



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

President:

Mr R Wood
Forestside 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

BEEKEEPING STUDY DAY

ADBKA is hosting a study day on Saturday 27 August from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm at Kinellar Community Hall, Blackburn, AB21 0SS.

Clive de Bruyn will talk about what hobbyist beekeepers can learn from professional and commercial beekeepers and beekeeping in the Caribbean.

Steve Sunderland, Lead Bee Inspector for the Scottish Government Agriculture, Food and Rural Communities Directorate, will give us an update on current issues affecting beekeepers in Scotland, including the latest news concerning the prevalence of foulbrood diseases.

Booking is essential as places are limited.

Please send a £10 fee as a cheque made payable to ADBKA, or as cash, to Rosie Crighton, 29 Marcus Crescent, Blackburn Aberdeen, AB21 0SZ, with name, address, any special dietary requirements and SAE for return of tickets.

The fee includes refreshments, light lunch and delegate pack.



One of our two keynote speakers
- Clive de Bruyn

Clive started beekeeping in the 1960s, and has managed colonies in 11 counties. He was employed at the National Beekeeping Unit in the 1980s, supervising disease inspection officers. He has worked in a UK bee farming enterprise (2000+ colonies), raising 1000 queens annually. Clive's first beekeeping exam was in 1970, whilst a committee member of the Village Bee Breeders Association (now BIBBA). He gained the National Diploma in Beekeeping in 1976. For 15 years he was the County Beekeeping Lecturer in Essex. He was the British delegate to Apimondia for 16 years. Within the BBKA and NDB Clive has been a board member and is still an examiner. Clive has travelled widely to study beekeeping (30+ countries). He is the author of several books and papers. Currently he is running 100+ colonies for honey, pollination and the sale of queens and nuclei whilst undertaking overseas extension work in the winter.

Ca' them where the heather grows, Ca' them where the burnie rowes

A small team comprising John Steele, Neil Murray, Graham Torrie and John Cooper moved the Association hives to their heather site on 23rd July to enable the Crathes gardeners to cut the hedges surrounding the apiary. Each colony was given a generous slice of candy to see them through to the flowering of the Ling. Some Bell heather, clover and Rose Bay willow herb would also help see them through to early August. They will be returned to the Crathes apiary in September after any honey supers have been taken off for extraction.



*In the Newsletter
this month:*

Study Day	1
To the heather	1
Members' events	2
SBA Exams	2
Members' services	2
Duthie Park	3
The Leaf Hive	3
Notice Board	4
According to...	4

Members' Events

BEEKEEPING STUDY DAY

Saturday 27 August 2016
 9.30am - 4.30pm
 (Registration and tea: 9.30 am)
 Kinellar Community Hall
 Blackburn AB21 0SS

TALK

TONY HARRIS - queen rearing:
 theoretical perspectives
 Sunday 4 September 2016 at 2pm
 Kinellar Community Hall
 Blackburn AB21 0SS

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
 - time and venue to be confirmed

**The next round of Scottish Beekeepers' Association Modular Examinations will be held on
 Saturday 12 November.**

If you want to apply to sit any of the exams, you must submit your application to Alan Riach before 17
 September. Full details of the examination system can be found on the SBA website at
<https://www.scottishbeekeepers.org.uk/learn/exams-dates-fees/modules>

The examination application form can be printed off from
[https://www.scottishbeekeepers.org.uk/images/education/exams/Exam%20Application%20Form%20\(Word%20doc\).pdf](https://www.scottishbeekeepers.org.uk/images/education/exams/Exam%20Application%20Form%20(Word%20doc).pdf)

It is also now possible to apply and pay examination fees online through the SBA website.

**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

Environment Day – Duthie Park

An environment day has been held in Duthie Park in Aberdeen since 2014, John Cooper and I were invited along to the first event and we turned up with a few beekeeping accessories and lots of enthusiasm but not knowing really what to expect. We were greeted by a very enthusiastic public and the event has grown in popularity over the last two years and as has our display.

This year we were invited to attend and contribute to the Duthie Park Environment day which was held on the 17th of July on the grounds of the old bowling green within Duthie Park. The event is organised by the city council and staff at Duthie Park and includes displays such as Horticultural, Butterflies and Moths, birds of prey, lizards and reptiles, allotments and allotmenters and our own bees and beekeeping together with another twenty or so displays and stands.

This year's beekeeping display was supported by John Cooper, Rob Rowe, Olya MacAulay and I.

John focused on fielding the many technical questions we received regarding bee health, pesticides, varroa mites and the general decline of bees within Aberdeen gardens over the last twenty or so years. It was surprising for me to hear how knowledgeable and interested most of the public are about the decline of the honey bee. This was supported by the many people who took contact details of our association.

Rob explained the working of a beehive with the aid of the national hive we had there. I guess Rob must have dismantled and reassembled the hive more than fifty times to explain the workings of the hive to the interested public.

Olya took care of the honey samples and honey sales both of which proved very busy and popular, Olya estimated she supplied well over two hundred and fifty honey samples over the course of the afternoon.

