



Events

- R&DBKA is an active Association which holds a series of interesting, educational and informative events throughout the year.
- A variety of talks, demonstrations and workshops by visiting lecturers and experienced beekeepers are held on many topics with the object of increasing the knowledge of both the beginner and experienced beekeeper. These are held either at the apiary or the Arches Community Centre.
- We hold a weekend Summer School in June which has proven to be very popular with beekeepers of all levels of experience.
- Our Honey Show is held in September at which members and other beekeepers exhibit the produce of their hives and vie for the prizes in various classes.
- Our AGM is held in January, where the Officers and Committee Members for the ensuing year are appointed. The Committee meets regularly to arrange and set up our busy calendar.
- We pride ourselves on the warm welcome we offer to members and visitors. At most events there is at least a cup of tea or coffee and a home made scone - with honey - and the opportunity to meet and chat with other beekeepers.
- Newsletters and details of events are emailed or posted to members on a regular basis. Our website includes photographs and features articles and links to other beekeeping events. Visit www.randbka.org for more details.



UBKA

- R&DBKA is one of 10 Beekeeping Associations affiliated to the Ulster Beekeepers Association. The UBKA holds an Annual Conference in the Spring and Harvest Thanksgiving Service and AGM in the Autumn.
- The UBKA provides Public and Product Liability insurance for individual beekeepers and their families at very competitive rates. We strongly recommend that all beekeepers have insurance cover. Details of UBKA and their affiliated associations can be found at www.ubka.org

CAFRE

- CAFRE and the UBKA run Preliminary Beekeeping Courses for beginners, commencing in January and running one night a week for 10 weeks followed by "hands on" practical training. There is a lot more to beekeeping than 'understanding the cycle of bees' e.g. personal protection, types of hives, assembling equipment, supering, honey harvesting/extraction etc. The course is followed by a short written and practical examination in May. We strongly recommend this course to all beginners as it provides a sound base for their beekeeping.

How To Become a Member

- For further information and Membership & Insurance Form, please either go to our website www.randbka.org or contact our Secretary or Chairman. Their details are shown on the enclosed insert.

INTERESTED IN BEES?

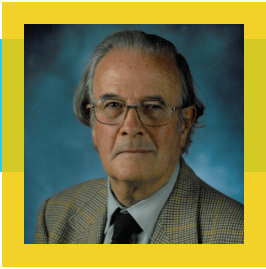
Randalstown & District Beekeepers Association

Shane's Castle, Antrim

Welcomes Beginner, Novice & Experienced Beekeepers



www.randbka.org



“As President of Randalstown & District Beekeepers I am delighted to welcome you to the fascinating world of beekeeping...”

The Association apiary has been located in the grounds of Shane’s Castle since 1977 and I have been very pleased to see the interest in beekeeping grow steadily over the years.

Shane’s Castle is the family seat of the O’Neills of Clanaboy. The Demesne is one of the most beautiful and well maintained in Ireland with a rich variety of fauna, flora, insect and bird life including a herd of fallow deer.

My family and I are passionately interested in all aspects of conservation on the estate and therefore recognise the value of a well managed apiary. We wholeheartedly welcome the pollination carried out by the bees from the apiary which significantly encourages the growth of both wild and cultivated flowers, trees and shrubs around the estate and in our extensive gardens.

I wish you well with your beekeeping and hope you enjoy many interesting, informative and absorbing hours at the apiary.

The Lord O’Neill

Raymond O'Neill



An introduction to Randalstown & District Beekeepers Association.

- Randalstown and District Beekeepers Association (R&DBKA) is a group of beekeepers with many levels of experience - from beginners just starting up to beekeepers who have been keeping bees for many decades.
- Most of our members are from around the Randalstown area but we also have members from as far afield as Lisburn, Hillsborough, Magherafelt, Ballymena and Bellaghy.
- There are currently around 50 members who attend talks, workshops and demonstrations either at the Apiary or in the Arches Community Centre, Randalstown.
- Our apiary is set in the private estate of Lord O’Neill at Shane’s Castle. It is situated in a beautiful and picturesque location on the Boathouse Meadow on the east bank of the River Maine just before it enters Lough Neagh. The Boathouse meadow is an official Wildflower Reserve.



- The apiary is a fenced and gravelled “bee yard” where hives of bees are placed on raised stands for ease of working. The hives are overlooked by an observation house which has large windows through which observers can safely watch and talk to the beekeepers working with bees just a few feet away. The house has seating and is used for talks and demonstrations during the summer.
- Our members are always willing to offer advice to those interested in taking up the fascinating craft of beekeeping, especially regarding the commitment necessary in terms of time and money and thus assist them to reach a sensible decision. Should they decide to take up the craft, our members will be happy to offer information, practical advice and help with the purchase of bees and equipment. Training courses for beginners are available throughout Northern Ireland in early spring, run by the Ulster Beekeepers Association (UBKA) and College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE).
- During the beekeeping season, which is roughly March–September, the apiary is open to members and visitors most Sunday afternoons from approx. 2.00pm onwards. Beginners can get “hands on” experience and learn about keeping bees as they work alongside experienced beekeepers carrying out examinations and manipulations of the colonies.