

THE BUZZ

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE INVERNESS-SHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION



The grand opening of Inverness-shire Beekeepers Association was a tremendous success.

Inside This Issue:

Fred's Shed _____	2
Plants for Bees _____	4
The Buzzing Bee _____	7
Honey Show Details _____	8
What to do in... _____	12
Notice Board _____	14
The Back Page _____	16

Fred's Shed

Charlie Moir

For many years Inverness Beekeepers have enjoyed the hospitality of The College of Forestry, and we have sited our main apiary there. With the refurbishment of the site, enhanced facilities and upgraded buildings, came enhanced security and a perimeter fence - unfortunately for us. Access to the site outwith normal working hours became more difficult, and while we still have excellent relations with the College, a decision was made to try to relocate our main operations elsewhere. The old bee shed and one hive remain there for student teaching purposes.

A chance conversation between Elizabeth Reynard and Steve Sunderland, Senior Scottish Government Bee Inspector, at The Highland Show turned up an offer from Scottish Gov. Bull Stud at Knocknagael to site our hives there. A suitable site in a disused mill pond could be utilised near the main buildings. There was much discussion about the size and shape of the building (including cardboard scale models by Bryce). With every discussion the bee shed seemed to get bigger and bigger (as did the budget!) Eventually a wooden building 4m by 10m was agreed and Fred Millwood (who happened to be looking elsewhere at the time) was appointed as Clerk of Works.



The site for the building was levelled by Colin Robertson and his digger and hard core laid. The contractors had the structure completed by the end of January 2017. Bryce and Elizabeth were getting a new kitchen, so the old units were carefully dismantled for recycling to the bee shed. I had a brief conversation with President David at Rotary one day when he asked if I had contacts for a joiner to re-assemble the units for a modest fee. (I should have seen this one coming considering how long I have known David). "Surely, I said, any competent DIYer could put up a few cupboards?" So that is when I became involved. But thanks to help from Bryce and Fred the shed was ready, complete with running water, by the beginning of April. Fred and Bryce built the shelter wall around the hives, and the bees moved in 2 weeks before the grand opening ceremony on 21st April 2018.



David Brown brought his barbeque and Susan King and Helen Macleod organised rolls, tea and coffee. The new apiary manager, Des Kelly, arranged a generator to help in the grand clean up beforehand and provide hot water for teas on the day. The new shed was much admired. The formal opening was made by Steve Sunderland. Later in the day David

acknowledged the hard work of Fred Millwood in keeping the momentum going on the project by christening it 'Fred's Shed'.

The Club's thanks go to the Stud Manager John Cowan, for giving us the use of the site.

So what of the future?

More planting around the site is needed, Sue has brought shrubs from Highland Liliums to start, various members have promised more for planting later in the season.

We have held a couple of committee meetings in the shed already, but we may need to address the issue of electric power if this is to be a regular venue throughout the year.

What else – a bar maybe, a hot tub for Des to relax in after tending the bees – who knows.....

All suggestions welcome.



Plants for Bees

Sue Webley

Plants especially good for Honeybees, Bumblebees, and other Pollinators.

Bees need nectar and pollen from flowers. Nectar is converted to honey for food for the bees and pollen is the protein used to feed the larvae. Not all flowers produce both and some produce none (mainly double flowers and blousy overly bred annuals), so the list below is intended to help you include some of the best plants for bees in your garden.

Try to plant more older varieties of plants that have not been too highly bred, and also pick a selection of plants that will give flower throughout the season, from early spring to late summer/autumn

Bumblebees have longer tongues than Honeybees and are able to access nectar/pollen from flowers that the honeybee cannot. Where I have put 'bumble' next to a listed plant that indicates it isn't suitable for honeybees.

Also be aware that bees see flowers very differently from us and are more guided by ultra violet light, so those flowers with petals that in UV light guide the bees to the important parts will be more attractive to bees.



