

The Newsletter of Alnwick and District Beekeepers Association www.bbka.org.uk/local/alnwick

Issue 39

July 2015

ADBKA Disease Day 2015

On Saturday 9th May 2015 ADBKA held a disease and Nosema day at the Apiary. Ian Robson organised the event which enabled members to bring along samples of their own bees for nosema analysis and made full use of the newly installed container, which has been moved to its new position.



Sue Richardson and Sandra Carrott registered and organised the samples, ready for analysis, as members arrived during the morning.



Samples followed a methodical process, which started with grinding up each sample of bees and finished with microscopic analysis.





Special thanks to Richard & Shirley Bond from DBKA, who travelled up from Darlington, for bringing their expertise in microscopy and for showing us how to set up and run the "lab" in the container, as well as bringing the microscopes and equipment. Together with invaluable help from Valerie Hawley, we had a strong team of expert microscopists for the analysis. While waiting for the samples to be processed, there was the opportunity to learn about common bee diseases from other members, as well as drinking tea and eating the fantastic sandwiches and cake that Sue and Sandra brought along!









Grimes explained common pests and diseases, Bryan Cole covered notifiable diseases and Ian Jobson demonstrated comb change and sterilisation. The event was well attended with 34 members' samples being processed during the day. Thank you to everyone who helped and attended, it was really successful at raising awareness of the need to monitor for disease and maintain healthy colonies

Training

There has been a lot of activity on practical training and assessments during the season.

Between 18th and 27th of April the **basic course** took place. Here is the class of 2015!



Sonia Clark shared her feedback from the course with Alnwickdotes.

"George Eames, Master beekeeper from Durham, very kindly offered to take time out of his holiday in north Northumberland to run this - normally - six week course in a week. To qualify, our group of novice bee keepers had to have kept bees for at least a year. The aim of the course, George told us, was to make sure we have a basic understanding of bee keeping and bee diseases and we had the opportunity to ask lots of questions and consolidate the knowledge and experience we have. This year, for the first time, candidates are to be graded, rather than just receiving a pass or fail. On the last day there was a mock assessment at the Apiary at Bockenfield to give us an idea of what we were letting ourselves in for.

The course covered numerous subjects such as the life cycle of the bee, the bee keeping year, recognition of a healthy hive, disease recognition and Integrated Pest Management, swarming and first aid in the case of a bee sting. We were given very informative hand outs covering each section of the course.

The final mock assessment at the Apiary was taken by a brave volunteer from among us called Charlotte,

who allowed us to watch her being assessed going through a hive, building a frame and being questioned on what we had learned over the past week. Although George was her Assessor and was very reassuring it must still have been a bit nerve wracking. She passed but unfortunately still has to sit the real test in the next few weeks!

George is obviously passionate about his bee keeping and his enthusiasm cannot help but rub off on others. No matter how daft some of our questions were he was very patient and took the time to explain the Pagden Method of swarm control to the more confused of us several times! His partner of several years told me afterwards that he still sometimes asks her questions to test her knowledge!

As a group we would like to thank George for his time, his reassurance and his patience and I'm sure we all look forward to taking our Basic Bee Keeping Assessment this summer."

Practical training for beginners has also been taking place at the association apiary throughout the season, covering the Basic assessment syllabus.



lan Robson organised and Keith Grimes coordinated the training over the 12 week programme, which has involved training from experienced bee keepers, including: Ian Robson, Keith Grimes, John Hobrough, Sonia Clark, David Guthrie, Ian Jobson, Peter Edge, Glyn Scott and David Pearce.

Many thanks also to Brian Ripley and the apiary team for managing the colonies in the apiary and making them available for the training.





Nick Heggie shared his reflections on the Saturday training sessions with Alnwickdotes.

"Having attended Brian Ripley's comprehensive and extremely worthwhile "Bees for Beginners Course" during the dark Thursday evenings of winter, the opportunity to get gloves-on experience with the wee critters themselves at Keith's' Fun Park and Bee School over the past ten Saturdays, has been (genuinely) invaluable.

Obviously the skill and years of experience shared so willingly with us novices should stand us in good stead for the future but equally useful was the time to get acquainted with the absolute basics of practical bee keeping and discuss with both old and new, such imponderables as why a hive tool, what size bee-suit, just how much Campergaz does it take to light a smoker, and then, why does it go out the moment you need it??? These, as well as understanding a little on the correct way to approach and work with hives and bees (and occasionally, how not to) all made the whole course both instructive and enjoyable.

