



#212 January 2016

**Next Meeting: AGM. Talk and Social.
Thursday 28 January 7.15 pm in the Hall at Rhu Church**

Notification and reports have been circulated for this important meeting in the Association's calendar. Please show support for your committee by a good turn out.

Jim McCulloch will be giving a talk "**Fifty Shades of Grey**" the title of which is a bit of a teaser I suspect. It will be good to have Jim back with us.

Food and drink is also being provided so don't eat too much before you come to a multi faceted meeting, which includes a social side

Apiary: Assistance required

Club Apiary in its present location was started in 2009 prior to that it was in Glen Fruin. The objectives of the club apiary are to promote beekeeping to interested visitors and potential beekeepers while demonstrating best practice in apiary management.

An important function is the practical, hands on, part of the training courses run by the club. □ In addition members with only one or two hives are encouraged to move nucs or hives with virgin queens to the apiary so that their queens can mate with new drones thereby broadening their gene pool. In order to take advantage of this facility you must, for insurance purposes, be a member of the S.B.A. We also require confirmation that the bees have been subjected to the appropriate varroa treatment. During 2015 only seven members took advantage of this facility.

□ Last year was not very good for honey production but we produced 39 jars and were also able to sell three hives with 2015 queens. □ We are now looking forward to 2016 season encouraging members to assist in running the apiary, you never know you might pickup a few useful tips, Anyone interested please contact. Neil at 01389841408 or neilmsandison@gmail.com.

Enough stores?

Neil Sandison reports that when treating the bees at the association apiary he checked the mite fall in the trays below the open mesh floor and in doing so also noticed a significant amount of debris from cappings, evidence of the bees breaking into the stores, probably due to the continuing warmer weather. Are you sure your bees have enough stores? If not heft your hives and if they seem light put on some fondant, with the plastic peeled back on the bottom of the pack ,facing down on to the frames.

Newsletter editor still needed

We are still looking for a member to edit the newsletter and to act as contact person with the local press. It would be a pity to have to lose the newsletter, which has been going since the association was formed. Anybody concerned and interested please contact me at masthome@btinternet.com
Mike Thornley.