

Newsletter

June 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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AGM UPDATE

Our 2015 AGM took place on 20 May at the Kinellar Hall, Blackburn. In his report to the meeting, the Chair noted that over the past twelve months the association had delivered 16 members' events and 6 beginners' evening classes; a postal ballot on constitutional change was undertaken, followed by a Special General Meeting, which in turn led to a change in legal form and the adoption of a new constitution. Special mention was made of the invaluable service provided by Sandy and Lilian Gordon running our Honey Jar Store, and the hard work undertaken by our members' volunteer group at our Crathes apiary. Four committee meetings were held to steer the association through the year, and monthly newsletters kept our members up to date with events and items of interest.

Noting the immense importance of those members who make their contribution to the association quietly in the background, uncomplaining and often unsung, the 'Chair's Quach' was awarded to Margaret McGregor in recognition of her hard work providing refreshments at countless ADBKA events.

Honorary Treasurer, Louise Forbes, delivered a report on the association annual accounts, confirming a healthy financial position as we go into a new year.

Sincere thanks were given to departing committee members Andy Sutherland, Paul Falconer, James Beattie and David Findlater for their contribution to the association.

The meeting was delighted to re-elect Robert Wood as ADBKA President.

Prepare to be astounded. The National Geographic website has a short time-lapse video of the development of a honey bee from egg to adult. Don't miss this. If you haven't got access to the internet, ask someone who does to show you this incredible film. You'll find it at <http://proof.nationalgeographic.com/2015/05/13/for-a-biologist-turned-photographer-a-beehive-becomes-a-living-lab/>

Thanks to Hugh Taylor and Ian Murray for this.

Our 2015/2016 committee:

President: Robert Wood

Chair: Graham Torrie - Torphins 013398 82038

Vice-Chair: David Moreland - Udny 01651 842597

Secretary: Rosie Crighton - Blackburn 01224 791181

Treasurer: Louise Forbes - Aberdeen 01224 313096

Barbara Cruden - Dyce 01224 770001

Hugh Donahoe - Banchory 01330 823502

Ian Douglas - Dunecht 01330 860221

David Pert - Brechin 01356 647373

Innes Simpson - Inverurie 01467 670265

Graham Stables - Potterton 01358 743348

Gordon Stephen - Oldmeldrum 01651 873846

Kirsty Sutherland - Aberdeen 01467 626248

Jim Thomson - Dunecht 01330 860208

Naomi Adams - Bieldside 01224 868402

Joan Gilbert-Stevens - Muir of Fowlis 019755 81369

Erling Watt - Peterhead 07429454572

Following the formal business of our AGM, the following ADBKA members were presented with certificates gained through sitting Scottish Beekeepers' Association examinations:

Hugh Donohoe

Ian Mackley

Kitta Potgieter

Malcolm Watson

Graham Torrie

Any members who would like to help out at the Association Stand at the Turriff Show this year please contact Rosie, who will co ordinate all volunteers again, like last year. There will be honey tasting, as well as honey for sale, general information, demonstration hive, candle making for children, and, for the first time, other products of the hive will be for sale, (not alcohol). Rosie will provide a rota and information regarding the activities we will cover. Volunteers will be needed Sunday afternoon, and all day Monday. We had great fun last year and hopefully even more this year! Please get in touch with Rosie.

Also, any members who have wax products they would like showcased or sold at Turriff Show, please contact Rosie.

See contact details on this page.

In the Newsletter this month:

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| 2015 AGM | 1 |
| Turriff Show | 1 |
| Members' events | 2 |
| Honey Jar Store | 2 |
| Sting in the Tale | 3 |
| Member discounts | 3 |
| Notice Board | 4 |
| According to..... | 4 |

**WORKSHOP:
MAKING NUCS**

Sunday 21 June at 2pm

Green Apple, Auchry Walled Garden, Turriff,
AB53 5TP

From the B9170 coming into Cuminestown, signs ("ADBKA", with directional arrow) will be placed at both ends of the lane to guide you in. A Sat Nav programmed with the post code will get you to the road end. Look out for the blue "Green Apple" sign in the yard.

