



Ulster  
Beekeepers  
Association

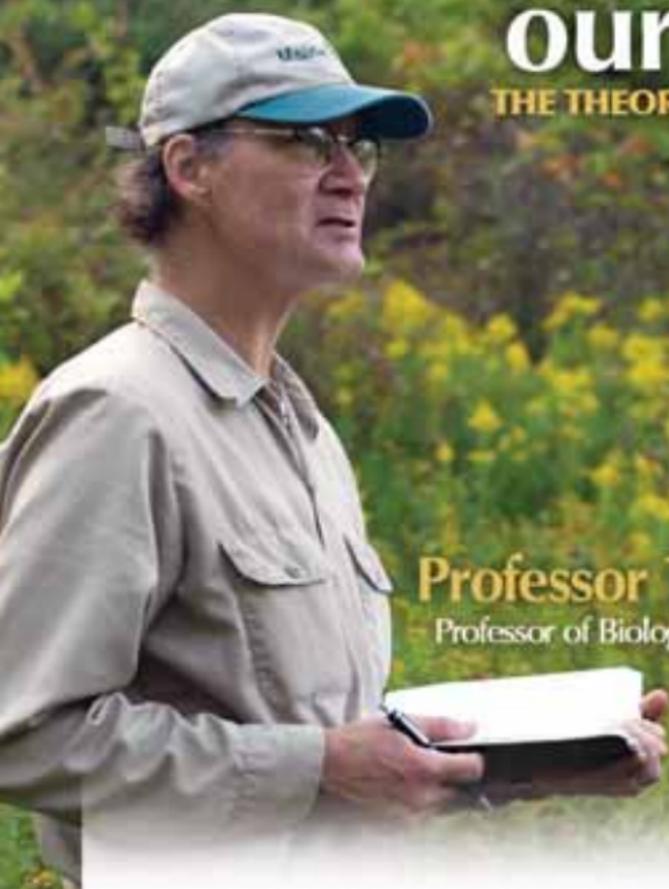
# UBKA CONFERENCE

Friday 11th & Saturday 12th March 2016

Greenmount Campus, Antrim BT41 4PS

## Understanding our Bees

THE THEORY AND PRACTICE



**Professor Tom Seeley**  
Professor of Biology, Cornell University

### ADDITIONAL GUEST SPEAKERS

**DR UNA FITZPATRICK**  
*Manager Irish Pollinator Initiative*

**ETHEL IRVINE**  
*Fermanagh Senior Lecturer*

**MEGAN SEYMOUR**  
*Regional Bee Inspector*

**MICHAEL MAUNSELL**  
*Co Offaly Senior Lecturer*

**MARGARET THOMAS**  
*Beekeeper & NDB Board Member*

**BILL TURNBULL**  
*TV Presenter, Author & Beekeeper*

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## UBKA CONFERENCE OVERVIEW



This year's conference expands on last year's popular themes, bringing the best of science and practical beekeeping together.

### SCIENTIFIC BEEKEEPING

We are thrilled to welcome a true legend in beekeeping circles.

**Tom Seeley** is Professor of Neurobiology and Behaviour at Cornell University. His reputation for gold standard science together with his published work enjoyed by beekeepers and researchers worldwide makes his planned lectures a priority. His easy teaching style and passion for "all things bee" makes his four lectures unmissable. Highly recommended.

**Michael Maunsell** Senior Lecturer from County Ofally brings us an insight into "The Drone", he will explore the importance of the drones' place in the hive. Fascinating.

The All Ireland Pollinator Strategy is the topic of conversation for **Una Fitzpatrick**. Una is the manager of the Irish Pollinator Initiative which includes our honey bee as well as the many other pollinators. Find out if we can do more to help our environment.

### PRACTICAL BEEKEEPING

2015 was one of our most difficult beekeeping seasons with reports of honey yields down by 50%, poor queen mating with very poor weather making simple husbandry difficult for everyone.

This conference brings the best experience of home grown speaker **Ethel Irvine** (*Senior Lecturer*) shares her wisdom on swarming. Seasonal Bee Inspector **Megan Seymour** relates her expertise and practical approach to the brood diseases and the new threats in beekeeping.

