



**MAY
2019**

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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FUTURE ARTICLES

Beginners. Briefly
(Ian Mackley)

Workshop and
Presentations with
Observation Hive

Book Review
(Ian Mackley)

RELOCATING BUMBLEBEE COLONIES

At this time of year you may see large bumblebees out and about. These will be Queen bumblebees which have recently emerged from hibernation and are looking for a suitable place to start a new colony.

ADBKA volunteer Swarm Collectors will know that more than 50% of reports of 'swarms of bees' will actually turn out to be bumblebees and not honeybees! The advice given by the Bumblebee Conservation Trust is to leave these insects alone unless they are causing a nuisance – the colony will die out in late summer and will not necessarily return to the same location.

If there is a risk that the colony will be destroyed and it is easily accessible, it may be relocated somewhere else. This requires great care.

A few years ago, I was called by someone who had found a nest under a bush under a pile of leaves. They wanted to move the bush and clear the ground to plant flowers. When I excavated around the nest I discovered that it was on top of a piece of black ground cover fabric. I was able to cut the fabric around the nest with a Stanley knife and lift it out without disturbing the bees unduly.



The nest will look like this, with oval light brown cells close together with open cupshaped cells containing honey.

You will need a cardboard box about the same size as the colony. Cut a small door about 30x30mm in the side which can be opened and sealed closed. Pierce several small holes with a skewer or nail.

You will need your beesuit and gloves, since bumblebees do sometime sting when annoyed and they will buzz around and bomb you when they are disturbed.



Late in the day, lift the colony using your hands or a flat piece of stiff cardboard, being extremely careful not to tilt it since the honey pots will spill and upset the bees more than necessary.

Very gently put it in the cardboard box which should then be sealed, except for the door which must be open. Leave the box where the nest was and the bumblebees will return to their colony, entering through the door.



When it is dark, return, seal the door shut with gaffer tape and move the box to a dry safe site which may be a compost heap, shed or under a pile of leaves. Open the door in the morning to let the bumblebees orient themselves to the new location.

Later on, the colony can be carefully taken from the box and left to settle down. Cover with leaves, wood shavings or dry compost and leave alone.

By the way, did you realise that the name Dumbledore, the headmaster of Hogwarts School is an ancient word for Bumblebee?

David Morland

BEES LIVING ON NOTRE-DAME CATHEDRAL ROOF SURVIVE BLAZE

Notre-Dame's smallest residents have survived the devastating fire which destroyed most of the cathedral's roof and toppled its famous spire.

Some 200,000 bees living in hives on the roof were initially thought to have perished in the blaze. However Nicolas Géant, the cathedral's beekeeper, has confirmed that the bees are alive and buzzing. Mr Géant has looked after the cathedral's three beehives since 2013, when they were installed.



That was part of an initiative to boost bee numbers across Paris.

The hives sit on top of the sacristy by Notre-Dame's south side, around 30m (98 ft) below the main roof. As a result, Mr Géant says they remained untouched by the flames.

European bees - unlike other species - stay by their hive after sensing danger, gorging on honey and working to protect their queen.

High temperatures would have posed the biggest risk, but Mr Géant explained that any smoke would have simply intoxicated them.

"Instead of killing them, the carbon dioxide makes them drunk, puts them to sleep," he told AP.

Beekeepers commonly use smoke to sedate the insects and gain access to their hive.

"I was incredibly sad about Notre-Dame because it's such a beautiful building," Mr Géant said in an interview with CNN.

"But to hear there is life when it comes to the bees, that's just wonderful."

"Thank goodness the flames didn't touch them," he added. "It's a miracle!"

According to W. Augustus Munn, Esq. in his 1844 book, *A Description of the Bar-and-Frame Hive*:

"Pliny states that the custom of removing bees from place to place for fresh pasturage was frequent in the Roman territories, and such is still the practice of the Italians who live near the banks of the Po, (the river which Pliny particularly instances) mentioned by Alexander de Montford, who says that the Italians treat their bees in nearly the same manner as the Egyptians did and still do; that they load boats with hives and convey them to the neighbourhood of the mountains of Piedmont; that in proportion as the bees gather their harvest, the boats, by growing heavier, sink deeper into the water; and that the watermen determine from this when their hives are loaded sufficiently and it is time to carry them back to their places from which they came. The same author relates that the people of the country of Juliers used the same practice; for that, at a certain season of the year, they carried their bees to the foot of the mountains that were covered with wild thyme."

Graham Torrie

BEGINNERS, BRIEFLY...

An occasional article aimed at helping the novice through the beekeeping year.

MAY

We covered the vital swarm control activities needed in May and June in the last article.

Keep a watch on your apiary, especially in the afternoons and evenings of good days. If, despite your careful efforts, your bees have swarmed, they may cluster on a branch or post not far from the hive whilst 'scout' bees find a new home further away. They might be there for just a few hours – so act promptly if you do find a swarm - or perhaps a day or more.

Catching a swarm is fun and not as scary as it looks to the uninitiated, but for a first time you might be well advised to get an experienced beekeeper to show you how it's done. If you do catch and hive a swarm remember that, as it is initially broodless, any varroa mites will be out on the bees and vulnerable to treatment. I usually administer an Api-Bioxal (oxalic acid) treatment on a newly-hived swarm, especially if I do not know where the swarm has come from.