I focused my attention on our observation hive which is a new addition to our display and proved a magnet for all ages from the very young to the more senior. We were lucky enough to take along a frame of emerging brood in the observation hive which proved a great draw whenever a young, grey bee made an appearance into the world and the viewing public could witness the birth. Unfortunately we had no champagne to toast each new arrival; perhaps just as well as the brood were making a steady appearance throughout the afternoon and we had to get the bees back in their hive that evening.

In all a lot of interest was shown in our display and the wellbeing of the honey bees in general. Each of us was kept busy for the duration of the afternoon and enjoyed it and look forward to next year's event.

Lindsey Macaulay

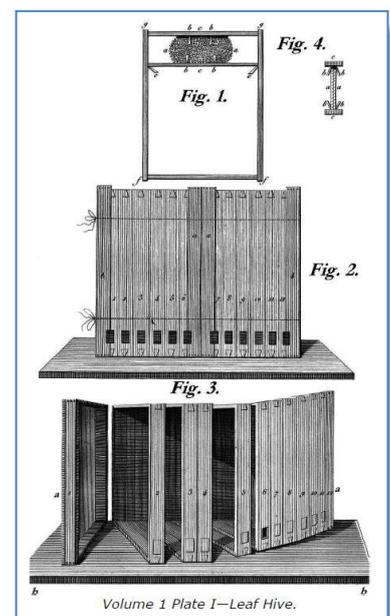
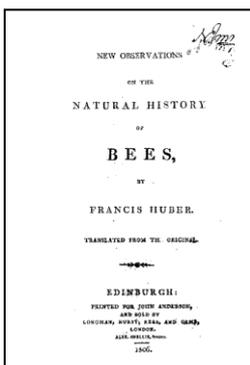


Lindsey describes what's going on in the observation hive

YOU'VE BEEN FRAMED!

We all know that Lorenzo Langstroth invented the first moveable frame hive in 1852, right? If he was alive, Francois Huber might beg to differ. In his 1806 book, *New observations on the natural history of bees*, Huber writes: "It is not more difficult to lodge a natural swarm in a leaf hive than in any other of a different shape. But there is one precaution essential to success, which I should not omit. Though the bees are indifferent as to the position of their combs and as to their greater or lesser size, they are obliged to construct them perpendicular to the horizon and parallel to each other. Therefore, if left entirely to themselves, when establishing a colony in one of those new hives, they would frequently construct several small combs parallel indeed, but perpendicular to the plane of the frames

or leaves and by this disposition prevent the advantages which I think to derive from the figure of my hives, since they could not be opened without breaking the combs. Thus they must previously have a guide to follow; the cultivator himself lays the foundation of their edifices and that by a simple method. A portion of comb must be solidly fixed in some of the boxes composing the hive. The bees will extend it and, in prosecution of their work, will accurately follow the plan already given them. Therefore on opening the hive, no obstacle is to be removed, nor stings to be dreaded, for one of the most singular and valuable properties attending this construction, is its rendering the bees tractable."



Hubert's 'Leaf Hive', with moveable frames



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

If you are lucky enough/unlucky enough (delete as appropriate) to be visiting London over the next few weeks, you might want to go along to Kew Gardens to see **The Hive**.

According to the Kew Gardens website, “The Hive is the design of UK based artist Wolfgang Buttress. It was originally created as the centrepiece of the UK Pavilion at the 2015 Milan Expo. It is constructed from around 170,000 parts including thousands of pieces of aluminium which catch the changing sunlight. There are 1,000 LED lights dotted around its core which glow and fade, while a unique soundtrack hums in response to the activity of real bees in a beehive behind the scenes at Kew.”

Find out more and see amazing pictures of The Hive at <http://www.kew.org/visit-kew-gardens/explore/attractions/hive>

Thanks to Ian Mackley and Ian Murray for this item.

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.....

.....Thomas James in his 1852 book *The Honey Bee*: “About the middle of August, the awful “massacre of the innocents”, the killing of the drones, begins. “After which time,” as Butler has it, “these Amazonian dames begin to wax weary of their mates, and to like their room better than their company. When there is no use of them, there will be no room for them. For albeit, generally among all creatures, the males as most worthy do master the females, yet in *these* the females have the pre-eminence, and by the grammarians’ leave, the feminine gender is more worthy than the masculine.” There is something unavoidably ludicrous in the distresses of these poor Jerry Sneaks. Having lived in a land of milk and honey all the summer long, partaken of the best of everything, without even stirring a foot towards it, coddled and coaxed, and so completely “spoilt”, that they are fit for nothing, who can see them “taken by the hind legs and thrown down the stairs” with a heap of workers on the top of them their vain struggles to return - their sly attempts to creep in stealthily - their disconsolate resignation at the last - without thinking it is a just retribution for the past years of a pampered and unprofitable life? And yet there is mingled with this feeling a degree of pity for these “melancholy Jaqueses” thrown aside (we mix our characters as in a masquerade) by the imperious and unrelenting Catherine of the hive. “At first, not quite forgetting their old familiarity, they gently give them Tom Drum’s entertainment: they that will not take that for a warning, but presume to force in again among them, are more shrewdly handled. You may sometimes see a handful or two before a hive which they had killed within; but the greatest part fly away and die abroad”.