**Margaret Thomas's** knowledge and commercial experience in Essex and Scotland can be applied to NI Beekeepers and should help us all master the difficulties of beekeeping in the northern regions. She will explain the importance of nucleus production for our apiaries.

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## **BILL TURNBULL** *TV Presenter, Author, and Beekeeper.*

Bill Turnbull joins us for the weekend to deliver the "Bees for Development Lecture". He is a patron of this charity which works to promote sustainable beekeeping worldwide, best for bees and best for people. Bill has kindly agreed to join us at our Friday Social Evening. He will also act as Celebrity Auctioneer at our Charity Event on Saturday evening in the Dunadry Hotel, Antrim after our conference (*details and tickets available on our website*).

## **WORKSHOPS**

- Microscopy returns after last year's successful introduction.
- Skep making with **Louise McClean** will allow those attending to gain some understanding and practice of the craft.
- **Billy Millar** from Killinchy will demonstrate perfect hive assembly.
- A question and answer session led by UBKA tutors for new/novice beekeepers gives you the chance to discuss your beekeeping experience. Ask the questions on the tip of your tongue!

## **BEES FOR DEVELOPMENT AND UBKA**

This year is a special partnership between BfD (*Bees for Development*) and UBKA Beekeepers. We have the pleasure of hosting the BfD Team with **Paul Smith of Thornes**, Chair of the Trustees, and Patrons **Professor Tom Seeley** and **Bill Turnbull**. For further details about this partnership and an insight into BfD please see pages 12 and 13.

## **CYBER CAFE**

This year the Cyber Café at Greenmount will be open for the duration of the conference selling a range of soups, sandwiches, snacks and hot and cold beverages.

## **UBKA ONLINE AND SOCIAL MEDIA**

Keep up to date with the latest news and upcoming events from the Ulster Beekeepers' Association via our website, Facebook and Twitter.



[www.ubka.org](http://www.ubka.org)



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## CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

### Professor Thomas Seeley

Thomas Seeley, biologist and writer, is a professor in the Department of Neurobiology and Behaviour at Cornell University and a Bees for Development Patron. He teaches courses on animal behaviour and does research on the behaviour and ecology of honey bees.



Tom is an avid beekeeper and began keeping bees whilst a high school student, when he shook a swarm into a box and brought it home. He earned his AB in Chemistry from Dartmouth College and his PhD in Biology from Harvard University. His scientific work is summarized in four books: **Honeybee Ecology (1985)**, **The Wisdom of the Hive (1995)**, **Honeybee Democracy (2010)**, and **Following the Wild Bees (2016)**. In recognition of his scientific contributions he has been honoured by an Alexander von Humboldt Distinguished U.S. Scientist Award, been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship and been elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He writes: *"These are nice awards, but for me the most important prizes by far for being a scientist are the discoveries that I have made about the inner workings of honey bee colonies."*

### Dr Una Fitzpatrick

Una FitzPatrick has a degree in Botany and a PhD in Plant Molecular Biology from Trinity College Dublin. From 2003-2006 she worked on a project on the conservation of Ireland's bees, and published an All-Ireland Bee Red List in 2006. Since 2007 she has been employed by the National Biodiversity Data Centre, where she has responsibility for national plant and pollinator databases.



In 2008 she set up the Irish Pollinator Initiative within the Data Centre to drive pollinator conservation through better data. As part of this initiative she established the All-Ireland Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme in 2011. Along with Jane Stout (*Trinity College Dublin*) she initiated the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020 which was launched in September 2015 as a joint initiative with Una as the Manager. At its core, the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is about providing food and shelter across all types of land so that Irish pollinators can survive and thrive.

## Ethel Irvine

Ethel Irvine has lived for most of her life in County Fermanagh and began beekeeping in 1982. She is Treasurer of Fermanagh Beekeepers' Association and has held leading positions in UBKA.



Ethel followed the FIBKA examinations path to obtain her lectureship. She spent her working life as a teacher and as a teaching adviser and, as a consequence, has a special interest in the education of beekeepers.

## Megan Seymour

Megan started beekeeping with her father who kept 3 WBC hives with colonies at the end of the garden. She was always very interested and particularly loved the honey. She started keeping her own hives about 20 years ago with 2 hives on an allotment, but rapidly moved up to 5 colonies. This led to her taking the basic exam and working her way through the BBKA module system. Finding the basic fundamental theory of keeping bees to be a great help with her own beekeeping, she was awarded the Wax Chandlers prize in 2008.