Both Ian and Keith, in their uniquely individual ways, are extremely able teachers and I would heartily recommend anyone who has not attended this year to try to make space for next year.

My only comment, and this might be my failure to read my e-mails properly, is that I wasn't to clear on the format of the course and indeed exactly at whom it was aimed. I suspect some of our co-novices may not have been aware that this was aimed at them and hence missed out on a really worthwhile opportunity!

On behalf of myself and my co-bumblers, many thanks to both Keith and Ian and all the other demonstrators for giving their time and wealth of experience to set us on (hopefully) the right path as future Beekeepers (or Beebotherers!)."

Following on from the **General Husbandry** course, which ran over the winter, three "mock" assessments were attended by 12 members of ADBKA and Hexham BKA, in May, as part of the training, run by George Eames. These were run at candidates own apiaries and involved inspecting honey processing facilities, practical hive manipulations and general beekeeping knowledge.







Ian Jobson shared his feedback from the "mock" assessment with Alnwickdotes.

"They say that the General is a big step up. Its true! Finding, Clipping, Marking and Rearing Queens, having a broad beekeeping knowledge and hygienic honey processing facilities requires a real effort in learning and practice, as well as an understanding partner! (Oh, and loads of gear, including a matchbox)!

I don't know if I have reached the level yet but I would recommend the journey to anyone with a passion to improve their beekeeping skills, even if they don't take the assessment. I have learned so much along the way by studying and preparing for the general husbandry and my bees and my neighbours have benefited as a result!"

Fabulous Beekeeping

Susan Hathaway shares with us the trials and tribulations of beekeeping and looking fabulous!

"Half five on Thursday, the last email done - I'm looking forward to a pedicure at six and a weekend away. A call from the other half: Frank's been on, your bees have

A call from the other half: Frank's been on, your bees have swarmed.

Can't miss the pedicure, it took some serious begging to get in the diary...

So I arrange to meet Frank at the apiary at seven and go and get filed and polished...

Gathering hives and getting into a suit and wellies with uncured nail polish on your toes is an interesting pursuit. At the apiary was a beautiful prime swarm hanging in a shrub 2 feet above the ground - a text book exercise. Box under, snip off a branch - WHAP - upturn the box on the sheet and wait for them to regroup... Twenty minutes later they are in the empty hive with a bucket of still cooling syrup and a makeshift crown board roof, but no frames as I forgot to bring any.

Home to bed for an early night before the weekend away? Nope, home to hammer into the night building half a dozen brood frames and a hive roof, after sourcing the frames from Helen across town. And the realisation when the wellies come off that one big toe nail was far from dry. Back to the apiary at 9am to put in frames and add the roof - the brood box already bearded with bees. As fast as I put the frames in, the girls climb out the other end of the box and five minutes later the hive has frames and a roof and the shrub has an identical swarm hanging 6" further along the same branch as last night.

Déjà vu.

We have to leave as we don't have the box and sheet, and we have a long drive ahead of us. Frank arrives an hour later and they've vanished.

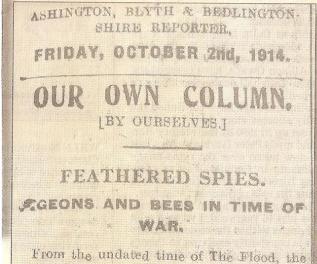
More begging at the nail studio..."





Bees at War!

Check out this article from the Ashington, Blyth & Bedlington Shire Reporter, printed in 1914 about using bees for battlefield communications!



From the undated time of The Flood, the dove, with the olive leaf in its beak, has been the emblem of peace; and the bee, gathering honey all the day, has been the pattern of industry, which, with man, as with that busy insect, thrives best when their conditions of life are calm and peaceful. Only now have the gentle dove, and the bee, the late and early worker, been commandeered to play a part in the raging and ravaging art of warfare. In a recent article dealing with Holland, reference was made to the fact that the military authorities of that country employ bees for the purpose of conveying, from one part of the country to another, messages photographed on their wings. The bees are taken from their hives and sent in small boxes to the frontier, where they are submitted to the photographer, and when operated upon are released. Their well-known homing instinct enables them to find their own hives, where they are captured by an ingenious arrangement, and on being placed under powerful magnifying glasses the messages are copied. Unlike the pigeon, bees cannot be shot or otherwise retarded, except by high winds, while making their journey.

