

# THE BUZZ

## THE NEWSLETTER OF THE INVERNESS-SHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION



Jars of honey are ready to be judged at the Inverness-Shire Beekeeping Association Honey Show!

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## The Honey Show

**Bryce Reynard**

The 2018 Inverness-shire Beekeepers' Association Honey Show was held again at Simpsons Garden Centre. This is a great location with very friendly staff – and it is free! The main challenge in setting up is that we (and Simpsons!) don't know where in the centre we will be allocated until mid-day on the day before the show as they are setting up for Christmas at this time of the year. Madness. In the end we had a super spot beside the entrance to the restaurant.



Our judge was Hugh Donohoe from Banchory, ably assisted by stewards Jed Russell and Margaret Bryant. On both days we had good teams of helpers complete with sashes to help with dealing with the public. There were 23 exhibitors with 54 entries compared with last year's 20 exhibitors and 56 entries.

It was encouraging to see a few new exhibitors and generally the standard was very high. No matter what the result is, everyone learns something. Beekeepers are a friendly bunch.



Des Kelly and Margaret Lashley fitted out the observation hive with live bees and a red marked queen. This is always a popular part of the show. Kay Kelly did wonderful face painting both days and not just for children's faces.

Bryce Reynard did some skep making demonstrations at times. Simpsons provided a colouring competition for children.

Quite a few of the exhibitors were able to sell their honey to a very appreciative public and 10% of the sales money will go to the association.

Fred and Jean Millwood won the Peterkin Cup for the best honey exhibit in the show. Stella Chisholm won the new Donald Matheson Quaich for the best two

jars of blossom honey and the silver spoon for her cake as well as getting a first prize for her tablet. Margaret Bryant won the Newcomers Shield. Bryce and Elizabeth Reynard won some of the other trophies although there were few entries in some of the classes.

Gift jars of honey have been given to non-beekeeping people that have directly helped in making the show a success.

Remember to come along to the prize giving at the association Christmas Dinner at the Lochardil Hotel on Friday 23 November.

Next year we want even more exhibitors and exhibits, so start your planning now.

Bryce Reynard

Show Secretary

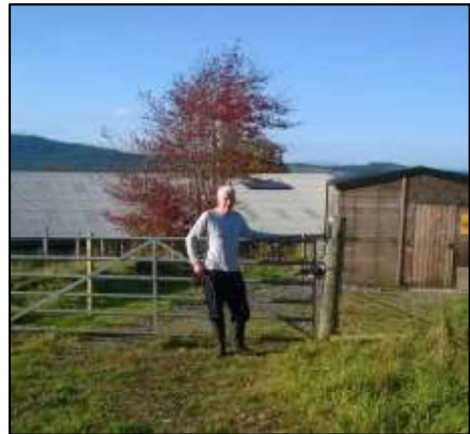


## A Fencing Masterclass

**Charlie Moir**

In October Des and I held our first ‘Fencing Masterclass’. There is no end to the training opportunities available to IBA members! Margaret Lashley and Mark Paton attended, and we were blessed with the best of weather on both days. We mended the fence along the road and put in a new strainer and entrance gate to close off the gap from the farm road. We also put additional wire down the field fence with the adjacent field. This will keep the site free of sheep this winter, so all our newly planted shrubs and trees will be safe.

More plants are always needed if anyone is throwing out surplus perennial plants or shrubs that might be useful grazing for the club bees.



There is still about the same amount of fencing required on a further side of the site which we will tackle next year at a further ‘masterclass’. Regular maintenance is also required at Knocknagael during the summer – with enough volunteers it should amount to no more than an hour of work on a weekend morning once a month – so keep an eye out for dates published on the website.

Come along and help the Apiary followed by a cup of tea and a chat about bees.....

Charlie.



## George Skinner

**Fred Millwood**

It is with great sadness that we are informing our members of the death of George Skinner, who died at home on the 15th. Sept. Age 86. Our sincere condolences' go out to his wife Kath, his sons and daughter, Garry, Andrew and Gail.

George had a life time experience of beekeeping, starting as a young boy looking after his uncle's bees, at Westhill, Culloden. However, it was at one of our earliest beginner's beekeeping courses, that he appeared with his wife Kath, and went on to become association members. Old style, looking to see what was new in beekeeping world. George then took on the role of dispensing Ambrosia, Fondant and pieces of equipment when meetings were held at the School of Scottish Forestry, Balloch. He and Kath were especially good at turning out to help at all public events. Kath giving a hand, serving out the teas and coffee.