Currently managing about 25 hives on several different sites she concentrates on queen rearing and selling nucs rather than honey production. Her job as a Seasonal Bee Inspector since 2008 has given her vast "Bee Miles" and the opportunity to work with the Bees and Beekeepers in the South West of England.

## Michael Maunsell

Michael began beekeeping in the early 1970s when he was approached by a local farmer to rescue bees from a dangerous hollow tree that overhung the road between his house and land.



There followed a short intense period of study of beekeeping and carpentry to make a suitable home for his new tenants. Naively he assumed that the bees would be delivered to him. Unfortunately he had to cut down the tree and remove the bees himself. With a background in science he set about experimenting with new charges. A mathematics and physics teacher, Michael learned a great deal about beekeeping from his involvement with Galtee Bee Breeding Group. His beekeeping philosophy is simple start - with your own local bees, use natural selection (survival of the fittest) then progress with artificial selection. Michael now operates 25+ colonies.

## Margaret Thomas

Margaret is from Essex where she learnt her beekeeping under the tutelage of the famous Ted Hooper, although she has now moved to Scotland. She is Moderator of the BBKA Examinations Board and also tutors for the BBKA Correspondence Course. Margaret is also a committee member of the Scottish Beekeepers' Association, where her brief is all subjects related to hive products. She is a retired bee farmer - the organisation that represents commercial beekeepers in the United Kingdom. She now manages a mere six colonies in the challenging climate in Scotland.



## Bill Turnbull

Bill Turnbull was until recently presenter of BBC Breakfast, Britain's favourite morning TV show. He helped to wake up the country from the sofa for 15 years, helping it to win four TRIC Awards for Best Daytime Programme and take the No 1 spot in the ratings.



As a BBC correspondent Bill reported from more than 30 countries, including a four year stint in Washington. He's covered pretty much everything - from presidential elections to revolutions, Cuba to Chernobyl, hurricanes to Hollywood. However, his favourite story is the feature he made about werewolves in Haiti... and living to tell the tale.

More famously, Bill was a contestant on the third series of Strictly Come Dancing. Other challenges have included a sleep deprivation experiment for the One Show, and winning £150,000 for charity on Who Wants to Be A Millionaire. He survived the spotlight of the famous black leather chair on Celebrity Mastermind and took part in the BBC's documentary remake of Around the World in 80 Days. Bill has appeared on a raft of other BBC programmes, including A Question of Sport, Room 101, University Challenge, the Sarah Millican Television Programme and Would I Lie to You? He is also a regular presenter on Songs of Praise.

Of course, Bill is also well known for his love of bees. He has written a book about his apicultural adventures, called "The Bad Beekeepers Club". In 2013 he presented a Horizon documentary investigating the decline of our pollinators, called "What's Killing Our Bees?" He is a patron of Bees for Development, and actually manages to keep some hives himself.

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## CONFERENCE GALLERY

A selection of photographs taken at the 2015 UBKA Conference.





# UBKA CONFERENCE

## Friday 11th & Saturday 12th March 2016

Greenmount Campus, Antrim BT41 4PS

**REMEMBER...**  
you can also book online at:

[www.ubka.org](http://www.ubka.org)

PLEASE NOTE: when booking online via PayPal the cost in Euro's may vary in accordance with the daily exchange rate at time of booking.



proud to support the  
2016 UBKA Annual Conference

### THE MAIN HALL - ROOM 1

14.00	Conference Opening and Registration
16.30	Welcome by the Mayor <b>Thomas Hogg</b> Address by the Director of CAFRE <b>John Fay</b> Welcome by UBKA President
17.00	The Sam Millar Memorial Lecture: <b>Tom Seeley</b> - <i>how Honey Bees live in the wild with lessons for Beekeepers</i>
18.00	Comfort Break
18.15	<b>Bill Turnbull</b> - <i>Bees for Development Lecture</i>
19.15	Social Evening and Supper <i>(booking essential)</i> <i>'An evening with Bill Turnbull'</i>

