



Newsletter

October 2021



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

ADBKA 2021 CONVENTION

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Arrangements for our 2021 Convention are well underway and we are looking forward to seeing ADBKA members and beekeepers from further afield come together on **Saturday 6 November** to enjoy a day of stimulating lectures and conversation on our shared passion!

The convention is a full day event where we can hear from top beekeeping experts and cover subjects in more depth than is possible at our normal short meetings. The day will include talks by Lead Scottish Bee Inspector Luis Molero and by former bee inspector and leading BBKA member from Cheshire Graham Royle.

Luis Morelo will give a Scottish Government Honey Bee Health update in the morning. He will cover disease control, bio security and good disease management practices, and how to do a foul brood inspection.

In the afternoon Luis will talk about the increasingly hot topic of the Impact of managed honey bees and responsible beekeeping.

Graham Royle will talk in the morning about Skyscraper Beekeeping - how do you build up colonies that gather so much honey you need a ladder to add supers to them? In the afternoon his talk "If Heath Robinson were a Beekeeper" will show us how to improvise and save money in this often financially ruinous hobby!

We will have a stand selling honey from the Crathes Apiary bees; Graham will be bringing the ADBKA Library for everyone to see what we have available and members will be able to borrow books on the day as well. Bee Cabin will also have a stand and will be bringing a selection of smaller items for sale. Bee Cabin are happy to take pre-orders to bring to the convention and will be accepting wax exchange at the event. Parking on site will be free of charge and all attendees will be entered into a free raffle for an Abelo Poly Hive!

Tickets are £25 to include lunch and tea/coffee, available via Eventbrite now:

<https://bit.ly/3ugwh9F>

Congratulations to the following ADBKA members who have recently passed SBA written and practical exams:

Junior Beekeeping Certificate - Morven Sim; Basic Beekeeping Certificate – Sonya MacPherson, Paul Sim; Module 1 – Hazel Christie, Laura Jennings, Ronan Jennings, Michael Legge, James Paterson, Carol Robertson; Module 3 – James Paterson, Lorraine Van Der Heijdt; Module 5 – Joan Gilbert-Stevens

2021 HONEY SHOW

Kinellar Community Hall, Blackburn

SATURDAY 9 OCTOBER 2021 AT 2.30PM

Drop off your entries at the Kinellar Hall between 5.00pm and 6.30pm on Friday 8 October or 9.00am and 10.30am on the morning of the show.

The Honey Show is open to both members and non-members from 2.30pm.

Remember, even if you haven't entered this year, come along anyway and enjoy looking around the exhibits and meeting friends old and new.

ABERDEEN AND DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL HONEY SHOW

Saturday 9 October 2021 at 2.30pm

Kinellar Community Hall, Blackburn

- See front page for more information.

The Honey Show Schedule was distributed with the September newsletter. It can be downloaded from our website at: www.aberdeenbeekeepers.net

ABERDEEN AND DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

2021 CONVENTION

Saturday 6 November 2021

9:30am – 4:00pm

Aberdeen Airport Dyce Hotel | Sure Collection by Best Western

Farburn Terrace, Dyce, AB21 7DW

Book via Eventbrite now:

<https://bit.ly/3ugwh9F>*- See front page for more information.***THIS MONTH IN THE APIARY: OCTOBER**

By the time you read this in early October, your winter preparations should be complete, perhaps with the exception of removing varroa strips if you used that form of treatment. Apart from a mid-winter varroa treatment and adding further food in due course, there are few good reasons to open the hive between now and next spring. The bees will still fly on sufficiently warm days but these obviously become less frequent the deeper we get into winter.

Sometime soon after you have finished feeding, you might wish to heft your hives. This means lifting the hive at one edge (usually the rear, tipping it forward) and sensing the weight of the hive. It takes a bit of practice and experience but you can roughly assess the consumption of stores throughout the winter by periodic hefting. You will find that consumption usually progresses slowly and steadily through the winter, but accelerates rapidly once the queen is laying and the bees are more active from say mid February onwards; the hives noticeably lighten quite quickly.

Please be sure to **remove your varroa treatment on schedule**. Leaving it in potentially allows the mites to become accustomed to a sub-lethal level of treatment and thus risks development of an evolved resistance to treatment with time. This benefits nobody.

You should inspect your hives every so often to check that everything is as it should be and there is no damage from the more unusual pests such as woodpeckers and badgers.

Between now and the start of the active season next year you will want to clean your kit and maintain your equipment. Don't put it off! See the earlier February and March articles in this series for information on cleaning kit. We'll cover hive equipment next month.