There is no picture, "selfies" weren't around then!

Top Tips for August

Experienced beekeeper **Peter Rose** gave Alnwickdotes his ideas for August in the apiary.

"With the summer flowers now almost over it is time to start to think about autumn/winter and 2016!

Key tasks to consider are re-introduce entrance blocks to reduce the opportunity for robbing both by bees and wasps.

Remove supers, extract the honey and replace the wet supers ideally back on the hives from which they were taken. A box of coloured drawing pins are useful to mark both hive and supers with the same colour and using different colours for each hive. Placed above a crown board the extracted supers will be quickly cleaned. If using Porter bee escapes make certain these are cleaned, and the spring pins set properly such that the bees cannot return. There is nothing worse than to return to hives and find supers still full of bees because the Porter escapes were not 100% efficient.

Take a good look at your hive records and establish if there are any hives that need uniting. There are various criteria to aid assessment among which are how old are the queens, is the laying pattern good, how did the colony develop in the Spring, how strong is the colony now, what is the temperament like, do they follow, have they shown a swarming tendency during the year---and not because of beekeeping neglect.

The ideal colony to enter winter is one with a young queen and plenty of young bees and stores.

For medium sized colonies ie those covering only 4-6 frames of bees it is not to late to give them a 'stimulation feed' using 1:1 syrup to try and encourage the queen to continue laying and provide the maximum number of young bees for winter. It is best to feed small amounts regularly to simulate a nectar flow, rather than as a single feed.

If planning an autumn varroa treatment, are you prepared, with materials all available and dosing instructions read and understood?

Finally, all winter feeding should be completed by the end of September to be sure it has all been processed and sealed so that fermentation and possible winter dysentery avoided. Depending on the colony strength and winter temperatures/arrival of Spring each hive requires some 40+lbs of stores to survive, Fed now, emergency fondant treatment in February can be avoided."

Honey Recipe

Thanks to Helen Wright for providing another delicious recipe. This one is from the Guardian.

Honey Granola



Ingredients

- 150g honey
- · 60ml sunflower or groundnut oil
 - 250g rolled oats
 - 100g bran
 - 150g sunflower seeds
 - 100g hazelnuts
 - 150g dates
 - 100g dried apricots
 - 100g wheatgerm
 - · 100g sultanas

Preparation method

- Preheat the oven at 180C /350F /Gas Mk 4.
- Pour honey and oil into pan and heat until the honey melts
- Mix oats, bran and sunflower seeds, then pour on the liquid from the pan and mix well.
- Spread on baking tray.
- Roast for 20-25 minutes, turning 3or4 times.
- Leave to cool.
- Roast hazelnuts until golden brown, then roughly chop along with dates and apricots
- When cool, mix everything together with the wheatgerm and sultanas.
- Store in an airtight container. Lasts for about a month



Apiary Update

"If we measure the apiary year by honey yield, the year at the apiary has not been as successful as 2014. We did start with 20 hives in March but quickly into the new beekeeping year we had hives going queenless or becoming drone layers which reduced the effectiveness of some colonies.

By another measure we identified 12 hives for training purposes and whilst we had to make other hives available to the training groups generally from an apiary management point of view the system seemed to work well. In the early part of the year we did point out to the groups that it was their job to manage the colonies and not to report back to me or my colleagues Peter Rose or Bryan Cole problems that we had to manage and I think this proved to work reasonably.

I think the policy of managing colonies where queen cells were found worked well, we removed queens and made nucs before they swarmed and I am only aware of one colony where the training group identified queen cells, noted the fact but took no action

Two swarms have been caught and re-hived at the apiary, one of which is extremely aggressive and may not be of ADBKA origin. This has been subject to remedial action.

Again apiary hives have been used successfully for examination purposes, these are not selected randomly but are examined for suitability then set aside.

The beekeeping year at the apiary has been difficult. The cold nights seemed to prevent the bees from moving honey from brood boxes into supers causing congestion and subsequently swarm preparations. The weather also delayed our queen breeding efforts which were not helped by the late appearance of drones. We have managed at this late part of the season to rear queens from an apiary colony tested as 85% pure Amm, then mated at Edlingham with known black bees and also have taken delivery of a batch of queens grafted by Jim Rogerson and mated at an apiary further up the coast.