TREES

Acer pseudoplatanus (Sycamore chestnut)
 Alnus glutinosa (Alder)
 Corylus avellana (Hazel)
 (Hawthorn)
 Fagus sylvatica (Beech)
 Ilex aquifolium (Holly)
 Malus (Apple/CrabApple)
 Salix (Willow)
 Tilia (Lime)

Aesculus carnea (Horse)
 Betula alba (Silver Birch)
 Crataegus monogyna
 Fraxinus excelsior (Ash)
 Laburnum BUMBLE
 Prunus (Cherry/Plum/Laure)
 Sorbus (Rowan)
 Pyrus (Pear)

SHRUBS

Amelanchier Canadensis (Snowy mespilus)	Arbutus (Strawberry tree)
Aronia (Chokeberry)	Berberis (Barberry)
Buddleja (Butterfly bush)	Buxus (Box)
Calluna and Erica (Heather)	Caryopteris (Blue Spiraea)
Cotoneaster (all varieties)	Cytisus (Broom)
Escallonia	Fuchsia
Hydrangea	Lavatera
Hypericum (St Johns Wort)	Hedera (Ivy)
Lavandula (Lavender)	Lonicera (Honeysuckle)
Pyracantha (Firethorn)	Rosa rugosa and Rosa canina
Ribes (Flowering currant)	Sambucus (Elder)
Skimmia japonica	Symphoricarpus (Snowberry, very invasive!)
Syringa (Lilac)	Ulex (Gorse)
Viburnum	Wisteria BUMBLE

Most fruit trees/bushes, but especially:

Apple	Blackberry
Raspberry	Plum
Currants	Cherry

HERBS

Mint	Chamomile	Chives/onions	Borage
Hyssop	Thyme	Oregano	Marjoram
Rosemary	Sage	Globe Artichoke	Lemon Balm

Avoid planting feverfew, it contains pyrethrum, a natural insecticide, and bees will avoid it along with surrounding flowers like the plague.

It is now recognised that the medicinal properties of herbs are passed into the honey produced. Anecdotally it is also said that people who suffer with Hayfever benefit from eating LOCALLY produced honey, which can help build an immunity to local pollen. Not scientifically proven.

HERBACEOUS PERENNIALS

Alliums	Aconitum (Monkshood) BUMBLE
Ajuga (Bugle) BUMBLE	Alcea (Hollyhock) BUMBLE
Anchusa	Aquilegia BUMBLE
Aster	Campanula
Calamintha	
Centaurea	Cirsium
Crocus	Cynara (cardoon)
Carlina acaulis	Delphinium BUMBLE
Digitalis (Foxglove) BUMBLE	Echinacea
Eryngium (Sea holly)	Echinops (Globe Thistle)

Erysimum (Perennial wallflower)
 Galanthus (Snowdrop)
 Geranium especially phaeum)

 Helenium
 Helleborus

 Lathyrus latifolius (perennial pea)
 Lythrum (purple loosestrife)
 Monarda (Bergamot/bee balm)

 Onopordum (Scotch Thistle)
 Penstemon BUMBLE
 Polemonium (Jacobs Ladder)
 Pulmonaria (Lungwort) BUMBLE
 Salvia (Ornamental Sage)
 Sedum spectabile
 Thymus serpyllum (creeping Thyme)
 Veronica

Eupatorium (Joe-pye weed)
 Gaillardia
 Helianthus (perennial
 sunflower)
 Helianthemum (Rock rose)
 Lamium (Dead nettle)
 BUMBLE
 Lupin

 Nepeta (catmint, ok if you like
 cats!)
 Papaver (Poppy) BUMBLE
 Persicaria amplexifolia
 Stachys
 Primula (Primrose)
 Scabiosa
 Solidago (Golden rod)
 Verbascum

WILDFLOWERS, WEEDS AND ANNUALS

Forget me not
 Kidney vetch BUMBLE
 Toadflax
 Bluebell
 Comfrey BUMBLE
 Clover red BUMBLE
 Woodruff
 Phacelia
 Wild Garlic

Self heal
 Bird's foot trefoil
 Willowherb
 Campion BUMBLE
 Clover white
 Meadowsweet
 Poached egg plant
 Blue Alkanet
 Dandelion

The Buzzing Bee

Alfred Lord Tennyson

The bee buzz'd up in the heat
I am faint for your honey my sweet,
The flower said "Take it my dear,
For now is the Spring of the year
So come, come!
Hum!"

