



Spey Beekeepers Association Winter Newsletter

Dear All,

Most of our bees will have been flying recently and with the mild spells of weather the bees are more active in the cluster. Jim McCulloch reminds us that with the extra activity they will be using up their stores more rapidly than usual. So have a quick check of the level of their stores and if you don't have any fondant readily available its fine to use a damp bag of sugar instead.

- **Diary date – AGM and Bee Talks on Sunday 5th March**

Our AGM is on Sunday 5th March at St John's Episcopal Church Hall in Rothiemurcus at 1.45pm. We will also be having a talk from Jim McCulloch and an interesting presentation on other types of bees by Hayley Wiswell. The programme is as follows:

1.45pm Arrival

2.00pm AGM

3.00 pm Talk and display on Bees – not just honey bees, by Hayley Wiswell, etymologist with the Cairngorm National Park Authority.

3.20pm Break for tea and cake

3.40 pm Talk "Bees from early winter and into spring" by Jim McCulloch

4.45pm Jim will answer any questions.

There is no charge for the talks as they are supported by the Cairngorm National Park Authority. Many thanks to the CNPA for their assistance.

AGM

- We will have plenty to discuss and a new Secretary to appoint. Gerry has resigned as secretary but will continue to be a member of this association. That's great news as we have all benefitted from his vast experience during the past five years.
- After our successful application for funding from CNPA for our spring talk we have also received £1,800 funding from the People's Postcode Local Trust. This is for setting up an

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association apiary for meetings and teaching. We would also like to make it available to potential beekeepers in the locality that might not be able to keep bees on their own premises. Your committee is presently trying to find a site for this, probably in the Aviemore area, which is central for our members. More news on this at the AGM.

- Jennifer Lobban is researching setting up a programme for the education of local primary children into everything bees. Is there anyone who would like to help with this?
- We have been offered a site for a heather apiary for anyone who would like to take his or her bees to the heather in July. It is on an estate near Grantown and Jim McCulloch and I will be taking a look at it in the spring to see whether it is suitable.
- Other things to be discussed will include setting up a website and designing a logo.

I will send out an agenda nearer the time and hope you will all enjoy the afternoon.

Best regards

Bridget