes proposals to:

- promote the use of the Aberdeenshire seed mix in new roadside verges;
- require buffer strips adjacent to water courses in all relevant developments and seek opportunities to enhance these through appropriate planting and maintenance;
- investigate opportunities to create low maintenance habitats in open space that will benefit a wide range of invertebrates including pollinators;
- provide advice on bug box designs;
- provide space for bee hives of native species and seek opportunities to provide suitable areas for hives in new developments;
- provide space for allotments;
- identify sites for community orchards;
- promote the use of the NE LBAP Bumble bee mix
- undertake a review of the Council's summer bedding scheme and consider switching to the use of perennial pollinators in appropriate locations;
- review the identification and management undertake a demonstration project on Council property to improve the value of the grounds for pollinators.

Thanks to Ian Murray for this item



It's August, and the bees from our Crathes apiary are taking a holiday in Glencat, where the ling heather lays in wait.

Thanks are due to the 26 members who helped manage the association apiary this year. Only through their dedication and hard work was it possible to run this year's apiary demonstrations.

Visit the ADBKA Honey Jar Store for:

Ragus Candy
Apistan (10 strips, sufficient for 5 hives)
Ambrosia Syrup
Honey Jars and Lids
Mesh Floors – National size (wire only)
Hessian Squares for smoker fuel



Free loan of:
Honey extractors
Mini-melters
Heather honey press
Wax extractor
Wax foundation press

Approximately half a mile along Laurel Drive, turn into Laurel Place on your right - it's a semi-circle so take the second entrance into this street. Now turn left into Laurel Avenue. Danestone Market Garden is signposted, on the left, about 100 yards along.

**Danestone
Market
Garden
AB22 8AJ**

You may be asked to show your ADBKA membership card when you visit the store, so remember to take it along

For the loan items, a returnable £10 deposit is required, with the maximum length of loan being two weeks. As other members may be waiting to borrow extractors, etc. these must be returned on time and in a clean condition.

The store is open between 6.30pm and 8pm on Wednesday evenings and at other times by arrangement with Sandy Gordon (Tel: 01224 484540)

Greenbrae Primary School Bee Project 2014-15

- by David Morland, ADBKA Vice Chair

In September 2014 I was invited to participate in a Bee Project at Greenbrae Primary School, Bridge of Don. Judy Duncan, P7 teacher and eco project leader helped the school obtain grant funding of £4271 from the Scottish Government and Mains of Loirston Charitable Trust, and had submitted an entry for the WWF 'Grand Green Idea' competition. It was a whole school venture and the enthusiasm and commitment was tangible.

The project had been going for several months, under the expert guidance of Dr Ewan Campbell, Aberdeen University, when I joined the team. They had purchased a queen from Colonsay, which, as many will know has long been established as one of the few sites in UK where it is possible to breed the British Black Bee (AMM) with little risk of mixing with other strains, and which is now protected under The Bee Keeping (Colonsay and Oronsay) Order 2013. The bees came from Willow Lohr and the colony soon settled down to be child-friendly.

My role initially was to talk to all of the classes about bees and how to keep them - I used the miniature WBC that Sandy Gordon has, together with one of my own Nationals to explain a little of the beekeeping year to the children. I found this very rewarding because the pupils - (from Nursery up to P7) were so receptive and enthusiastic about the project and asked many challenging questions. They were particularly interested in the forkytails and dead bees that they saw in my hive!

We took P1 to P7 on 3 visits to the colony that had been sited at Middleton of Potterton where there is a pick-your-own strawberry field. The school had bought their own mini-bee suits and we were able to see Ewan inspecting the colony at first hand, including several sightings of the Colonsay queen. Some of the more cautious became quite animated when they were able to handle frames of comb and brood and see the bees close up.

The bee project team arranged Bee Weeks involving the whole school in a range of activities including readings of bee stories, bee games and talks and demonstrations about the importance of bees in food production with hands-on baking! - much of the funding was provided by the 'Food for Thought Education Fund'. Another important element of the project was Art - the school produced a very varied range of drawings and paintings of the honeybee and its life which were on show around the school before Christmas and much admired by the parents. Much of the art

activity centred on the making of a calendar which was on sale to raise more funds for the school (the apiary at Crathes now has one hanging in the beekeepers lodge).