A bit of sunshine does the colonies a lot of good, especially in late winter/early spring. Now might be a good time to consider the aspect of the hives and for example trim any branches and/or remove any unnecessary obstacles that might be in the way. When the bees are confined to their hives for extended periods in the dead of winter, the hives can be freely moved within the apiary, ignoring the 'three feet' rule, as the bees will reorient when they recommence flights.

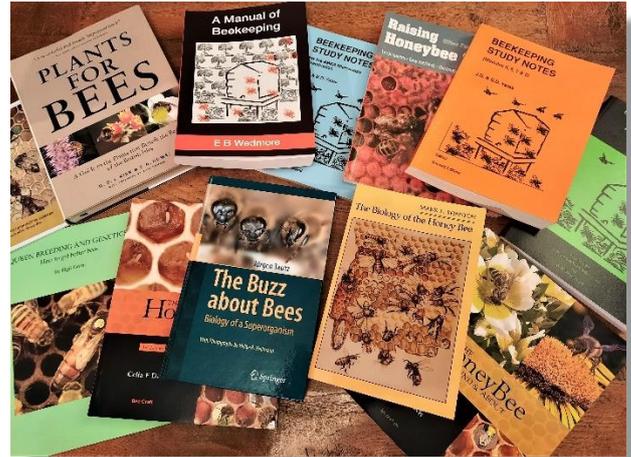
Bee for Book

We have recently acquired some brilliant new titles for our members' **lending library**. Whether you're studying for the beekeeping modular examinations, or just looking for a good read over the winter months, why not borrow a book from our library?

Check out our library catalogue on our website at www.aberdeenbeekeepers.net/books/

We will have our library books available for members to borrow at the Honey Show on Saturday 9 October and at our Convention on Saturday 6 November.

Get your reading glasses looked out!



Aberdeen and District Beekeepers' Association (SCIO)

Home About ADBKA ▾ Beekeeping ▾ Events News Help and advice with swarms Contact

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ADBKA

Aberdeen and District Beekeepers' Association is a venerable beekeeping association with a [long history](#) of teaching and supporting beekeepers here in the north east of Scotland. Our legal form is a 'Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation', governed in accordance with a constitution approved by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator and adopted by members in January 2015. A copy of our constitution can be found [here](#).

Follow Blog via Email

Enter your email address to follow this blog and receive notifications of new posts by email.

FOLLOW

As well as keeping up to date with ADBKA activities, events, beekeeping news and information through our monthly newsletter, don't forget that there are other ways to keep in touch.

Lots of our members are active on our Facebook page. Just search for Aberdeen Beekeepers at www.facebook.com

And don't forget our fantastic **website** at:

www.aberdeenbeekeepers.net

On the Home page, you can sign up to receive email notifications of new posts on our Blog. That way, you can be sure you don't miss the latest beekeeping news.

We Need to Talk About: **Drones** Part 2

Ponder this: we all know that a drone doesn't have a father – it's born from an unfertilised egg and has only half the number of chromosomes of queens and workers. However, it does have a grandfather due to the fact that its mother, the queen, is born from a fertilised egg.

Now we also know that drones don't survive from one year to the next; the workers eject them in the autumn. Except that, sometimes they can avoid eviction and you come across one or two wandering in the hive at your first spring inspection. Given that, do you think it's possible that a drone can ever bump into its grandfather?

And while you're at it: see if you can work out how many great-grandfathers a drone has.

Answers in next month's newsletter.



Aberdeen Bee Supplies

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

BEE CABIN

BEEKEEPING SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

WE'RE HERE FOR ALL YOUR BEEKEEPING NEEDS

DESS, ABOYNE AB34 5BB

Bee Cabin will be closed during the winter from 1st November 2021 until and including the 1st of March 2022. During this closure period, we will be offering a limited service to beekeepers for the supply of bee feeds, treatments and equipment arranged and collected by appointment.

Thank you all for your continued support, we look forward to serving you in store in 2022. For any queries or to arrange collection please call Colin on 07809229375 or email beecabin@gmail.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

EQUIPMENT

- Flat pack Nat. hives (W. Red Cdr.), OMF floor, brood body, 2x supers, crown board & flat roof (w. metal): £165
- Poly nucs: £36
- Brood frames (Hoffman) x10: £12
- Brood foundation (wired) x10: £15
- Hive tools (s/s) trad. pattern: £8

Can deliver locally.

Enquiries: (01224) 580137

aberdeen.honeybees@gmail.com

A Beekeeping Alphabet

J is for June Gap

A period when nectar sources are scarce - spring sources of nectar have largely finished but summer sources are not yet yielding. Bees risk running short of stores so be prepared to feed, especially if the gap coincides with extended poor weather. The June gap is notionally a week or two at the beginning of June but of course timing and duration varies from year to year - sometimes barely discernible but occasionally an extended period of difficulty.

Ian Mackley

