



Buzzword

The Annual General Meeting.

Presidents Report:

This AGM saw Mr. Phil McAnespie outgoing as President of the Association, and Mr. Tony Riome elevated from Vice-President to President. Mrs. Joyce Duncan was nominated to be Vice-President, which she gracefully accepted while agreeing to continue as Victualler to the group, probably the most important role in the organisation. Mrs. Lindsay Baillie is continuing as Secretary/Treasurer meantime since no-one (including me) was brave enough to relieve her one of these tasks.

Phil described how much he had enjoyed his Presidency, feeling it had been an honour and privilege which had seen some interesting innovations taking place in the organisation. An attempt was made to change the way the Association apiary was managed by individual beekeepers agreeing to take responsibility for their own hive, each hive being differently sized i.e. single or double brood etc. Unfortunately this, like nearly all beekeeping activities suffered from the inclement summer weather, and no conclusions can be drawn as to which method is best, either in terms of number of bees or quantity of honey produced. Phil expressed his hope that next year things would be better, and that the number of hives will be increased. He thanked Tony for the use of his land without which there would be no Association apiary so conveniently located.

The new hut has proved extremely useful for storage. It needs creosoting again and some reorganisation inside. Phil was enthusiastic about the Carrick Academy pupils who chose beekeeping as their subject for their Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, saying how good it was to have young people interested in beekeeping and he would like to see more support for new members perhaps in the form of a mentoring scheme. He thanked all Committee members for their hard work throughout the year.

Secretary/Treasurer Report:

Lindsay commented on how it had been a poor year for the bees with very few good summer days. It would be useful to keep a note of number of hives lost by Association members; Varroa continues as a threat and we should continue to put pressure on the government for funding and comments had been referred back to govt. on their Bee Health Strategy.

Many thanks to members who hosted out-apiary visits.

Norwegian beekeepers may visit Ayrshire next year. We had no visiting speaker this year but hope to have Clive de Bruyn next year.

The number of members is now 62 with a good number of beginners. Tickets available for new classes in February. Thanks to Tony and Phil & co with beginners classes and those who gave other lectures.

Lindsay stated the apiary lost 1 hive and is now down to 4 hives. The beginners handled the bees on 7 occasions. Nucs could not be supplied to a number of people who had requested them. New hives and equipment was bought to improve the quality for next year. Two Sunday meetings were held as Saturday not always suitable, and this may be continued next year, although the people who requested Sundays did not always turn up.

continued

The AGM Continued.

Shows:

Association members attended numerous shows which involved Open Hive displays, Static displays and Candle making . Thanks to Phil and Joyce for the excellent new displays, and to all who took part in helping.

Public Relations:

Adverts placed in the Ayrshire Post have been useful in attracting new members. If you have any issues, please send to the Newsletter for publication.

Web Site:

This crashed in March. We now have a new ISP provider and can upload photographs. The site is easier to work with. Lindsay will try to keep it updated and would like feedback from members. The Buzzword will be posted on site.

SBKA: 5 members passed their Basic Beekeepers exam. Congratulations to Phil, Joyce MacAnespie, Jane, Lindsay and Suzanne.

Many Thanks to Tony for the use of his Apiary for the sessions which the Carrick Academy pupils used for their practical work. This was much appreciated as it allowed the school sessions to be kept separate from the adult sessions, and was less disturbing to the bees. The pupils also helped at the shows, and sold candles at school raising £100, winning the competition for Ayrshire Enterprise products. Problems associated with doing the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme are: not enough hives, bees are disturbed more and other schools now want to be involved! The past pupils now have the opportunity to become members of the ADBKA.

New Committee Member:

Evelyn was nominated to the committee and we extend her a warm welcome.

Grant Funding:

To be applied for this year for upgrading of Apiary and equipment.

Next AGM will be in November 2009 date to be decided.



Seasons greetings to beekeepers everywhere. As always a Topic for discussion please; if not you'll have to put up with mine. It's time for a break therefore the Buzzword is less than the sum of its previous parts this month. May you all have a lovely Christmas and best wishes for the coming year from Buzzword

Email bees5@btinternet.com

If you get fed up with what's on offer on TV go to www.ivanbrndusic.com.

The Association Social Night

Our warmest thanks to Lindsay, Bob and Lindsay's mum and dad for once again hosting a magnificent social night. The food as always was delicious, and judging from the noise and laughter in the room the boozy trifle was having a serious effect— you know who you are! The evening passed all too quickly; a lovely time was had by all. Thanks again Lindsay.



Heavens Abuzz

Ambrose, I hear the bees are in trouble. Unfortunately so Bernhard. What can be done about it Ambrose? I know not Bernhard, some of the best minds are working on the problem as we speak. What about asking someone here who really knows about bees? You mean Brother Adam? Yes - have you seen him lately? Why yes, he came floating by yesterday on a cloud of bees, some on his shoulders playing harps you know, and feeding him with honey. Really? My my - well let's have a meeting; you'll have to take charge of any decisions, I'm far too busy I'm afraid; what with the Pearly Gates needing a new coat, the Twelve Disciples all needing new sandals at the same time, and the cherubs asking for new cloudlets, I'm snowed under with paperwork. Thank goodness the Seraphims are otherwise occupied or heaven only knows what they'd be asking for. Now don't get yourself agitated Bernhard, leave it to me. We can meet at my cloud at seven o'clock tomorrow and in the meantime I'll speak to Brother Adam. If I can find Francis I'll ask him to join us, he might be worth having along for a few words of wisdom. Good idea Ambrose, and is there any chance we could have some of your delicious Rocky Road, you know what a sweet tooth I have! Of course my dear friend, and there is nothing like some strong coffee to accompany it I always think. Good, I think if we put our old heads together we might come up with something - its worth a try. Till tomorrow then.

to be continued....