APIARY DEMONSTRATION

Sunday 5 July at 2pm
Association apiary, Crathes
Castle, Banchory, AB31 5QJ

**APIARY DEMONSTRATION
with Les Webster**

Sunday 19 July at 2pm
Huntly
(further details to be announced)

As was widely expected, the National Farmers' Union has made an application to the Government to allow farmers to use neonicotinoid-coated oil seed rape seed this autumn, prior to the expiry of the current EU-wide moratorium. NFU vice-president, Guy Smith, said: "Since last autumn we have heard from hundreds of our members growing oilseed rape that establishing the crop has become far more difficult and expensive, if not impossible, without neonicotinoid seed dressing. Because of this we want the authorities to allow farmers to use the seed treatments they need to make growing oilseed rape viable.

See <http://www.fwi.co.uk/news/nfu-confirms-bid-for-neonics-ban-exemption.htm>

At the same time, more than 153 thousand people (at the time of writing) have signed a petition directed at Liz Trust, UK Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, demanding that the ban be continued in light of concerns over the impact of neonicotinoid pesticides on bees and other pollinating insects.

See <https://speakout.38degrees.org.uk/campaigns/ban-bee-killing-pesticides-for-good-937d4563-7694-41a8-a642-65e6b0e51453>

Thanks to Jim Beattie for this item.

**2015 Honey Show**

Next October might seem a long way away, but it's not too early to be thinking about your Honey Show entries. If you're taking off spring honey, make sure you set aside a couple of your best jars in anticipation of impressing our honey judge later this year. And don't forget that it's not just honey. You can enter beeswax products, handicrafts, mead, photography and more. Our Honey Show is great fun, and one of the highlights of our year. Join us this October and make 2015 the best year ever.



The latest **Bee Craft** hangout/webinar tackled the subject of the extraction of honey (from borage to heather honey) to honey judging - and all its complications.

You can watch the recorded hangout at the Bee Craft website: www.bee-craft.com/hangout

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)

Ouch! I've been Dufour'd! Ouch, stop it; girls, please! Ouch! Gonna no' dae that? Just dinna – ouch!

Well, I've been stung. Bound to happen, isn't it? Rather goes with the territory, I suppose. I thought it'd be as well to find out, at this early stage, what happens when it's 'pointed out' to me (a bit like capsizing, when learning to sail: if you've already done it inadvertently, you don't have to do the drill deliberately!). It doesn't seem to be any worse than a playful nip from a boisterous terrier, or a scratch from a recalcitrant cat.

I've tried a few (apres-sting) remedies which may help (on the principle of 'if it works, it works!'). You decide. Here's some, there must be others...

- rub with the inside of a banana skin – also good for dry, 'chapped' skin, 'hacks' or dermatitis-type conditions on hands, feet &c.
- Avon "Skin-so-Soft" - as supplied by H.M.Armed Forces to troops on manoeuvres in the Scottish Highlands to ward off midgies – it's very soothing, and *may* have a prophylactic effect, if applied beforehand.
- "Tiger Balm" an oriental remedy for all sorts of skin and muscle conditions; bit like Vick's Vapour Rub / Deep Heat; I use it for aches and pains, as well as a smear round the nostrils for colds and blocked sinuses (smoorin' neb); it says not for internal use, but it works (for me, anyway) on toothaches; and not on broken skin – it stings a bit (but less than a bee!).
- "Wujigao" another Chinese medicine, for insect bites. I've tried it on stings. Don't know. Can't say. Not going to recommend it, because it contains a non-traditional topical steroid which *may* thin the skin (that's a 'widely-believed fact' on the interwebnet thingy); you decide...
- I've heard that carbolic soap works, as a preventative... and a preparation of cider apple vinegar might do something (?) Who knows?

Maybe the best strategy would be to avoid being stung in the first place, but I'd prefer to roll up my sleeves and leave the gloves off – I've been told that I have a 'laissez-faire' attitude to Health & Safety!