And the bee buzz'd down from the heat.

And the bee buzz'd up in the cold
When the flower was wither'd and old.
"Have you still any honey, my dear?
She said "It's the fall of the year,
But come, come!
"Hum!"

And the bee buzz'd off in the cold.



Honey Show Details

Elizabeth and Bryce Reynard

**INVERNESS-SHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION OPEN HONEY SHOW 29/30
SEPTEMBER 2018** Simpsons Garden Centre, Inverness

Judge: Hugh Donohoe

Class Entry Description (one entry per class)

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1 | 2 sections of honey (not ling) |
| 2 | 2 sections of heather honey (ling) |
| 3 | 1 cap, eke or cog of honey |
| 4 | 2 pieces of cut comb honey (not ling) with a gross weight between 200-255g each |
| 5 | 2 pieces cut comb heather honey (ling) with a gross weight between 200-255g each |
| 6 | 2 @ 454g jars light honey (liquid) |
| 7 | 2 @ 454g jars medium honey (liquid) |
| 8 | 2 @ 454g jars dark honey (liquid) |
| 9 | 2 @ 454g jars heather honey (liquid ling) |
| 10 | 2 @ 454g jars set honey (not ling) |
| 11 | 2 @ 454g jars set heather honey (ling) |
| 12 | 2 @ 454g jars creamed honey (any) |
| 13 | 1 deep or shallow frame of honey (not ling) |
| 14 | 1 deep or shallow frame of heather honey (ling) |
| 15 | 1 cake of beeswax not less than 454g and 25mm thick |
| 16 | 1 display of a variety of hive products (2.5 to 4.1kg, min. 5 items) assembled by exhibitor and presented in any form of container with own label if desired (but excluding name and address) ready for marketing. |
| 17 | 1 bottle mead |
| 18 | 2 sections any honey (confined to novice beekeepers) |
| 19 | 2 @ 454g jars any honey (confined to novice beekeepers) |
| 20 | 2 pieces cut comb honey (confined to novice beekeepers) |
| 21 | 1 skep made by the exhibitor |

GIFT SECTION (Two entries per class allowed)

- | | |
|----|--|
| 22 | 1 section of honey (not ling) |
| 23 | 1 section heather honey (ling) |
| 24 | 1 @ 454g jar light honey (liquid) |
| 25 | 1 @ 454g jar medium honey (liquid) |
| 26 | 1 @ 454g jar heather honey (ling liquid) |

- 27 1 @ 454g jar set honey (any)
 28 1 @ 454g jar creamed honey

PRODUCTS MADE WITH HONEY (recipes supplied in the schedule must be used)

- 29 Devonshire honey cake.
 30 6 squares of tablet to be displayed

The first number on the exhibit label is the CLASS number.

The second number is your personal EXHIBITOR number and yours runs from..... to.....

Devonshire honey cake

Ingredients:- 250g clear honey plus about 2 tbsp extra to glaze. 225g unsalted butter. 100g dark muscovado sugar. 3 large eggs, beaten. 300g self-raising flour.

Method:- 1. Preheat the oven to fan 140C/conventional 160C/gas 3. Butter and line a 20cm round loose bottomed cake tin. Cut the butter into pieces and drop into a medium pan with the honey and sugar. Melt slowly over a low heat. When the mixture looks quite liquid, increase the heat under the pan and boil for about one minute. Leave to cool for 15-20 minutes, to prevent the eggs cooking when they are mixed in. 2. Beat the eggs into the melted honey mixture using a wooden spoon. Sift the flour into a large bowl and pour in the egg and honey mixture, beating until you have a smooth, quite runny batter. 3. Pour the mixture into the tin and bake for 50 minutes-1 hour until the cake is well risen, golden brown and springs back when pressed. A skewer pushed into the centre of the cake should come out clean. 4. Turn the cake out on a wire rack. Warm 2 tbsp honey in a small pan and brush over the top of the cake to give a sticky glaze, then leave to cool.

