Dunfermline and West Fife Beekeepers' Association

October 2026 Newsletter

Edition 16: compiled by Jean Laird

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Changes to our Board of Trustees

Some of you will be aware that there have been several resignations from our Board over the last couple of weeks. For our Trustees the priority is to deliver our Winter Programme and complete the planning for next year's Beginners' Course. The new committee comprises; John Tulloch (Chairperson), Jean Laird (Secretary), Liz Hutchings (Vice Chairperson), John Hendrie (Treasurer) and Enid Brown.

Next year's bee keeping season will soon be with us and we are keen to bolster the numbers on the Board by welcoming members as new Trustees. If you think you might be able to help look after your bee-keeping association, please do have a chat with one of the team to find out more about what might be involved. You can contact Jean at our new email: dwfbaadmin@gmail.com

Finally, we would once again like to thank all the outgoing trustees for their hard work on our behalf over many years.

Association Christmas Dinner

Our annual Christmas Dinner will be held at The Well Country Inn, Scotlandwell, on **Thursday 19th Nov, 6.30 for 7pm**. We would love to see as many members there as possible. It's a great chance to have a wee celebration, to eat good food, in good company, and of course to talk about bees! Partners are welcome too. We are keen to gather numbers now so please complete this form by clicking on this link or email us at dwfbaadmin@gmail.com if you'd like to attend. We will send out details of the fixed price two course and three course menu choices very soon.

Dates For The Diary

- **5th November.** 7.30pm Portmoak Hall **Moths** with Duncan Davidson
- **19th November**. DWFBA Christmas Dinner, 6.30 for 7pm, Well Country Inn, Scotlandwell
- **3rd December**. 7.30pm Portmoak Hall TBC
- **7th January**. 7.30pm Portmoak Hall **Apitherapy** with Jean Laird
- **4th February.** 7.30pm Portmoak Hall **Reading a Colony** with Margaret Murdin
- **March** (date to be confirmed) SBA travelling speaker
- **1st April.** 7.30pm Portmoak Hall. AGM and Honey Labelling with Enid Brown

Winter Programme of Talks

We are looking forward to getting together on the first Thursday of each month for a series of interesting talks. Come along and enjoy these sessions with your fellow members. Remember to bring a mug with you as hot drinks and biscuits will be on offer and a £2 donation is requested to help with the cost of refreshments. All talks are held in Portmoak Hall and begin at 7.30pm.

For our first talk on November 5th Duncan Davidson, Backhouse Rossie Estate's resident moth expert, will talk about moths. Duncan has an incredible wealth of knowledge, having served as Butterfly Conservation Scotland's volunteer recorder for Fife for 13 years and the volunteer County Moth Recorder for Fife and Kinross for a decade.

With research showing the moths are more efficient pollinators than bees I'm sure members will be fascinated to know about these important nocturnal pollinators and how we can help them thrive.

Combined Fife Beekeepers Honey Show results

Brown Memorial Shield	Mhairi McRae
FBA Reid Cup	Michael Brand
Smith Medal	Liz Hutchings
Sandy Rattray Cup	Michael Brand
Smith Cup	Michael Brand
DWFBA Reid Cup	Michael Brand
Simpson Cup	Michael Brand
Rollo Cup	Michael Brand
Frances Brown Salver	Michael Brand
Hutton Trophy	Michael Brand
DWFBA Silver Cup	Liz Hutchings

Muirside Apiary Store Update

In September's newsletter we published a list of items that are available to buy or hire, from Muirside Apiary, by Association members. However, we omitted to give details on how to order items. Please email dwfbaapiarystores@gmail.com with your order or request. Arrangements can be made to collect items from the apiary or at Association meetings.

An order form will also be available on the DWFBA website where the full list will be kept up to date.

Other Association News

Fife Beekeepers Winter Programme: In addition to our own Association's winter programme Fife Beekeepers meet on the third Thursday of the month. Any members are welcome to attend. They are held at St David's Centre In St Andrews, KY16 8BP (What3words:///such.curls.motorist. All talks begin at 7.30PM and a donation of £2 is asked for refreshments.

Fri 16th October 2026 – Stiliyan Mihov on Apitherapy

Thurs 19th November 2026 – Gavin Ramsay (Colony Inspections & Disease Management TBC)

Thurs 17th December 2026 – Scott Herd on Bee Rescue & Managing an Apiary

Thurs 21st January 2027 – Murray McGregor (subject tbc)

Thurs 18th February 2027 – Sandy Waddell talk – Ilona Shilliday on Honey Bee Toxicology