

# East Lothian Beekeepers Association

([www.eastlothianbeekeepers.org.uk](http://www.eastlothianbeekeepers.org.uk))

Newsletter 133

May 2005

The oil-seed rape is well into bloom and my bees are back hard at work piling through the hive entrances. Some are so heavily dusted in yellow pollen that they almost look like wasps! I can also report that your committee has met and arranged the following summer program:

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|-----------------------|---|
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> May  | 2pm Apiary visit to William Fife, 12 Kingston Cottages, Kingston, North Berwick   |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> June  | 1pm Visit from Edinburgh Slow Food to George Barton's apiary, Rhelonie, Jerusalem.  |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> June | 2pm Apiary visit to Mark Hedderwick, Gifford Bank, Gifford – the last house on the right hand side going towards the golf course.   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> July  | 10pm onwards Haddington Show – Association stall featuring an observation hive, candle rolling, honey for sale and educational displays   |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> July | 2pm Joint visit with Peebles Beekeepers Association to Pat & Isobel McErlean's Apiary. Meet at Duddingston Kirk car park. Followed by a tour of Dr Neil's garden. Bring a picnic. |

## Edinburgh Slow Food visit – Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June

We were contacted through the Association web-site by Slow Food Edinburgh – they are interested in food that isn't "fast". A party of 15 will be coming to George Barton's apiary for a

peek at the bees and the paraphernalia of beekeeping and to taste some honey related products. The more enthusiastic beekeepers the better! We hope to use this as a dry run for our display at the Haddington Show the following month. So please bring along your half baked ideas (and your fully baked honey cakes, honey scones etc.). Also, if you want to sell honey at the Haddington Show, please bring properly labeled samples to the Slow Food event. The same group will also be visiting George Hood in Ormiston later the same day.

## Haddington Show – Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July

Your committee is keen on grabbing a first prize for our display at this year's show. This is also our best way of educating the public about bees and honey and of attracting new beekeepers. Peter Radband has offered to repeat last year's highlight – his four-frame observation hive. We also plan to attract the youngsters with a table where they can make their own candles, and to attract anyone with a sweet tooth with a series of honeys for tasting. Mike Bain and I are producing a new introductory leaflet. All ideas and helpers welcome.

## Swarm Collectors

I have given the names of five Association members to East Lothian Council who are willing to collect swarms in their area. Let me know if you would like to be added to the list.

## Wanted

Sandy Murray wants a swarm for an empty hive 01875 870928  
Colin Russell has hives that need bees 0131 669 1790  
Ian Robertson would like to buy a heather press 01368 869671  
Margaret Dunning is looking for a veil and suit 01620 893058

### **For Sale**

Michael Saller, a Caddonfoot BKA member is having a sale of everything but bees on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May from 10am at Station House, 10 Station Yard, Clovenfords, tel. 01896 850293

### **Basic Beemaster**

Through the winter Mike Bain has led a study group at the Tyneside Tavern through the syllabus of the Basic Beemaster Certificate. Five members will be taking the test in June.

### **Association Apiary**

We are still trying to find a site for the Association apiary, which is currently kept at George Barton's apiary. We have to balance the danger to the public, with accessibility and the availability of forage. The committee decided against using Haddington House Garden due to the potential public danger.

### **Library**

Our modest stock of beekeeping books is very proving very popular – books can be borrowed at meetings or by visiting me. A list is in newsletter 129 and on the website. Kay Kemball has retired from beekeeping and has very kindly donated the following books:

Beekeeping for Beginners	A. Richard	1991
Principles of Practical Beekeeping	R. Couston	1972
Guide to Bees and Honey	Ted Hooper	1991
The ABC and XYZ of Bee Culture	A I Root	1990
Beekeeping – complete owners manual	W. Melzer	1989
An Introduction to Bees and Beekeeping	SBA	1980
The new starting right with bees	A I Root Co	1988
Basic Honey Processing	M Allan	1993

### **Bumblebee survey**

Anyone who would like to participate should look at the biological recording in Scotland website which also has an identification guide ([www.brisc.org.uk/bbsurvey.php](http://www.brisc.org.uk/bbsurvey.php))

### **Introductory Leaflet**

Mike Bain and I have put together a leaflet that we can hand out to the general public to introduce them to bees and beekeeping. If you have any improvements or comments send them to Mike or me please.

### **Membership list**

I have again produced a list of those members who are happy for me to circulate their details, together with some other useful contacts. I have enclosed an application form for those who have still to renew their membership. Let me know if you can receive newsletters by email – it helps keep our costs down!

### **New members**

We welcome the following new members: Maureen & Allan Cameron, Angela Paul and Ann Howarth who have been stalwarts of the Basic Beemaster sessions, Sandy Murray who used to dealing with the wilder bees of Zimbabwe, Hazel Crichton who is an 'amateur' with only 25 years experience, Adam Thomson and Felicity Kelsall.

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