Tablet recipe

1kg sugar, 50g butter, 1 tin evaporated milk, 175g honey. Place all the ingredients in a pan and dissolve slowly. Boil till showing some signs of setting. Beat well with a wooden spoon till creamy. Pour into a greased tin and mark when cool

TROPHY RULES

OPEN TROPHIES

PETERKIN CUP

Best honey exhibit in show. (Excluding beeswax and Display).

McKINTOSH GRIGOR CUP

Most points in ling heather classes (2,5,9,11,14,23,26)

MARGARET LOGAN TROPHY

Best display of hive products (class 16)

HUGH CHISHLOM CUP

Best exhibit in Gift Section (classes 22-28)

NEWCOMERS SHIELD

Best exhibit by a novice beekeeper (less than 5 seasons) classes 18-20

INVERNESS-SHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION TROPHIES**MacKENZIE CHALLENGE CUP**

Best sections of honey in class 1

PETER BROWN SHIELD

Best exhibit in ling heather classes 2, 5

SILVER SPOON

Best exhibit in baking classes 29, 30

DONALD MATHESON QUAICH

Best 2 jars of blossom honey

All trophies to be retained for one year.

HONEY SHOW RULES

- 1 Entry to the Inverness-shire Beekeepers' Association Open Honey Show will be open to any beekeeper.
- 2 The entry fee per exhibitor is £3. Entry forms are available from the Show Secretary.
- 3 Entries are to be the property of the exhibitor and to have been derived from the products of the exhibitor's own bees.
- 4 Class number stick on labels will be collected at the show and must be fixed to each item as shown.
 Jars of honey – about 10-15mm from bottom of jar which must be standard squat glass honey jar only.
 Mead – about 10- 15mm from bottom of clear glass punted bottle of 70-75cl capacity with top flanged cork.
 Sections of honey – On top bar of section and container at top right hand end.
 Cut comb honey – On top surface at right hand side.

- Frames of honey – On top of right hand corner of face of container and on top of frame.
- Block of beeswax – On underside of block and on top surface of container when used.
- Honey cake and Tablet – On edge of white paper plate and cling film supplied by the Secretary.
- 5 Exhibits should be brought to the hall between 5pm and 6pm on the day before the show or between 8.30am and 9.30am on the day of the show. On request, grading glasses will be available for the correct placing of exhibits in the liquid honey classes. Misplaced entries are likely to be rejected by the judge.
 - 6 The judge's decision is final and the judge is empowered to withhold awards in the case of insufficient merit. Judging will start at 10am on the day of the show.
 - 7 All exhibits are entered at owner's risk and while all reasonable care will be taken no responsibility will be accepted for any loss or damage from any cause before, during or after the show.
 - 8 Exhibits must not be removed from the show until authorised by the show secretary
 - 9 The association reserves the right to cancel the show in the event of insufficient entries or for any other reason.
 - 10 Show classes 22 to 28 inclusive constitute the GIFT SECTION for which entries are invited. It should be noted that points gained in this section can go towards certain trophy aggregates. Gift section exhibits are retained for disposal to deserving parties as judged by the committee.
 - 11 Only one entry is permitted for any show classes with the exception of the Gift Section where two entries per class are permitted.
 - 12 Properly presented honey may be taken to the show for sale to the public but this service is restricted to Inverness-shire Beekeepers' Association exhibitors only. Selling prices will be fixed by the committee prior to the show and a small contribution will be levied for Association funds. Sale items should be marked with their weight where appropriate.
 - 13 A novice beekeeper is one who has kept bees for less than five seasons.

Bryce Reynard, Show Secretary 2018. Tel. 01463 225887.

What to do in...

June:

- Inspect bees as follows:
Inspect every 7-9 days for disease, swarming intentions, status of Queen, brood pattern and stores (9 days is the time it takes the bees to create and cap a Queen cell and decide to swarm). Temperature must be above 15C.

