



# 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

## THANK YOU, SANDY AND LILIAN

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Sandy and Lilian Gordon are finally hanging up the shop keys after running the association Honey Jar Store for an astonishing 34 years! Over that time, many hundreds of ADBKA members will have visited Danestone Market Garden to borrow equipment or to stock up on jars, syrup, candy and more. No one went along without taking the chance to tap Sandy for advice and guidance on some or other beekeeping challenge, and our association has been enriched by his wisdom and experience.

Voluntary organisations such as ours can only operate with the generosity and goodwill of those members willing to give their time and energy in undertaking the huge amount of work that goes on behind the scenes. There can be no finer example of that commitment than the contribution that Sandy and Lilian have made to Aberdeen and District Beekeepers' Association. For that, we offer our sincere, heartfelt thanks.

But fear not, Sandy will continue to manage the loan equipment held at Danestone (see page 2), so you will still have an excuse to visit and to quiz Sandy on how he goes about building up such strong colonies and how exactly he gets that exceptional return from the heather year after year!

From the beginning of March, you can purchase and collect candy and syrup from three locations: Longside, Muir of Fowls and Crathes. Please contact, respectively, Erling Watt, Joan Gilbert-Stevens or Graham Torrie. Contact details are given on page 2.  
  
Honey jars will be available from Crathes.

**Why not pre-order your candy or syrup and collect it when you attend our talk at the Kinellar Hall on Saturday 20 February? See page 4**



*The miserable weather we will almost certainly get this month is a good time to assemble and repair your kit*

*Time is running out to renew your ADBKA subscription. If you need a renewal form, contact Graham on 013398 82038, or email adbkanewsletter@btinternet.com*

### FEBRUARY CHECKLIST:

- ✓ Keep monitoring state of hives and level of stores

Keep January's check list in mind: look out for hives being knocked over by high winds or dislodged by flooding; if we do get snow this month, make sure you keep hive entrances clear; check that your colonies have sufficient stores - this unseasonably mild weather will have resulted in the bees being more active than usual for this time of year, and so consuming more of their stores - if in doubt, place candy directly onto the tops of the frames where the bees are clustered

- ✓ Check your stored combs for wax moth damage – re-use sulphur burner if necessary

Look through your stores brood boxes and supers every three or four weeks - see more on wax moth on page 3

- ✓ Plan for necessary equipment this year, assemble frames and hive parts

The active season will be upon us in no time at all. Now is the time to get to work on your new frames and hive parts, and to repair and refurbish old and damaged equipment. Don't forget to keep your foundation in the sealed packet, or in a plastic box with a lid, until it's time to use it. If you fit your new frames with foundation just now, come summer it will be dry and brittle and the bees will be reluctant to draw it out.

## Members' Events

TALK:  
**NEONICOTINOIDS AND THE  
HONEY BEE**

- Nick Balfour,  
*Sussex University*

Saturday 20 February 2016 at 2.00pm

The Kinellar Community Hall, Fintray  
Road, Blackburn AB21 0SS

TALK:  
**PREPARING HONEY AND WAX  
FOR SHOWING**

- Alan Riach  
*Vice President, SBA*

Saturday 12 March 2016 at 2.00pm

The Kinellar Community Hall, Fintray  
Road, Blackburn AB21 0SS

## SPRING LECTURE SERIES

In response to the keen demand for our autumn lectures last year, we are very pleased to announce that we will be running the programme again this spring. To be held at Inverurie Academy, Jackson Street, Inverurie, AB51 3PX, the dates and topics are:

- 11 February: The Biology of the bee
- 18 February: The Beehive
- 25 February: What do I need to keep bees?
- 03 March: The products of the hive
- 10 March: Help – there's something wrong with my bees!
- 17 March: The beekeeping year

Starting each evening at 7.30pm, 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.

It is our intention to offer attendees the opportunity to take part in hands-on beekeeping sessions at our Crathes apiary on the conclusion of the programme.



*Apis mellifera*

Explore more stunning bee photographs at  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/usgsbim/>

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:adbkanewsletter@btinternet.com)

**CRATHES AB31 5QJ**

CANDY  
AND  
SYRUP

CANDY  
AND  
SYRUP

CANDY  
SYRUP  
& JARS





**KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED FOR SIGNS OF WAX MOTH**

Pictures, clockwise from above:

- i. adult wax moths, males on the top, females below; Greater Wax Moth (*Galleria mellonella*) on the left, Lesser Wax Moth (*Achroia grisella*) on the right [photo credit: Lyle Buss, University of Florida]
- ii. silk trails on face of comb, left by burrowing wax moth larvae [photo credit: Vita Europe Ltd]
- iii. 7-9mm long, boat-shaped indentations in wall of brood box, made by Greater WM larvae preparing to pupate



**MAKE YOUR OWN BEE COAT!**

Alternatively, take advantage of a generous 20% discount for ADBKA members on BBwear's clothing range.

