

Newsletter

February 2012

Take note of
our new website
address!

Aberdeen and District Beekeepers' Association

Established 1910

Scottish Charity Number SCO31754

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Programme for 2012

Those members who have already renewed their membership will now have a copy of the 2012 events card, detailing the programme of talks, demonstrations and other events planned for this year. With the six autumn beginners' lectures and the AGM in May, our programme extends to 21 varied and interesting activities that will educate, stimulate and support beekeepers and beekeeping in the north east.

Commenting on the plans, ADBA Chair, Jock McGregor, said, "This is one of the most extensive events programmes we have ever undertaken. It's a reflection of

the level of interest amongst our membership, and also of the enthusiasm and commitment of our committee, without whom it would not be possible to put these plans into action."

The programme kicks off on the 18th of this month with a session on the preparations we should be making for the imminent arrival of the oil seed rape crop. Next up is a not-to-be-missed talk from commercial beekeeper Murray McGregor on the 24th of March. **For further details of both these events, see page 2.**

Important Notice: Subscriptions

Many members' subscriptions for 2012 remain due. If you need another copy of the subscription renewal form, please contact the Secretary or the Treasurer. With your renewed membership, as well as continuing to receive the newsletter, you will get full details of the talks, demonstrations and other members' activities throughout 2012, and you will continue to benefit from the SBA Insurance Scheme (see page 4).

The association's budget was given a £422 boost last year as a result of members' willingness to make a declaration of gift aid in relation to their subscriptions. This does not incur any additional expense for those who do so. *There has been a disappointing level of gift aid declarations coming back with 2012 membership renewals.* **Members are urged to make a Gift Aid Declaration by completing the relevant section of the subscription renewal form.**

Mentors Wanted

If you are an experienced beekeeper and would be willing to mentor a beginner, or if you were on the mentors' list last year and are prepared to continue in that role, please contact the Secretary.

The Association extends its condolences to:

- *ADBA Committee Member, Barbara Cruden.* On December the 20th, Barbara's husband Bill, while at work and without a hint of illness, collapsed and died. Chair, Jock McGregor, said: "While not a beekeeper, Bill staunchly supported Barbara in all that she did for our Association locally and as Treasurer of the Scottish Beekeeper's Association. Our thoughts and sympathies are with Barbara as she comes to terms with such a sudden and grievous loss."

- *the family of George Tough.* George passed away in his sleep on the 12th of January. He was a member of the ADBA for many years, having attended his first meeting as a teenager in the 1930s as a guest of his father, also George.

Members' Event**'Preparing for Oilseed Rape'**

Saturday 18 February at 2.30pm

The Kinellar Community Hall
Fintray Road
Blackburn AB21 0SS

Please consider bringing along a prize as a contribution to the raffle that will be held following the talk

Beginners very welcome!

Members' Event**Talk by Commercial Beekeeper Murray McGregor**

Saturday 24 March at 2.30pm

The Kinellar Community Hall
Fintray Road
Blackburn AB21 0SS

News Roundup

- We are very pleased to announce that member Louise Forbes has volunteered to take on the role of **Honorary Treasurer**. Current treasurer, Innes Simpson, will support Louise in the run up to a formal handover of responsibilities at the AGM in May.
- The Aberdeen and District Beekeepers' Association and the Moray Beekeepers' Association are planning a joint **auction of beekeeping equipment**. This is scheduled to be held at Bucbarn Farm, Huntly, AB45 4PU, on Saturday 5 May. Keep an eye on the newsletter for more information, and in the meantime, start looking out those unwanted items of equipment that you can turn into cash!
- Please note that our **website address** has changed to: www.aberdeenbeekeepers.net
- **Our AGM** will be held at Craibstone on Saturday 26 May 2012 at 3pm. Immediately prior to this, at 1.30pm, there will be a general inspection of the association apiary as part of our programme of members' events.
- Some new members have expressed a wish to occasionally **visit the association apiary** to observe bee activity. This would be possible in the company of an appropriate mentor. Anyone wishing to do so should contact the Chair or the Secretary (see front page for contact details).
- The highly regarded *Journal of ApiProduct and ApiMedical Science* has been incorporated into the International Bee Research Association's flagship *Journal of Apicultural Research*. The International Bee Research Association ("IBRA") is the world's longest established apicultural research publisher and promotes the value of bees by providing information on bee science, bee conservation and beekeeping worldwide. See <http://www.ibra.org.uk/categories/jar>
- If anyone experiences any sort of adverse reaction when handling Apistan or Apiguard, please advise the Secretary, who will submit an adverse incident form and send it to the company.
- ADBA members are encouraged to consider the **qualifications** in beekeeping provided by the Scottish Beekeepers' Association. Applications for the **Basic Beemaster examination** must be sent to the SBA's Education Convener, Ian Craig, by 14 April 2012, enclosing a fee of £15. Ian's address is: 30 Burnside Avenue, Brookfield, Johnstone, Renfrewshire, PA5 8UT. More information, along with the syllabus for this and other SBA examinations can be downloaded from: www.scottishbeekeepers.org.uk Application forms can also be obtained by contacting our Secretary (see front page for contact details).

Beekeeping Circles

If you would like to join an existing beekeeping circle in the following areas, contact -

Helen Anderson, based in **Inverurie**, on 01467 620750, e-mail: sh.and@gmx.com

Graham Torrie, based in **Torphins**, on 013398 82038, e-mail: grahamtorry002@btinternet.com



The initiative relies on individual members volunteering to compile and share (with permission) a list of names and contact numbers of other beekeepers in their local area, then to take things forward as the members of the circle deem fit. If you would be prepared to co-ordinate a beekeeping circle in your own area, please contact Graham Torrie.