**Friday 11th March**

### THE SPORTS HALL - TRADE SHOW

14.00	Trade Show Exhibition Opens
18.15	Trade Show Exhibition Closes

### THE MAIN HALL - ROOM 1

8.30	Registration
9.30	<b>Tom Seeley</b> - <i>how a swarm of honey bees finds its home</i>
10.20	Tea/Coffee
10.50	<b>Margaret Thomas</b> - <i>from Essex to Perthshire, lessons for NI Beekeepers</i>
11.40	Break
12.10	<b>Tom Seeley</b> - <i>the bee colony as a honey factory</i>
13.00	Lunch <i>(booking essential)</i>
14.30	<b>Megan Seymour</b> - <i>Small Hive Beetle: Asian Hornet – the next threat?</i>
15.20	Break
16.10	<b>Tom Seeley</b> - <i>bee hunting: the sport and science of finding honey bee colonies in the wild</i>
17.00	Close by the Conference Manager

**Saturday 12th March**

### THE LECTURE THEATRE - ROOM 2

9.30	<b>Megan Seymour</b> - <i>the Brood Disease practical update for European foul brood, American foulbrood, and Varroa</i>
10.20	Tea/Coffee
10.50	<b>Una Fitzpatrick</b> - <i>the All Ireland Pollinator Strategy – can we help?</i>
11.40	Break
12.10	<b>Margaret Thomas</b> - <i>the role of nucleus hives in day to day beekeeping</i>
13.00	Lunch <i>(booking essential)</i>
14.30	<b>Mike Maunsell</b> - <i>"The Drone" are they important? An in depth look at the status of drones in our hives</i>
15.20	Break
16.10	<b>Ethel Irvine</b> - <i>swarming, a practical guide</i>

### WORKSHOPS - CLASSROOM BASED

10.20	<b>Microscopy</b> <i>(booking essential)</i>
10.50	<b>Beekeeping Made Simple</b> - Q&A session with a panel of UBKA Tutors. Ask all those questions, discussions around early years of beekeeping. <b>Skep Making</b> - <b>Louise McClean</b>
14.30	<b>Microscopy</b> <i>(booking essential)</i> <b>Hive Construction</b> - <b>Billy Millar</b> <b>Skep Making</b> - <b>Louise McClean</b>

**GALA DINNER AND CHARITY AUCTION** - 12th March at the Dunadry Hotel, Antrim • 7.30pm

# BEES FOR DEVELOPMENT

UK Charity No 1078803



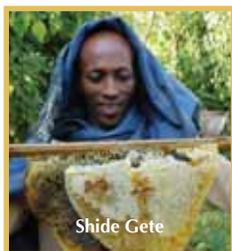
Bees for Development promotes the value of beekeeping as a useful means for achieving poverty alleviation while maintaining biodiversity. We focus on simple methods of sustainable beekeeping - best for bees and people. We have helped many thousands of remote and poor families to earn essential income to meet their basic needs.

Bees for Development began work 23 years ago, articulating the reasons why beekeeping is such a useful tool for achieving poverty alleviation while maintaining biodiversity. We focus on simple methods of sustainable beekeeping - best for bees and people. We encourage farmers to make simple, low-cost beehives so that more people can harvest and sell honey, turning natural resources into sustainable livelihoods - with great benefit for the wider environment. Based in Monmouth, Bees for Development has worked directly in more than fifty countries worldwide, and currently supports projects at community and national levels in Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kyrgyzstan, Tanzania and Uganda.

We provide free information to beekeepers in poor countries - BfD Journal and Training Resource Boxes are sent to readers in 130 nations, sharing knowledge and advice, and our website includes an open-access Information Portal.

In the United Kingdom BfD is a proponent of natural beekeeping and provides innovative courses in the Wye Valley. We have lobbied the local council to reduce verge and hedge cutting, with the enactment of a local Pollinator Policy in 2014. We established the new organisation, Bee Friendly Monmouthshire - an idea now being taken up by neighbouring Councils.

We help people in the developing world, like Shide Gete to create their income from beekeeping. After training sponsored by Bees for Development, Shide has been able to build his own hives from freely available local materials and sell his honey in local markets. He used the money to buy food and medicines for his family. He is now planning to build his beekeeping business further, to secure a future for his family and to help the local honey bee population in Amhara, Ethiopia.