July:

- Inspect as above
- Watch out for robbing
- This is a good month to requeen (with mated queen)
- **Late July or early August (whenever the nectar flow stops):**
 - Remove supers, **harvest honey**, put wet supers back on and then remove a few days later when dry (taking honey now, i.e. quite early gives the bees time to create stores for winters and means you might not have to feed them for the winter)
 - Queen Excluder should be at the top above the brood box

August:

- Inspect as above
- Add entrance narrower
- If required start feeding

September:

- Inspect and look for:
 - Weak colonies. Colonies need to have bees over at least 5 frames to survive the winter. Weak colonies need to be either (A) overwintered and fed in a nucleus box or, (B), better to unite weak with strong colonies, as long as they don't have any disease. I have read only 50% of nucs survive the winter
 - String colonies are also queen-right and disease-free
 - Food stores – they need 18Kg of stores to get them through winter. Each standard national brood frame holds 2.5Kg of honey (and each 14×12 holds nearly 3.75Kg). Hence you need 8 (or 6) frames of honey
- Feed colonies as required (see above), further notes:
 - Use thick sugar syrup (2:1 sugar:water)
 - 1Kg of sugar will create 1.25Kg of stores in the brood box
 - I have queen excluder between the feeder and brood box so the Queen doesn't get into the syrup and possibly drown
 - Don't overfeed – you are aiming for spring balance to record a weight of 15Kg each side of the hive (less the roof) by the end of October. Allow for the bees bringing in nectar from ivy.
- Clean equipment prior to storage. Store and protect brood box, supers and comb from rodents and wax moth

October:

- Keep feeding until spring balance records a weight of 18Kg each side of the hive (less the roof) at the end of October.
- Remove queen excluders
- Configuration for the winter:
 - Adequate ventilation in order to get the moisture out of the hive (bees will get wet and cold otherwise):
 - If you have solid floors – then top ventilation required
 - If you have open mesh floor – then no top ventilation required and could cause too much draft
 - Insulated roof (means the warm air rising does not condense and drip down due to a cold roof). Some people have 5cm plus of insulation.
- Add mouseguard at the end of October (when bees are starting to cluster and not strong enough to defend themselves)
- Add chicken wire to protect hives wood peckers

Ref: <http://www.talkingwithbees.com/beekeeping-how-to-guides/beekeeping-calendar>

Notice Board

WEBMASTER FOUND!!!

Many thanks to our new webmaster Mark Paton.

Mark is a maths and IT teacher from the IRA and has volunteered to set up a new website for the Inverness-shire Beekeeping Association.

We have been in desperate need for a webmaster for a very long time so we cannot thank Mark enough for answering our cry for help.

THANK YOU MARK!!!

100% SCOTTISH RUNNY HONEY WANTED

There has been an enquiry through our facebook page by **Derrick Harris**, who is looking for **suppliers of 100% Scottish runny honey for a process with smoked salmon**, he's based in Inverness and I wondered if any of your members could help him please? His email address should you wish to contact him directly is

harris.d53@btinternet.com

AT THE MOMENT OUR PRICES FOR JARS, AMBROSIA AND FONDANT ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Ambrosia £14.50

Fondant £3.50

Jars (72 x 1lb jars with lids) £27

Jars (112 x 1/2lb jars with lids) £36.50

APIVAR IS NOW AVIALABLE AT THORNE!!!

Apivar, developed by the French pharmaceutical company Vétopharma, was registered in the United Kingdom in September and will be available in January. Apivar is an amitraz-based product and the worldwide Varroa treatment leader with more than 5 million hives treated each year.

Vétopharma products will be distributed in the United Kingdom by THORNE.

YOU CAN PUT AN ADVERT IN THE BUZZ!!!

Anyone wishing to advertise the sale of bees or beekeeping equipment can advertise in the Buzz.

The Buzz is distributed to every member of the Inverness Beekeeping Association.

If you are interested in filling this space with your advert contact Jed Russell via:

Jed.k.russell@googlemail.com