Anyway, it's a fairly invigorating experience – quite a buzz; and I think people pay money for bee-sting therapy and bee venom treatment. I expect I'll get used to it, and may come to enjoy, or at least be stoical, about it. My 'comfort zone' has flexible boundaries!

I've heard that some people use a spray bottle loaded with sugar solution, *instead* of a smoker, so that might be worth a try. If a lion-tamer was about to put his head between the salivating jaws of a big cat, would he go in with a whip, and prod it with the blunt end of a chair – or send in a few steaks and a rack of ribs first?

Eric Chambers

B in the Park

150,000 visitors to the Winter Gardens in Duthie Park! I'm a 'Newbie' beekeeper and have just signed a bee-keeping lease with Aberdeen City Council, for three hives. They're now installed, on the sunny side of the wall in front of the start of the old Deeside Railway Line footpath, by the north gate (bottom of Polmuir Road). The apiary is surrounded by glass, so it's going to be like working in a shop window – difficult to hide, if anything goes wrong...!

I'd be delighted if anyone would care to come along to advise, assist, watch or generally get in the way; initially on Sundays... or maybe Fri./Sat., or Mon. ... perhaps to chime with the Nature Study / wildlife groups and like activities based there.

No coach parties, please; give me a call on 01224 – 580137 beforehand to 'book ahead', and to make sure I'm not already fully booked. Several of the garden staff are interested, and numbers may be limited, as it's in the yard, and not ordinarily accessible to the public.

Eric

Note from the editor: *remember, some people can have a serious reaction to bee stings; even experienced beekeepers can develop sensitivity. Bee stings can be life-threatening as a consequence of an extreme allergic reaction called anaphylaxis.*

A very useful fact sheet on this subject can be found at http://www.bbka.org.uk/files/library/bee_stings-1002_1342858887.pdf

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.

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



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

NUCS WANTED

- please contact David Lunney on 01467 643593

FOR SALE

8 x Smith supers, including frames
2 x complete WBC hives
Tel. 01224 315917

FOR SALE

3 x colonies in National hives, each with two supers
1 x nucleus colony
Also available: feeders, foundation, frames, smoker, hive tools, protective clothing, etc.
Call Nan Summers on 01346 517761

FOR SALE

2 full colonies in National hives, one on double brood box with two supers, the other on single brood box with two supers. £200 each
Also available: six additional supers, foundation, frames, etc.
Call John Barclay on 01224 323234 or 07783 858447

NUCS FOR SALE

On six British Standard deep frames
Available from beginning of July
£175
Contact Luisa Gonzalez at luisa.gonzalez.villalba@gmail.com
or call 07503576861
Dumfries - to be collected

BEEHIVES AND FEEDERS

MM Construction, Coursington Road, Motherwell ML1 1NR
Tel: 01698 265171

Email: murdo.mackenzie@mmconstruction.co.uk

National Hive (Brood, Super, Felt Roof, Stand, Crown Board, Queen Excluder) - £180.00 *plus VAT*

Nucleus (Brood, Crown Board, Felt Roof,) - £100.00 *plus VAT*

PVC Feeder (suitable for Hive and Nucleus) - £15.00 *plus VAT*

According to.....

.....Moses Quinby in his 1853 book, *Mysteries of Bee-keeping Explained*: "Spring returns to its annual task; dissolves the frost, warms into life nature's dormant powers. Flowers with a smile of joy expand their delicate petals in grateful thanks, while the stamens sustain upon their tapering points the anthers covered with the fertilising pollen, and the pistil springs from a cup of liquid nectar, imparting to each passing breeze a delicious fragrance, inviting the bee as with a thousand tongues to the sumptuous banquet. She does not need an artificial stimulus from man as an inducement to partake of the feast; without his aid or assistance she visits each wasting cup of sweetness and secures the tiny drop, while the superabundant farina, dislodged from the nodding anthers, covers her body, to be brushed together and kneaded into bread. All she requires at the hands of man is a suitable storehouse for her treasures. In good seasons, her nature will prompt the gathering for her own use an over-supply. This surplus man may appropriate to his own use, without detriment to his bees, providing his management is in accordance with their nature."