George lived at Scorguie, Inverness, where he kept his bees, plus an out apiary at Connage Cheese factory, Ardersier. He was well noted for keeping good stocks of well-tempered bees. A sad lose to the beekeeping fraternity.

## Gardenfest 2018

**Rebecca Higgins**

Inverness Botanical Gardens hosted their first Garden Festival this year. A variety of groups and associations attended, and our association was one of them. It was hugely enjoyable and a great success for the Gardens with over 1500 people attending. They are already planning for next year and thinking of an earlier date of May rather than late July. Our Bee stand was extremely busy, rolling over 50 candles and fielding plenty of enquiries. We are now on their radar and hope it will become a regular fixture in IBKA's year.

Rebecca Higgins



# What to do in...

**Jed Russell**

## **November:**

- Take varroa counts
- Make sure hives are secure against the weather
- Take BBKA exams

## **December:**

- Dead bees might start to block the entrance. Take out the entrance narrower, sweep out the bees with the mouse guard and then replace the entrance narrower but with the entrance at the top, this means that the dead bees should not block the entrance as the entrance is now higher
- Oxalic acid treatment. In the UK research has shown that 10<sup>th</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> December is the optimal time to apply Oxalic Acid
- Feed fondant if required
- Check stack of stored brood boxes and supers for signs of rodents or wax moth

## **January:**

- The bees will consume about 24lb (11Kg) of stores in January – so check they have enough by hefting hive (don't open the hive)
- Read books, study for March BBKA exams
- Build hive parts
- Get all you DIY and other jobs out of the way in advance of the beekeeping season kicking-off

## **February:**

- The bees will consume about 24lb (11Kg) of stores in February – so check they have enough by hefting hive (don't open the hive)
- Undertake varroa count and plan treatment as necessary
- Read and plan the next 6 months, especially Feeding, Swarm Control and Varroa Management
- Order equipment and bees (from reputable supplier ... or a mate), as required

## **March:**

- Take BBKA exams
- Observe hive entrance for flying bees bringing in pollen
- This is the month when colonies often die of starvation. Weigh hives and feed bees if necessary
- When weather warmed up:
  - Remove chicken wire
  - Remove mouse-guards when the weather has warmed up and the bees are no longer in a cosy cluster
- Start new seasons Hive Record Cards

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

## Notice Board

### BEEKEEPING BEGINNERS COURSE 2019

#### **New Beekeeper? Unsure of where to start?**

If so the Inverness-Shire Beekeepers Association Beginners Course is the perfect place to start.

If you are interested, please contact:

**MOIRA CARSTAIRS - [Moira.carstairs@gmail.com](mailto:Moira.carstairs@gmail.com)**

**Home No. 01463 783834**

**Mob No. 07787 500 480**

### TABLE TOP EXTRACTOR FOR SALE – REDUCED PRICE!!

Every good beekeeper needs their own honey extractor.

#### **4 Frame, Table Top Extractor (sold by Thornes)**

**Like New – Barely Used**



If you are interested please contact,

**Jim Monro**

**Home No. 01463 231172**

**Mob No. 07709207045**



**MONTHLY STRIM TEAM VOLUNTEERS WANTED****Charlie and Des need your help!!!**

Beginning in SUMMER 2019 - they are looking for volunteers to join their monthly maintenance team at the Knocknagael apiary.

TASK WILL INCLUDE:

If you are interested, please contact:

**CHARLIE MOIR - [charliemoir@btinternet.com](mailto:charliemoir@btinternet.com)****Mob No. 01463 741618****EASY FUNDRAISING SUPPORT**

The Inverness-Shire Beekeepers Association needs your help!!!

**If you would like to help the association financially,**

**PLEASE VISIT: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?char=208763>**

YOUR SUPPORT WILL GO TOWARDS:

- **NEW TRAINING EQUIPMENT – USED TO TRAIN THE NEXT GENERATION OF BEEKEEPERS**
- **APIARY IMPROVMENTS AND REPAIRS – ENSURES ALL OUR FACILITIES ARE SAFE AND PLEASURABLE PLACES**
- **CLUB ADVERTISMENT – SPREADING THE BEEKEEPING WORD**

**GARDENFEST 2019 VOLUNTEERS**

**Gardenfest 2018 was a huge success but next year we need your help**

**HELP US TO SPREAD THE BEEKEEPING WORD, AND MAYBE EVEN SELL SOME HONEY AT THE SAME TIME!!!**

**For more details please contact;**

**REBECCA HIGGINS - [chrreb@icloud.com](mailto:chrreb@icloud.com)**

**TEL NO. 01463 861413**

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**

**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](mailto:Jed.k.russell@googlemail.com)**