

HELENSBURGH AND DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER 184 JUNE 2013

SUMMER BARBEQUE

We are planning a barbeque for the afternoon Sunday 4th August on Cowal Peninsula. Full details to follow.

CREATING NUCS EVENT AT THE ASSOCIATION APIARY

Unfortunately, we have had to cancel this event this year due to lack of bees and people.

CABA OUTING TO ENID BROWN'S QUEEN REARING APIARY
SUNDAY 21 JULY

This is a final reminder for what should be a very interesting CABA summer outing, leaving Partick Burgh Hall at 11.00 am. Bring your protective gear, packed lunch and a mug. There will be a high tea on the way back. Enid is an expert beekeeper, membership secretary for BIBBA and heavily involved with the SBA. We often wonder what is really meant by queen rearing. Now we have the chance to find out and possibly apply the ideas on our side of the country. Gordon needs to know if you are attending by 1st July, latest.

JOURNEY TO THE PROMISED LAND

Then God sent a plague of swarms over the whole land, from Arrochar to the Vale of Leven, so many that the sun was blotted out, and there was a wailing and gnashing of teeth of many Helensburgh beekeepers for their lost bees. So Moses (aka hon. member David Brown) went up to the summit of Ben Lomond to consult with the Great Beekeeper in the sky.

On his return he held up a tablet and said to the Helensburgh beekeepers: "You have failed to follow the laws set down by the prophet Hooper. For this you will continue to suffer plagues of swarms unless you heed to the following commandments," and here Moses flicked on his Ipad.

"First: To be absolutely sure you will inspect your colonies every six days.
Second: You will carry out swarm control procedures immediately you see signs of charged queen cells, however early in their development. You will not cut these down and hope for the best for, verily, you will be undone.
Third: Thereafter you will continue to inspect the new colony with its queen cells after 6 days, selecting a suitable cell and cutting down each and every other queen cell, to avoid the possibility of the colony swarming out the virgin queen leaving you with a miserable queen cell that you missed, and even less bees.
Fourth: You will inspect the colony with the old queen every 6 days to ensure that there are no continuing signs of it wanting to swarm.
Fifth: on the seventh day you may rest, not participating in any activity other than reading the sacred words of the prophet Hooper."

"We will," shouted the Helensburgh faithful. "I bet," thought Moses, filling his pipe