If your supers are being filled, you need to decide whether the nectar source is oilseed rape (OSR) or not. If it is, then it must be extracted promptly once ripe, as OSR granulates very quickly and you don't want it to be doing that in the comb. If there are bright yellow fields of OSR within a couple of miles (possibly further) of your apiary, then it's likely the bees will be visiting it. If it isn't OSR honey, then you may still want to extract it if your supers are full, but if you only have a little, it can be left in the comb to be hopefully augmented by flows later in the season.

Ian Mackley

ASSOCIATION MEMBERS EVENT - SWARM CONTROL DAY on the 7th of APRIL

There was an excellent response to the Swarm Control Day held recently when Tony Harris provided both a theoretical and practical overview associated with Swarm Control. As beekeepers we all know that the swarm season will be on us in the not too distant future so it was a great chance to have a few pointers and tips to aid in both the prevention and the recovery of swarms. The main thing which was highlighted to us all is that now is the time to start thinking about what you will do in order to prevent a swarm leaving your hive and how to prepare for any event encountered. Having a plan in place well in advance along with all of the relevant equipment needed to suit your own requirements is very beneficial - so for everyone that attended the day we hope that you are now well prepared after having decided your own course of action. *Let us know how you get on by sending a small update for adding to the next newsletter and if you have a photo please provide that also.* Happy Beekeeping.

Joan Gilbert-Stevens

NORTH ABERDEENSHIRE APIARY

At our AGM on 24 March it was suggested that members living north of Aberdeen would benefit from the establishment of a club apiary in that area.

The chair supported the idea in principle, however it is dependent on enough members being willing to help start up the project and subsequently run it. If there is enough interest then these beekeepers will be asked to help find an appropriate site north of Aberdeen.

All areas will be considered. Please register your interest by emailing the secretary **Alison Goss** at aberdeenbeekeepers@gmail.com.

We are always interested in new articles for the newsletter, If you have an item for the newsletter, please contact **Olga Macaulay** by email at astrolo@mail.ru or **David Morland** at adbkavicechair@gmail.com

If you have an article for sale or loan or if you want an article then make use of the adverts section, there is no cost to advertise.

Similarly if you are available to help other members or want some help yourself then why not use this section to advertise what you want or what you can offer. Many members struggle to move bees to the honey crops on their own and it may be interesting for you to offer assistance and meet another member and learn how they manage their bees at the same time for example.

The adverts together with your contact details appear on the internet as part of the newsletter.

EXTERNAL EVENTS**MAY****Sat/Sun 18th/19th at Crathes**

Garden Fair organized by Crathes Castle.
 ABDKA will have a stall and the
 Observation Hive.

JUNE**Thu 20th-Sun23rd at Edinburgh
ROYAL HIGHLAND SHOW****MEMBERS EVENTS****JUNE****Sun 9th at 2p.m. at Tarland**

Demonstration – Apiary visit
 by Yvonne Davidson
 (details to follow)

**Viking Maid****EMBROIDERY**

*Would you like the ADBKA Logo
 on your bee suit or clothing of your choice?*

Names can also be added.

Embroidered Logo - £7.50

Embroidered Name - £6.00

Embroidered Patches - £7.50



Call Sheila on 07837400896

**BEE NUCS FOR
SALE.**

Hardy local hybrids,
 minimum of 3 frames
 of brood. Quiet,
 productive, treated for
 varroa, will deliver to
 20 miles radius of
 Inverurie, available
 now.

Please phone
 01467622610

BEEES FOR SALE

4 colonies of locally
 reared bees on
 national frames,
 with or without
 hives.

Please call
 David Lunney
 on 01467643593

BEE CABIN**HONEY EXTRACTION SERVICE PRICES 2019**

Sticky floors, sticky work surfaces, sticky everything, why not
 take the easy option and let us take care of the sticky mess for
 you, simply drop off your supers and collect later all jarred no
 fuss no mess.

FRAMES ONLY:

£1.95 per frame additional 55p per frame for heather honey
 customer provides container (bee Cabin can supply at
 additional cost). Minimum of 6 frames per extraction

FRAMES AND JARRING:

£1.36 per Jar – 1 lb, 12oz, 8oz (Jars included in price).
 Additional 24p per jar for heather honey Minimum of 6 frames
 per extraction

CUT COMB:

Cut and packaged £2.00 per frame

JARS ONLY:

1 lb, 12oz, 8oz, 4oz and 2oz all available

An additional charge is levied on Heather honey as it is
 difficult to extract, Due to its high viscosity it requires
 additional processing that other honeys don't.

Other than wireless cut comb, all frames being extracted of
 honey at Bee Cabin are spun either radially or tangentially
 therefore only wired foundation should be submitted for
 extraction. During extraction a frame from time to time can
 break and fall apart, this is purely due to the age or poor
 assembly of the frame, in these circumstances Bee Cabin will
 not be held liable for any such damage.

Colonies of locally reared (Aberdeenshire) bees for sale
 from our best productive hives.

2018 overwintered queens, bees treated for Varroa.

11 National Hoffman brood frames and a dummy board
 (at least 6 to 7 frames of brood at all stages and some frames
 with stores).

Available early to mid June, ideal for the summer honey crop.

Would prefer to sell to an experienced beekeeper or
 someone who has a mentor or completed a beginners course or
 similar training.

Price: £200.00 per colony. A small deposit of £40.00 secures.
 If preferred can sell the bees in an assembled National hive
 with an open mesh floor with Varroa slide and alighting board,
 brood box, wired queen excluder, 2 super boxes with Manley
 frames and new foundation, crown board and 4 inch roof.

Price: bees plus Hive £425.00.

Please contact: **Norman Stewart**

On 01467 643062 or 07890 631813.

Aberdeen Bee Supplies

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