We are now preparing for the winter. We have already reduced entrances to minimise risk from wasps, have united 4 colonies, need to carry our temperament assessments and correct where necessary, including one extremely aggressive colony which we will resolve without opening the hive to minimise sting risk, but still benefit from keeping the bees.

Any supers will be removed during July, the bees benefitting from any nectar they continue to collect. It is likely we will again put ekes over the broodnest and allow the bees to draw wild comb if they wish. This seems to have two effects, extra food stores above the brood nest, readily accessible and more insulation crucial in the exposed conditions of Eshottheugh.

We are giving consideration to putting a solid floor over the mesh to prevent problems that were encountered during 2014/2015 winter caused by strong winds which caused the bees to move to immediately below the crown board and not cluster well.

The apiary management team will again try and go into winter with 20 colonies of equal strength and will again experiment with double height nucs which worked well last winter and hopefully complete all our main winter preparations by the end of September.

The Wednesday morning weekly tidy-up days have also been successful and much appreciated to keep pathways open and other plant growth under control, and thanks go to those who have helped with this work.

One major task before winter is to build shelters for the colonies utilising the pallets at the apiary. When the request for help comes please try and get there, many hands do make light work."

Brian Ripley, Apiary Manager







Members - Me & My bees

Alnwickdotes asked Charlie Selby to tell us about his experiences of beekeeping.

What's your experience and approach to keeping bees?

"As a teenager I started helping Bob Thompson with his bees near West Fleetham. He always kept his "brown" bees in the woods and did not wear a veil or gloves. I asked him why he was never stung and he said that it was because they knew his scent and he treated them with respect. I saw him accidently drop a frame once and the bees lifted from the comb but did not sting him. He used to buy wax foundation but all the rest of his hives and equipment he used to make himself.

Once I was nineteen or twenty other things took my attention away from beekeeping for a while, like family life and cricket! I returned to it around 1992. I took over 7 hives from a friend, George Curry near Newham, which had not been touched for years. They were completely propolised up and it took two years to get them right.

I did miss a year. The hives were near to a field of horses and one year bad weather meant that the field was flooded and getting round it meant going closer to the hives. I retuned one day and there were dead bees in and around all eight hives and I found a can of insect spray in a nearby bush. I guess that someone got stung and poisoned the bees.

In 2004 I replaced the colonies that had been destroyed by buying 4 Smiths hives from Bill Smith. They cost £200 at the time and I brought them back to Seahouses. Over time I converted them to





I was never short of swarms around the area. I'm not sure where they were coming from, maybe it was from bees moved onto the nearby oil seed rape, but I was always able to replenish my colonies with nice bees. I remember once just finishing a new hive with new foundation and putting it out when a swarm landed right on it and went in. I was really pleased with it, then the very next day I watched them all pour out and move into an old empty dilapidated hive with old comb next door to it!

The biggest year I have ever had was when I had 16 hives and got between 300 and 400 jars of honey from them, as well as some sections. We used to use sections a lot but you have to have really strong colonies to get the bees to fill them.

I also like to take my bees up to the heather each year. It appears to be really good for them. Even if you don't get a lot of honey in the supers, the brood box is always heavy with stores and the bees appear to do well on it over the winter. Although I do feed them with syrup too for the winter

What's your beekeeping goal for the future?

I'm cutting back a bit now. I'm down to my eight hives. I still look after my bees but I can't lift about full brood bodies like I used to.

What would be your hardest earned advice for other beekeepers?

My advice to beginners is that the best time to go into your bees is between 11 and 3 o'clock, when the foraging bees are working and resist the temptation to go into your hives too often.

I would also always say that if you are very gentle with your bees they will respect and reward you for it."☺

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Bees Overseas

This stall was spotted in Barcelona in May. The owner had a great range of honey and said he has hundreds of hives and takes his bees to the Rhododendrons in the Pyrenees each year. Apparently the hive at the front is a nuc hive!



Ben Hopkinson writes for Alnwickdotes:

"Four years ago I went on a most marvellous beekeeping trip to Turkey, organised by Bees for Development. (I spoke about it at one of our meetings and see the picture below showing some traditional Turkish hives alongside some Langstroths).





"BfD are running a safari to Vietnam this autumn, from 9th – 23rd November (dates in Vietnam) and I plan to go on it. I wonder whether anyone would like to come, too; it would be splendid to have ADBKA company. It is a wonderful itinerary which includes not only travelling the length of the country visiting beekeepers but also some river trips, beach and leisure time.