Ambrose's Rocky Road Recipe.

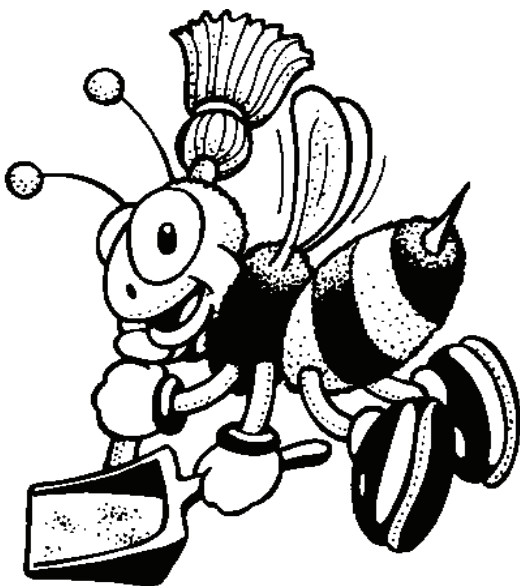
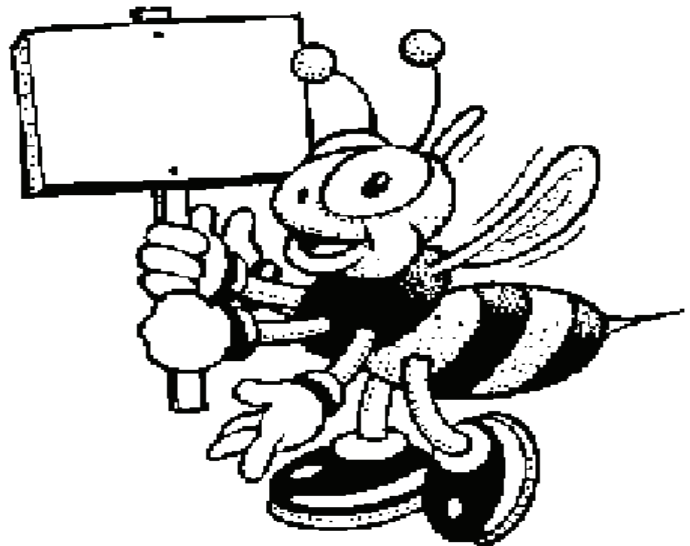
125g soft butter
300g dark chocolate
3 x 15ml tablespoons golden syrup
200g digestive biscuits
100g mini marshmallows
Icing sugar to dust if desired.



Melt butter, chocolate and syrup together. Reserve 125ml and put to one side.
Break up biscuits, and fold pieces and any crumbs into chocolate mixture in saucepan. Add marshmallows. Pour into tray and flatten with back of spoon. Pour reserved chocolate over and smooth. Refrigerate till set. Cut into desired sized pieces. Instead of marshmallows you could add dried fruits or nuts.

(with thanks to Nigella)

Colour In The Bees Below



Christmas Word Search

E N A C Y D N A C H T A E R W S S
 T H I S S N O I T A R O C E D H Y
 E G G N O G M E H E L H T E B E O
 G I F T S F R U I T C A K E T P T
 R E G N A M H F R I E N D S F H S
 S L T R E E I E C S C S R R S E E
 T S H N E G A S A A E A A A T R J
 H A R A S E N N T L N N R A T D E
 G I E G S E T I C L K D K O G S S
 I T E G L A K I K I E S L O L T U
 L T W O B E C A N C O T L E N S S
 F E I B E I I C L G O D O E S N J
 A S S O L L E R A F C T M E M O O
 M N E T L N B N B N W A S Y A W S
 I I M T S O G A B A N O R E R M E
 L O E E J E O L T R G R N D Y A P

Y P N Y L L O H O S H L Y S S N H
 Angel Greeting Cards Skates
 Gabriel Holly Sleigh
 Fruitcake Icicles Snowflakes
 Gifts Jesus Snowman
 Gold Joseph Stable
 Bells Lights Star
 Bethlehem Manger Stocking
 Candles Mary Three Wise Men
 Carols Mistletoe Toboggan
 Decorations Myrrh Toys
 Eggnog Ornaments Tree
 Family Poinsetta Wreath
 Frankincense Santa
 Friends Shepherds

Sign found inside a Beehive - Smoking is hazardous to your honey

How does the Queen Bee communicate with her workers - She uses her cell phone

Where do baby bees sleep - in the Apiary cots

How do bees make money - they sell their honey

Why couldn't I find my bees this morning - they were playing hide and seek with you

What goes Zzzub Zzzub - a bee flying backwards

Why do bees hum - because they do not know the words

Where did Noah keep his bees - in the Ark hives

How does the Queen fix her hair - she uses a honey comb

Why did the bees fly with their legs crossed - they could not find a BP station

What did the bee ask the flower - when are you open

What did the Queen and Drone do before they left the hive - they hired a bee bee sitter