Shide Gete

If you would like to help us help more people like Shide please make a donation via our website; [www.beesfordevelopment.org](http://www.beesfordevelopment.org) or call us on **01600 714848**.



## UBKA AND BEES FOR DEVELOPMENT

This year is a special partnership between BfD and UBKA Beekeepers. We have the pleasure of hosting the BfD Team with **Paul Smith of Thornes**, Chair of the Trustees, and Patrons **Professor Tom Seeley** and **Bill Turnbull**.

The work of Bees for Development is using the skills and art of beekeeping and transferring it to areas of the world where it can have maximum economic and social impact on communities and individuals.

We have supported BfD over the years but this year plan to raise £10,000 for the cause. We plan to unite all beekeepers in Ireland as TV personality and beekeeper Bill Turnbull has agreed to be auctioneer at our **Gala Dinner and Charity Auction: 12th March at the Dunadry Hotel, Antrim - 7.30pm**.



This will be an opportunity for us to work with local businesses and associate beekeepers across Ireland. Tickets will be available for sale from the UBKA website and members of the organising committee. See any of the following websites for details - [www.ubka.org](http://www.ubka.org); [www.nihbs.org](http://www.nihbs.org); [www.inibeekeepers.com](http://www.inibeekeepers.com) or [www.irishbeekeeping.ie](http://www.irishbeekeeping.ie)



Please come to the Gala Dinner and Charity Auction on **Saturday 12th March 2016** and support Bees for Development!

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# ULSTER BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATIONS



Formed in 1942 the UBKA consists of 13 affiliated local Beekeeping Associations in Northern Ireland.

- **BDBKA** Belfast & District Beekeepers' Association [www.belfastbees.wordpress.com](http://www.belfastbees.wordpress.com)
- **CVBKA** Clogher Valley Beekeepers' Association [www.facebook.com/Clogher-Valley-Beekeeping](http://www.facebook.com/Clogher-Valley-Beekeeping)
- **DDBKA** Derry & District Beekeepers' Association [www.derry-beekeepers.co.uk](http://www.derry-beekeepers.co.uk)
- **DBKA** Dromore Beekeepers' Association [www.dromorebeekeepers.org.uk](http://www.dromorebeekeepers.org.uk)
- **EABKA** East Antrim Beekeepers' Association [www.eabka.com](http://www.eabka.com)
- **FBKA** Fermanagh Beekeepers' Association [www.facebook.com/fermanagh.beekeepers](http://www.facebook.com/fermanagh.beekeepers)
- **KDBKA** Killinchy & District Beekeepers' Association [www.facebook.com/Killinchy-District-Beekeepers-Association](http://www.facebook.com/Killinchy-District-Beekeepers-Association)
- **MABKA** Mid-Antrim Beekeepers' Association [www.facebook.com/Mid-Antrim-Beekeepers](http://www.facebook.com/Mid-Antrim-Beekeepers)
- **MUBKA** Mid Ulster Beekeepers' Association [www.mubka.com](http://www.mubka.com)
- **RANDBKA** Randalstown & District Beekeepers' Association [www.randbka.co.uk](http://www.randbka.co.uk)
- **RVBKA** Roe Valley Beekeepers' Association [www.rvbka.co.uk](http://www.rvbka.co.uk)
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Discounted prices on all bookings PAID IN FULL before  
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Event	£	DISCOUNT -20%	€	DISCOUNT -20%	✓
Friday - <small>includes conference and trade show</small>	£17.00	<b>£14.00</b>	€22.00	<b>€18.00</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saturday - <small>includes conference and trade show</small>	£32.00	<b>£26.00</b>	€40.00	<b>€32.00</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Friday and Saturday	£37.00	<b>£29.00</b>	€47.00	<b>€38.00</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trade Show (Fri) <small>excludes conference</small>	N/A	<b>£8.00*</b>	N/A	<b>€11.00*</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trade Show (Sat) <small>excludes conference</small>	N/A	<b>£8.00*</b>	N/A	<b>€11.00*</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Friday Supper & Social Evening* <small>- includes Tea/Coffee / 7.15pm - late</small>	<b>£12.50 / €17.00</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saturday Lunch* <small>- 2 course / includes Tea/Coffee</small>	<b>£14.50 / €20.00</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Greenmount B&B* <small>- Ensuite Accommodation / Per Night</small>	<b>£39.00 / €53.00</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Hotel and B&B Accommodation in Antrim.** A list is available from the Conference Secretary, or from the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council website: [www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk](http://www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk)