Notice Board

Aberdeen Bee Supplies

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

Beekeeping Equipment for Sale

National and modified National hives, supers, deeps etc, sloping hive stands, queen excluders, crown boards, travel box, observation hive, mobile nuc/observation hive, feeders, nucleus hives, pollen traps, frame showcases, and a large (heavy) heather honey press.

Call Willie Taylor on 01569 740375
e-mail: williebee@btinternet.com

Sandy Watson has **bees for sale**.
Contact Sandy on 01224 868370

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

Beekeeper required (preferably, but not necessarily, experienced) to take on the management of a colony of bees in the Drumoak area.

The owner has insufficient time to look after the bees, and would be happy to have someone take over on-site ownership of two brand new cedar national hives on stands, with WBC type roofs. Each hive comprises a brood box and two supers, all complete with frames and foundation. The current owner asks only the occasional jar of honey in return.

Anyone interested should contact the Secretary for more information (see page 1 for contact details).

The Scottish Beekeepers Association celebrates its centenary in 2012.

The main celebration will take place on 15th & 16th September 2012 at the Stirling Management Centre, University of Stirling. Over the two days, there will be a series of lectures by Prof Robert Paxton, Prof Robert Pickard, and Dan Basterfield NDB. Accompanying the lectures will be trade stands, local associations' displays, workshops, demonstrations and beekeeping exhibits. The highlight of the celebration will be a centenary dinner and ceilidh. Tickets go on sale in Spring 2012.

Foraging around



Guard Bees?

This story attracted much coverage in the media, including the BBC and the Daily Mail. Apparently, in a search for sustainable ways to protect an old mill at Greenfield Valley Heritage Park, near Holywell, Flintshire, someone has come up with the idea of using bees to deter people from going into the protected buildings. Park manager Chris Wright said it would be difficult to deter people determined to get into buildings on the free access public site, making the idea to use bees "seem sensible".

However, Barbara Chick, publicity officer for the Welsh Beekeepers' Association pointed out that there may be health and safety issues if someone was stung and said she would not agree to the use of bees as a security measure.

The story can be found at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-north-east-wales-16645223>



ADBA Equipment

The Association has the following items of equipment available for free borrow: 2 honey extractors, 2 mini-melters, 2 heather honey presses, 1 wax extractor and 1 wax foundation press. These are available from the honey jar store at Danestone Market Garden (directions below) on payment of a returnable £10 deposit.

The maximum length of loan should be two weeks.

We also have supplies of Apistan, Jars, Ragus, Ambrosia Bee Syrup and Hessian for smoker fuel. The store is open between 6.30pm and 8pm on Wednesday evenings and at other times by arrangement with Sandy Gordon (Tel: 01224 484540).

Directions: At Persley Bridge (Tesco) roundabout turn onto Laurel Drive. Continue for about ½ mile. Look for Laurel Place on your right (it is 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.

SBA Compensation and Insurance Schemes

The Aberdeen and District Beekeepers' Association is affiliated to the Scottish Beekeepers' Association (SBA). In addition, many of our members will be full members of the SBA in their own right. The SBA's Compensation Scheme applies differently depending upon whether someone is a full SBA member, or a member of an affiliated local association. The Insurance Scheme applies equally to full members and affiliated members. The details are provided below.

Compensation

All FULL Association members automatically qualify for membership of the Association Compensation Scheme. Normally, the first ten hives of any full member are covered FREE for compensation against loss by fire, theft, vandalism and AFB/EFB Disease. This cover is applicable only to stocks located in Scotland. Cover for stocks in addition to the first ten can be purchased on payment of an additional premium. This compensation scheme is separate from the Insurance Scheme, (details of which are given below), is financed entirely by the Association, and covers losses through Fire, Theft, Vandalism and AFB/EFB. Full details are available from the Compensation Convener. Affiliate and Family members may apply to join the Compensation Scheme; they pay £4.00 for the first ten stocks or part thereof (located only in Scotland), the same as full Members (£4-00 for each additional 10 hives or part thereof). The Insurance Convener has asked beekeepers to note that if they submit repeated claims (i.e. more than TWO) for vandalism to hives at the same location, having been advised to move them, they may be excluded from the Compensation Scheme.

Insurance

All Full and Affiliate members are covered by the Association's Public and Product Liability insurance with the Sun Alliance insurance company. Members should contact the convener, or their local Association secretary, for copies of the leaflets which detail these schemes.

According to.....

.....L.L. Langstroth in his classic nineteenth century book, *On the Hive and Honey Bee*, "In Russia, bee-keepers dig a well from twenty to twenty five feet deep, and six or eight feet wide. The hives, which there, are hollow trees, are then piled horizontally upon one another, like cord-wood, with one end open. The well is filled to within six feet of the top, and a shed, made of straw, is built above. The bees are left there during the five or six months of Winter."

Distributing the newsletter by e-mail realises significant savings for the association. If you do not currently receive the newsletter by e-mail and wish to do so, contact Graham Torrie on 013398 82038, or by e-mail at: grahamtorrie002@btinternet.com

We urge as many members as possible to do so.

Why not think about contributing to the newsletter yourself? We have a wealth of experience and expertise in the association, and it would be great if we could do more to share this around our members. If you have any tips, advice, or experiences to pass on, why don't you jot them down and forward them to the above e-mail address? I would be happy to assist with drafting and formatting, so feel free to call me on the above number if I can help.

Graham Torrie