

HELENSBURGH AND DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION  
NEWSLETTER No. 170 APRIL 2012

GRAEME SHARPE: THURSDAY 26 APRIL AT 7.15 pm. RHU CHURCH HALL

Graeme Sharpe, Scotland's Bee Advisor, gives training sessions on beekeeping all over Scotland, as well as from his base at the Scottish Agricultural College in Ayr. Members who have attended his courses always come back enthusing about what they have learnt. As Graeme runs about 60 colonies, selling through farmer's markets, his talks back up the theory with the practical, and this one will help us to get back into beekeeping mode which we might have to do quickly.

Graeme will be covering "The Season Ahead". The way things are going it might be re-titled "The Season Now". Certainly some colonies are building up strongly and there are drones in hives, so be warned. Ian Craig has written a clear account of swarm control in the April issue of "The Scottish Beekeeper" Read the first part of the article if you are feeling a little rusty and ignore all the variations he expounds upon in the second half.

#### LOCAL HONEY

My daughter brought me a pot of Sheffield Honey for Easter. You can buy Partick Honey in Glasgow and now, in Helensburgh, we can get Shandon Honey from the Riverhill Café (£6.50) and Scottish Honey, from Cardross, from the Buffet Shop (£5.95). So there appears to be a local market if honey can be well packaged and presented.

The most common question at the Green Fair was also "do you have any local honey for sale".

#### INTRODUCTION TO BEEKEEPING NIGHT

The introduction night held on Thursday the 19 April was a great success. 24 people attended with 13 of them planning to go on to visit the club apiary. Big thanks to Alastair, Neil, Jim and Sue for running the event.

#### LOCAL BEES

Alternatively beekeepers looking to pay their way could supply bees rather than honey. One sure prediction that can be made is that the interest in the Introduction to Beekeeping night will to produce a demand for bees. It is in all our interests that these are supplied locally, used to our conditions, without disease or mites resistant to treatments. If you have a strong hive, think about making up an additional nuc when it comes to implementing swarm control procedures.

#### FREE ENTRY FOR BEEKEEPERS TO GARDENING SCOLAND

The West of Scotland Drystone Wallers Association (chairman Norman Muir from Helensburgh) is building a wall of beehives to celebrate the centenary of the Scottish Beekeepers Association. If you would like to spend some time at the wall dressed in your bee suit talking to the public about beekeeping Norman will arrange free entry and car parking on whichever day you would like to attend Gardening Scotland at Ingleston from Friday 1 June to Sunday 3 June. This will not be as onerous as acting as steward for the SBA at the Royal Highland Show and you will have plenty of time to visit the exhibits yourself. You will not be expected to cover if no one else is there as Norman's line on this is that if he has local beekeepers some, if not all, of the time that will be a bonus. If you would like to get involved please contact Mike Thornley on 01436 820493 and [masthome@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:masthome@dsl.pipex.com) We can also try to car share.