

Tarland Bee Group was given £1,900 to buy teaching hives and beesuits allowing them to teach practical beekeeping skills to people of all ages and abilities in the Howe of Cromar. With Covid restrictions they have only just been able to get going with their plans. We are very grateful to them for their report and photos below.

Back in September 2019 you very kindly awarded us a grant which we used to purchase adult and kids bee suits and some other beekeeping equipment.

Fast forward to post hard lockdown and a few weeks ago one of our new beekeepers, Marlice was due to join us at the old apiary we use for lease hives for some teaching for which she would wear one of our 'Jo Walters' bee suits. But Marlice had to give her apologies at the last minute as her husband was late home and she was looking after Imogen, her young daughter. "But we have kids' bee suits too, just bring her along".

So Imogen, age 4, came along with mummy, and was very excited to be invited to to feed the bees. She was completely enthralled and has been back every week since. She is really enjoying it and gaining so much from the interaction with others and being outdoors.

I have attached some photos of Imogen which you have permission to use, should you wish.

In this one, she holds her prized piece of free drawn honeycomb which she took home to show her dad and big brothers .



Here she is pictured with Graham and Dave, two experienced beekeepers who have been a great encouragement to her. Her artwork on the tiny mating hive and the 6 slates she painted for the hive entrances are in the photo too.



In the last photo she is inspecting the bees with her mum, Marlize.



This is all due to us having a supply of bee suits, suitable for kids of all sizes and adults too. Thanks to your generous grant we have two new beekeepers both as keen as mustard. We have moved on from feeding to inspecting with the warmer weather and they are both very comfortable and protected by their suits.

Thanks again, and hoping we can send you an invitation to the new apiary soon, the education facility build is due to start in two weeks!!