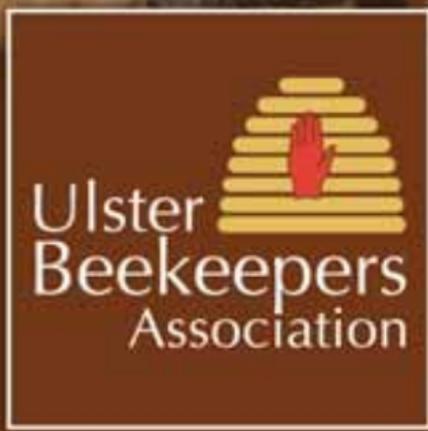
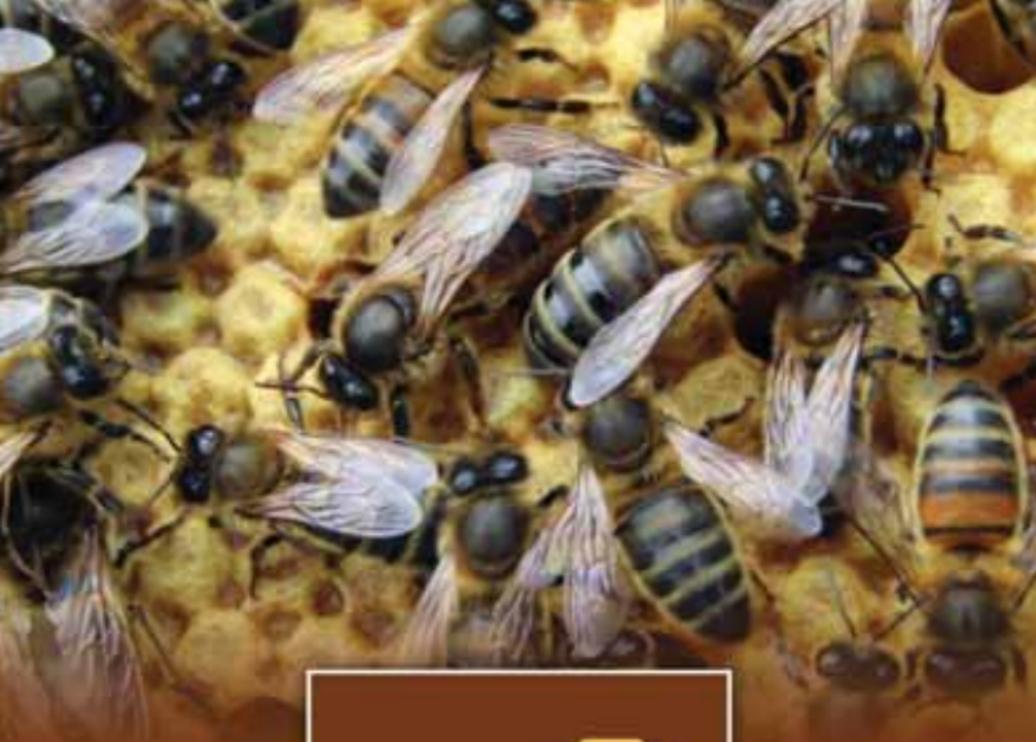
Send your booking form with full payment to the Conference Secretary;

David McCartney, 19 Delacherois Avenue, Lisburn, Co. Antrim BT27 4TR  
Tel: 07871 161303 Email: [ubkaconference@gmail.com](mailto:ubkaconference@gmail.com)

TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE: £ .....

PLEASE MAKE ALL CHEQUES PAYABLE TO UBKA € .....

CUT ALONG THIS DOTTED LINE



## UBKA'S OBJECTIVES ARE TO:

unite beekeepers in Northern Ireland  
for their mutual benefit in  
promoting apiculture;

represent the collective interests  
of beekeepers;

undertake activities which support  
local associations.