The school year culminated with the extraction of some oil seed rape honey with the willing assistance of pupils from all classes who uncapped the comb and took turns on the extractor handle. Another highlight of this day was seeing young bees emerging from some of the brood comb. We managed to produce many jars of Greenbrae Honey which were sold at an Open Day at the end of term.

It has been a highly successful project and, generating such interest and understanding of



The young beekeepers at Greenbrae busy with a hive inspection

bees was not enough, the school also won two awards: One for photography - many pictures had been taken of progress and some were submitted to the BBC Wildlife Digital Schools Competition, winning the KS2 (P5 - 7) category. The other jewel in the crown was top prize of £2,000 in the World Wildlife Fund for nature 'Grand Green Idea', with Greenbrae Primary beating tough competition from all over the country.

I was very pleased to be part of the project and would recommend the experience to anyone who wants to raise awareness of the importance of the honeybee today.

The next opportunity to sit the SBA's modular examinations is 4 November 2015. All of the modules, 1,2,3,5,6,7,8, can be taken.

If you wish to enter for any of these modules please apply to Alan Riach before 19th September 2015, on the application form, which can be printed from the SBA web site at http://www.scottishbeekeepers.org.uk/fees_exams.html The application conditions and syllabuses are also available on the SBA website.



Aberdeen Bee Supplies

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

TELLING THE BEES

Interested in bees or folklore?

Join our series of free creative workshops with artists and designers in Perth over the summer 2015.

Do I need to be a beekeeper or an artist?

No, we're looking for a wide range of interested folk to take part.

Do I need to have taken part in the first workshop?

No. We know that it isn't always possible to attend more than one event.



BEELORE 2 - BUILDING ON THE BUZZ

9.30am-3pm Wednesday 12th August
Perth Subud Centre
7 Saint Leonard's Bank
Perth, PH2 8EB

This workshop will build on stories and ideas from the previous session to find new ways to create immersive experiences. You'll also get the chance to work with designers and researchers to find creative new ways to think about bees.

All attendees eligible for £20 voucher for Thorne's Beekeeping supplies plus reasonable travel expenses reimbursed.

FREE to attend (incl. lunch & refreshments) but sign up essential:

<http://beelore2.eventbrite.com>

Telling the Bees is a community arts and research project exploring stories around beekeeping, from superstitions and past folklore to anecdotes of today to find out what we learn about bees and beekeeping today.



www.bees.eca.ed.ac.uk

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

BeeCraft is offering a discount to local beekeeping associations who wish to take out a bulk subscription to their monthly magazine on behalf of members.

The price of an annual subscription to BeeCraft in 2016 is £28.00. With a 10% discount that you would get by going through the association, the price would be £25.20 per subscriber for 12 hard copies of the magazine delivered to your home, plus a free digital copy. To take advantage of this we need a minimum of 10 subscribers.

If any members are interested in taking up this offer, please contact our Treasurer, Louise Forbes (see front page for contact details), who will make the necessary arrangements.

A preview of BeeCraft magazine can be seen at www.bee-craft.com

The Scottish Beekeepers' Association's Autumn Convention is on Saturday 12th September 2015, 8.45am – 5.10pm, at Oatridge Campus, SRUC, Ecclesmachan, Broxburn, EH52 6NH

For booking information, contact John Coyle, Rose Cottage, Burnton, By Kippen, FK8 3JL. Tel. 07774266 540 info@beekeepinginScotland.co.uk

According to.....

..... Laurie Croft in his 1989 book, *Curiosities of Beekeeping*, "The ancient Greeks believed that bees could be an omen of future eloquence. Pliny informs us that Pluto, as an infant, had been taken by his parents to Mount Hymettus, where they left him whilst they sacrificed to the Muses. On their return they discovered that a swarm of bees had settled on the child and had begun to make honeycomb in his mouth. This incident was taken to be a sign of the infant's future eloquence. In Butler's *Lives of the Saints*, a similar incident that occurred to the infant Saint Ambrose is recorded; today this saint is held by many to be the patron saint of beekeeping. In Robinson's *Archaeologia Graeca* (1827) we read that Pindar had as a youth been nourished by wild bees, and it was as a consequence of this he began to write poetry. Charles Butler, in his *Feminine Monarchie*, published in 1634, records that when Ludovicus Vives was sent by Cardinal Wolsey to Oxford, a swarm of bees welcomed him to his college by settling in the masonry above his study window. This again was taken as an omen of the wisdom of his eloquence."