The cost is £1995 plus air fares. In Vietnam the price covers all travel, hotels and full board, excursions, airport transfers and English speaking guides.

I have the full details and the booking form. If you are interested, please get in touch: benjamin.hopkinson@gmail.com, or phone 01665 714 213.



BfD are also running safaris to Trinidad and Tobago, 11-21 January 2016 and Turkey, 23 July – 3 August 2016. Details from safari@beesfordevelopment.org"



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Out and About



On June 20th and 21st the national trust at Cragside held a "Bug Weekend". Sandra Carrott, Susan Hathaway, Ben Hopkinson, Steve Johnson, Iain and Barney Hay as well as June Byerley went along to represent ADBKA, with a beekeeping display and engaged some of the Children in simple candle making.





Felton & Thirston show took place on the 11th July 2015 and ADBKA had a stand to increase awareness of bees and beekeeping. Thanks to Sandra Carrot, Jan Broderick and Alan Culpitt and Iain and Barney Hay for putting on a great display.

Warkworth Show 22nd August 2016 Honey Section

Ben Hopkinson reminds Alnwickdotes of the upcoming show at Warkworth in August.

"Last year we had a record number of entries for this show. It is really worth while; you do not have to be an expert, you just have to enjoy your honey harvest and put some on show.

As before, there are classes for runny light honey, runny dark honey (including heather), set honey, a shallow frame, a small block of beeswax, beeswax candles and a beeswax model.

There are also two novice classes for those who have not entered a honey show before, for runny and set honey. The show judge is Willie Robson of Chainbridge Honey Farm."

Contact Ben Hopkinson for full details and extra entry forms: benjamin.hopkinson@gmail.com 01665 714213

www.warkworthshow.co.uk

Except Writing	Sections		
To be filled in by exhibitor and returned to the Entries. at 33 Warkworth Avenue, Warkworth, NE65 0TP (te register by email to entries.warkworthshow@gmail. Wednesday prior to the Show. Fees for emailed entrie before staging your exhibits.	l. 01665 711290). Alternation		
Each exhibit must bear its class and ex Please note late entries cannot be			
I wish to enter in class numbers:			
Exhibitor's name	Number of entries		
Address			
Post codeTelephone no:			
Email address			
Entry Fees: 25p for each entry up to a maximum of £3	.00. Further entries are fre		
Total entry fees enclosed:			
Cheques should be made payable to Warkworth Sho	w'. No cheques under £1.		
I agree to be bound by the rules of the Society:			
Signed			



Preparing honey for Show



Showing your own honey at a show can give you a great sense of achievement, satisfaction and recognition. It is also acknowledged as improving the standard of honey processing in the area. Here are some tips on presenting your honey at a show taken from BBKA Module 2 – Honey Bee Products & Forage.

Liquid Honey

- Ensure water content is well below 20% (the legal limit for floral honey - 2003 Honey Regulations)
- Judges will be looking for Clarity, Colour, Aroma, Taste and Texture.
- Make sure that your equipment is cleaned and sterilised and can not taint the honey in any way.
- After extraction and coarse/medium filtering (500-1500 micron) consider a fine filtering (200-500 micron) before
- If the honey has been allowed to granulate, warm it to 52 C for up to 48 hours in a warming cabinet.
- Remove any scum from the surface of honey buckets at every stage in the process, after leaving time for any bubbles to rise to the surface.
- Try to avoid intruding bubbles into the honey at every stage by putting sieves under the surface of the honey, running honey down the side of jars and avoiding honey pouring or dripping onto the surface of the honey.
- Make sure that jars and lids are perfect specimens themselves and are cleaned and sterilised.
- Be careful when filling jars to avoid trapping bubbles around the shoulder of the jar.
- Once the jar is filled, loosely put on the lid and put the jars in a bain marie, up to their shoulder, at 62 C for 60 minutes, to maintain its liquid appearance.
- Allow the jars to settle for several hours before removing any last bubbles which rise to the surface, with a clean teaspoon, then tighten the lids on the jars.
- Store honey below 10 C to prevent any fermentation

Naturally Granulated Honey

Some honey that is extracted directly from the comb, filtered, then bottled and allowed to granulate naturally, can be fantastic. However, not all honey will naturally granulate quickly with a nice fine texture with even colour and consistency.