**A BEE-COAT**

One of the things with which the bee-keeper should provide himself is a coat with roomy pockets to be worn exclusively



FIG. 13

during bee-garden work. This should be fashioned to button right up to the neck, like a soldier's tunic, with a collar like that in the illustration, as this allows the bee-veil to be tucked in all round, with much more certainty and ease than the ordinary civilian step-collar. The coat has four large pockets with button-over flaps, and these are ready filled with articles likely to be wanted during work among the hives.

**BBwear DISCOUNTED CLOTHING OFFER**

In order to get the 20% discount, you will need to contact BBwear directly, by email at [sales@bbwear.co.uk](mailto: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.)



Part of the clothing range available at 20% discount to ADBKA members



**Kemnay Community Bee Group** (KCBG) was established by Alan Simpson, a very experienced Kemnay beekeeper, in the summer of 2014 to complement the activities of the Aberdeen and District Beekeepers' Association. Local people aspiring to keep honey bees are mentored by more experienced beekeepers to help them learn and refine the mystical art of beekeeping.

The group currently has around sixteen members who meet regularly during the summer months at a small apiary site (Dalmadilly Quarry) in Kemnay where novice beekeepers can gain some hands on experience. New members are encouraged to join ADBKA and to attend their beginners' lecture series - the next of which will be held in Inverurie starting this month - and to go along to their regular beekeeping talks in Kinellar Hall. ADBKA and the Tarland Bee Group have also provided valuable advice and guest speakers.

For more information, or to contact the group, go to: <http://www.kemnaybees.org>

**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

### Aberdeen Bee Supplies

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

### APIARY SITE WEST OF ABERDEEN

If you are interested in **siting one or more hives** in a 3/4 acre garden in Milltimber, contact Marnoch Johnston on 01224 2646

### BEE PACKAGES, INCLUDING MATED QUEEN

£130 for one, but more than 15 would be £85 each.  
Telephone Sebastian Bacz on 07543270350 or 07415449400; email [bee@benshoney.co.uk](mailto:bee@benshoney.co.uk)

If you're planning on coming along to the talk at Kinellar Hall on 20 February by Nick Balfour from Sussex University on the subject of 'Neonicotinoids and the Honey Bee', perhaps you would like to **pre-order candy and/or syrup** and pay and collect at the event.

**2.5kg tubs of RAGUS Bee Candy cost £5.50; 12.5kg containers of Ambrosia Syrup cost £15**

Orders are being taken by Alison Goss and should be notified to her by Monday 15 February. You can email Alison at [alagoss@aol.com](mailto:alagoss@aol.com) or telephone 01224 868566.

*Please note that in expectation of a big turnout for this talk, it will be held in the larger of the two meeting rooms in Kinellar Hall*

## According to.....

..... Tickner Edwards, discussing the ancient myth that honey bees emerged spontaneously from the rotting carcasses of dead oxen, in his 1908 book *The Lore of the Honey Bee*: "It is on record that the experiment was carried through with complete success by a certain Mr. Carew, of Anthony, in Cornwall. The practice, moreover, was of infinitely greater antiquity than even Virgil supposed. He was probably right in giving it an Egyptian origin, and this alone may date it back thousands of years. In Egypt the custom had a curious variant. The ox was placed underground, with its horns above the surface of the soil. Then, when the process of generation was presumed to be complete, the tips of the horns were sawn off, and the bees are said to have issued from them, as out of two funnels.

Nearly all the ancient writers, with the exception of Aristotle, mention the practice in some form or other. Varro, writing half a century before Virgil, says, 'it is from rotten oxen that are born the sweet bees, the mothers of honey.' Ovid gives the story of the Egyptian shepherd Aristaeus as enlarged upon by Virgil, and adds some speculations of his own. He suggests that the soul of the ox is converted into numberless bee-souls as a punishment to the ox for his lifelong depredations amongst the flowers and herbage, the bee being a creature that can only do good to, and cannot injure, vegetation."