

HELENSBURGH AND DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER No. 179 JANUARY 2013

AGM, QUIZ AND SOCIAL NIGHT: THURSDAY 31 JANUARY 7.15 pm.

No doubt the Association's AGM will be conducted with the usual speed and efficiency by the President to allow the members to get down to the serious business of the evening: convivial eating and drinking with fellow beekeepers including partners, wives and soul mates etc. Sandwiched, so to speak, between the two will be an entertaining, informative and, possibly, contentious Beekeeping Quiz, the winner of which will receive a purpose designed trophy. Yes it is on the 5th Thursday of the month (possibly a record) but at the usual time and in the usual place: Rhu Church Hall. Attendance essential.

GERRY FLATMAN

Ben Bellamy writes. It is reported, with sad regret, that former member of Helensburgh & District Beekeepers Association Dr Gerry Flatman passed away in the Vale of Leven Hospital 17th December 2012 when he was in his 90s.

Gerry was a founder member of HDBA and it was really through Gerry that the Association came about. Gerry and his son kept beautiful calm bees in his garden right beside his house in East Abercromby Street, Helensburgh and was able to attend to them exactly as convenient, day by day.

Gerry and I were both involved with local Scouting (I was Scout Leader and he was District Chairman) and it was through this association that his enthusiasm for bees spurred me on from 'being interested' to become a beekeeper. When HDBA was formed Gerry took an active part in the Association management and as vice president.

Beekeeping for Gerry was a stress relieving interest and hobby away from his dedicated professional life as leading cancer specialist and surgeon in Glasgow.

Unfortunately he gave up beekeeping several years ago to give all his time and attention to look after his ailing wife Rosemary.

Gerry will be missed by his family, by many friends and former colleagues in the medical profession, as well as in Scouting and beekeeping.

BEEKEEPING NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

"To listen to my bees and not add to the list of mistakes I have accumulated over the past 35 years". Neil Sandison

"Enjoy my bees and work with them as much as possible." Alastair Cameron

"To watch and understand the bees more closely." Sue Thornley

“More thoughtful observation, less clumsy interference.” Nick Davies
and

“Geese Bees Please!!!!” Jo Henderson (not a resolution but he did say please.)

Although most of the resolutions shared the same thoughtful approach to beekeeping in the next season the overall response was disappointing. So here are a few others:

“I resolve to respond to emails from the secretary and do my bit for the association like a good worker bee should.”

“I will mentor a new beekeeper this season and make up a nuc for anyone wanting bees”

“I will monitor the Varrao drop once a month, every month, and not just keep bees on a wing and a prayer”

“I will keep everyone entertained and informed of my beekeeping exploits in the coming season by dropping a line to the Newsletter at masthome@dsl.pipex.com”

CABA DATES FOR THE DIARY

Neil Sandison

CABA AGM is on Tuesday the 20 February at 19.30 hrs in the large hall at Partick Burgh Halls. Note the large hall so can we help to justify it by getting a good attendance from HDBA.

Advance warning of meeting on Wednesday 20 March again at 19.30 hrs in room number 10 in Partick Burgh Halls. We are very fortunate to have Dr. Chris Connolly as our speaker. There has been plenty publicity about the research work being done by Dr. Connolly at Dundee on the effect of pesticides and miticides on bees. A visit to <http://medicine.dundee.ac.uk/staff-member/dr-christopher-n-connolly> will provide a good picture of the man himself and his work. You may remember last year beehives, on which Dr. Connolly and his team were working were removed from Ninewells Hospital, Dundee, liberated or, more likely, stolen. Given the rising concerns on neonicotinoids this is a timely lecture.