- If your honey does granulate quickly to a fine paste with a great taste and even colour without any heat processing then get it in the show!
- You still need the same obsession about bubbles during the processing. Settling and skimming at every stage.
- Make sure there are no bubbles trapped at he neck during filling and allow to stand for a day at room temperature before removing any bubbles that surface.
- The ideal temperature for granulation is 14 C, so find a cool cupboard for this to take place, for between 2 to 4 weeks.
- If cooled too quickly granulated honey can "frost" so try to avoid rapid temperature changes.

Soft Set Honey

- For the rest of us with honey that sets like concrete or takes ages and appears to separate out, soft set honey can be the way to go!
- The "base" of the honey will make up approximately 85% of the final honey. If this honey is already granulated in a honey bucket, it is warmed to 52C for up to 48 hours, to remove any of its natural crystalline structure.
- The "seed" honey makes up approximately 15% of the final honey and we want this to have the consistency that we would like all of the honey to have. This honey is warmed to 32C for up to 24 hours, until it is pliable but not liquid.
- With the "base" honey at room temperature, the "seed" honey is mixed together with the "base" using a stirrer attached to an electric drill. Again keeping it below the surface to avoid introducing bubbles, until a uniform translucent colour is achieved.
- This mix will not go through a sieve so all sieving must be done at the extraction stage.
- The mixture is allowed to stand for 12 hours to allow bubbles to surface and be skimmed and then it is bottled.
- Once bottled it is again allowed to stand for 12 hours to enable the bubble skimming thing to happen.
- The jars can then be put into the 14C cupboard to allow it to granulate over the following 2 to 4 weeks.





Project Corner

This edition's DIY project is another from Ian Jobson who made this **Division Board**.



The division board itself is quite simple to make. The main board is a piece of ply cut to 460mm x 460mm square (by the wood merchant). I used 9mm marine ply but 6mm exterior ply would be fine. The bee space on the bottom is created with 18mm x 9mm strip pine all the way around. Above the board is a 18mm x 18mm strip all the way around with a 30mm gap in the centre of one side, which is filled with a piece of the 9mm bottom strip. This creates an easy to defend door way.

The outside edges were painted with two coats of cuprinol shades paint and the inside surfaces were given a coat of linseed oil.

I made one for each hive to use for swarm control this season. The method is very like a normal artificial swarm but rather than creating two separate hives, the body with the brood is placed above the new body of foundation (which has the queen and flying bees). The division board becomes the floor of the top brood body and the crown board of the bottom brood body. The division board entrance faces 180 degrees to the bottom one.

I like it because it's simple, flexible and uses less equipment. It allows the colony to be re-united once the new queen is established, or if something goes wrong! The strength of the colony is maintained and the "spare" queen can be put to good use elsewhere in the apiary.

Alternatively the top can be split into nucs by leaving 3 or 4 queen cells on separate frames when the split is done. ©

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Winter Programme

As we come to the end of the beekeeping season it's a good time to get the dates for the winter programme in your diary. The meetings start at 7:00pm in Swarland village Social Club, on the second Wednesday of the month.

Social Class, on the Second Wearlesday of the month.				
09 September 2015	Advice from the Regional Bee Inspector	Ian Molyneux		
14 October 2015	Top bar beekeeping & Bees for development	Nicola Bradbear		
11 November 2015	Beekeeping Wisdom	Willie Robson.		
09 December 2015	AGM			
13 January 2016	Quiz	John Hobrough		
10 February 2016	News from her Lab	Professor Geraldine (Jeri) Wright		
09 March 2016	Buffet			
13 April 2016	The Coming Season	Panel:		

Ian Mollyneux is the Regional Bee Inspector for FERA and he comes with important advice about beekeeping and he will also be very interested to learn from us how we have fared in the past season.

Nicola Bradbear is a great lady who founded Bees for Development, an international charity She is an expert in Top Bar hives and is President of the Apimondia Scientific Commission Beekeeping for Rural Development.

Willie Robson runs the Chain Bridge Honey Farm, which was started by his father. He has not spoken to us for some years and it is a privilege to have him with us again.

John Hobrough is long standing member of the association with over 50 years of beekeeping experience.

Jeri Wright is now Professor of Neuroethology at Newcastle University and research into honeybee behaviour has made her a world expert. She is always keen to share the progress and results of her work with local beekeepers.

