

HELENSBURGH AND DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION  
NEWSLETTER No.185 JULY 2013

SUMMER EVENT: CHANGE OF DATE AND VENUE

The summer event will now take place on **Sunday 11 August at Townhead Farm**, by kind the invitation of Debbie and John Penniston. This is a chance to see the farm as well as the bees being looked after by Nikki and Eddie. For more information on this really interesting and forward looking enterprise go to [www.townheadfarm.net](http://www.townheadfarm.net)  
More details will follow.

HONEY CLASSES AT HORTICULTURAL SHOW

The Annual Flower and Vegetable Show will take place on Saturday 24 August at Victoria Halls. The classes are:

- 115 jar of set honey
- 116 jar of clear honey
- 117 a frame ready for extraction

Staging is at 5.00 – 10.00 pm on Friday and 8.00 -9.45 am on Saturday. Entries should be notified to the Show Results Secretary, ideally by Tuesday 20 August, email:  
[donemma.greenwell@btinternet.com](mailto:donemma.greenwell@btinternet.com)

APIARY REPORT

Neil Sandison

The apiary Shed is now erected and painted, and thanks are due to the following members for their assistance. Starting with the foundations (where else could it be?) David Norton and I spent an afternoon digging out and filling in. Ground ties were supplied and installed by Reg "Gun" Brammer who also strengthened the base for the shed with his nail gun. Reg was also involved, along with Donnie Macdonald, Eddie Monaghan, Gordon Smith and Jamie Smith erecting the shed where again Reg and his screw gun this time were very much to the fore. Donnie enjoyed himself so much he came back again to put a second coat of Cuprinol on the shed and his reward was to see, for the first time, a swarm leaving Jamie Baxter's hive.

I am sure none of the volunteers will object to a special thank you to Jamie Baxter who fitted all the weatherboard, made the roof, door, window, supplied and fitted the work bench and delivered it all to the Apiary. After all that the least I could have done was to collect his swarm but by the time I got back it had gone.

ROYAL HIGHLAND SHOW

Cameron Macallum

Following on from the SBA wax workshop at Thornes, Newburgh, where Enid Brown and her press gang were actively signing stewards for the SBA tent at the Royal Highland Show, I received my conscription orders to attend on the Friday. A comment from an old hand, "That's the schools day, you will learn". And he was not wrong. My day was segmented into 2 hours at each stand beginning with the observation hives. I met various people: from young children to retiring veterinary surgeons wishing to know all about the bees, (and a few closet beekeepers as well).

This was followed by making rolled wax candles with the children which also provided a chance to hone the skills from the wax workshop. The remainder of the day included general stewarding around the exhibits and assisting school groups who were scheduled for a guided tour by Graeme Sharpe. The point was that you get the tour as well. Graeme was very informative and entertaining and this rubbed off on the kids who were quite sedate coming in but were buzzing coming out with 101 stories and questions. A quieter period was at the honey stand where competition honey was on view. It was a good chance to have a guided tour with an experienced competitor of the various honey classes and what the judges required. My day culminated at the education stand where I ended up taking a group. What I didn't realize was that I was now 'flying solo'. Having concluded with a group I had a tap on the shoulder from SBA steward who had been earwiggling, for a well done presentation.

The stewarding at the SBA stand at the Royal Highland Show was not merely assisting patrons, but having the chance to put your knowledge to the test in the public arena, and to learn from the presentations and indeed the presenters, (not forgetting those closet beekeepers). Give it a try next year.

#### SWARMS IN THE NEWS

There was a great piece in the Helensburgh Advertiser last week about Nikki and Eddie riding to the rescue of a lady with a swarm in the house. Good publicity for beekeepers and for the association. Eddie is well on the way to becoming the town's official swarm catcher.

#### LAST WORD

This is my last Newsletter. I took over from Ben Bellamy around about Number 127 in July 2008 and have continued with the same format ever since. But now it needs sprucing up for the modern age. I would like to thank all the contributors who have sent in pieces over the last 5 years. It is your Newsletter so keep them coming and support Alastair Cameron who takes over from me. Last week I mentioned I was standing down to one of our members. "Oh" he said, "I thought Gordon Smith and Neil Sandison edited it". I could not have had a better complement!