

Dunblane and Stirling Beekeepers Association (SCIO), SC048615.

Stirling University Apiary Report for

Annual General Meeting

It is thought that in time to come historians will talk about a timeline divide of BC – Before Covid and AC – After Covid. This idea is a good description of our year at the Association's training apiary.

Before Covid

Prior to the middle of March 2020 the Apiary Team had spent many Sunday afternoons working at various tasks to develop the apiary infrastructure. These included:

- Clearance of the ground and installation of 24 individual slabs as hive stands surrounded by membrane and stones. This layout had been piloted in 2019 and now includes the full apiary site.
- Installation of a concrete path and hard standing to allow wheelchair access to the apiary.
- Construction of the second half of the storage shed. 1st half was completed during winter 2018/19.
- Start made on a ramp and plinth to allow wheelchair access to the cabin.

During Covid

Following lockdown on the 23 March 2020 all work by the apiary team was stopped and Morag Fraser (Assistant Apiary Manager) and I took on the task of looking after the colonies because more than two in the apiary meant it was difficult to ensure social distancing.

Without interference from new beekeepers the colonies have done well over the season and we have increased the number going into the winter to 15. There was also a better honey harvest which will be jarred and given out to University grounds staff and security to thank them for their assistance over the year. In addition, a quantity will be retained for the Association to use as gifts.

With the New Beekeepers Course being halted we did not undertake any teaching at the apiary other than the welcome discussions with members as they came to uplift bee feed, jars or the spinner.

After Covid

I anticipate that we are all looking forward to a time where we can talk about 'After Covid' however it is unlikely to be soon. Therefore, the task going forward is to undertake further development where possible which will allow the University Apiary to be maintained as a valuable resource to the present and future members of the Association.

Ewen Cunningham

19 October 2020

