

## Newsletter February 2024

Hi everybody, a happy new beekeeping year to you all and welcome to my first newsletter.

### Membership

First, let us welcome our new members: -

Fiza, Tim, Nicola, Jane, Steven, Kaushik, Jackie and Sophie

There is to be a Beginners course to be held on the 16/17 March and at present 10 members have signed up for it, if you have not and you think it might be beneficial to you, please contact Linda and book a place on the course.

Membership of the association at present is around 35.

### Honey Show

Regretfully the Honey show for 2023, following postponement has regretfully now been cancelled. So, if you have put any produce to one side for the show please eat it, sell it, drink it, or give it back to the bees. However, we are confident that there will be a Honey Show 2024, led by Heidi and ably assisted by Heather, Jackie and Graham.

### Social Media

Chris will do a beekeeping blog this year – it will be sent out by email

### Surplus Equipment and Stuff

The association has received a donation from Susan and Grant who have given up beekeeping, and it has been decided to offer it to members attending the beginners course for a donation and any remaining items to the wider association membership. All donations received will be donated to a charity or cause of Susan and Grant's choice.

Julie and Tony have some sugar that has been donated as the packets have been damaged, but perfectly OK for feeding to bees. The sugar will be at the February for distribution to members.

### Dates for Your Diary

Next all Member meeting 25<sup>th</sup> February at the Auchenmalg Hall where Beekeepers Question Time event will be held. The Panel to consist of John, Kevin and a.n.other

March - date to be advised (unlikely to be last Sunday as it is Easter Sunday) - Fiona on "propolis and hygienic bees and the benefits of propolis in apitherapy". This meeting will aid Fiona in her Bee Keeping qualifications as I believed she will be observed so a good turnout would most certainly be appreciated (more than 15 members required)

### Things to be done in February

We may start noticing signs of activity, workers bringing in pollen on mild days from snowdrops and crocus, which is a good sign that the Queen has started laying eggs, and workers taking cleansing flights. But winter has a long way to go yet! Checking supers, and honey frames are assembled and ready go is worth doing this month but most of all feed the bees, but not as I nearly did with a sugar solution but with fondant or a bag of sugar that has just been dampened and with holes in it for the bees to access. Leave mouse guards on.

Dougie

Chair