

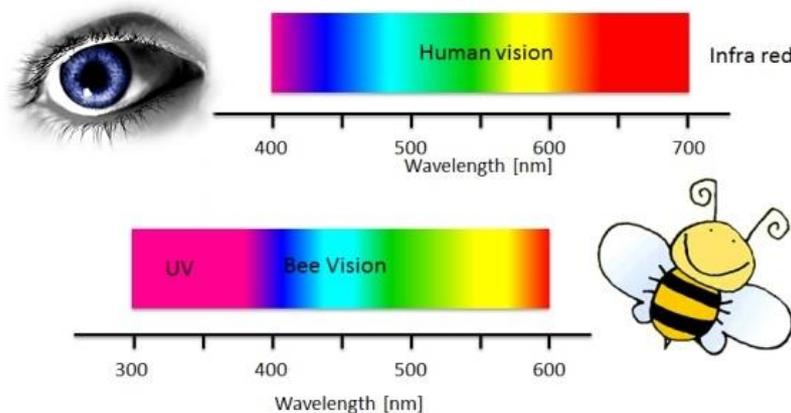
**#213 February 2016**

**Next Meeting: Beekeeping mini-workshops.  
Thursday 25 February 7.15 pm in the Hall at Rhu Church**

### **Annual General Meeting**

The AGM was once again well attended and went smoothly. Mike Thornley stepped down from his position as President. On behalf of everyone, thanks Mike for steering the association through a tricky period. The association is currently without a president. For the time being the committee will proceed as normal with Tim Sydall as acting chairman.

Formal matters were followed by a fascinating talk by former HDBA stalwart Jim Mculloch titled "Fifty shades of grey", complete with audience participation. It turns out bees can see blue, but can't see red as well as us.



### **Outstanding subscriptions**

If you haven't already done so, please remember to pay your annual subscriptions. Please see David Norton regarding payments.

### **Growing West Dunbartonshire Spring Event, 19<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

Growing West Dunbartonshire event, Saturday 19 March 2016, 10am till 1pm, (set up from 9am) at Concorde Centre, Dumbarton. This will consist of community group stalls and a talk from Angela Smith, a guest speaker from the Royal Horticultural Society. Please contact Cameron Macallum ([cameron.macallum@yahoo.com](mailto:cameron.macallum@yahoo.com)) if you're interested in helping out.

## Keep hefting those hives

Hopefully no hives have been lost to the storms and the colonies are now starting to rise from their slumber. Starvation remains the primary concern so keep checking that there is sufficient food. If any feel light or there's a suspicion of hunger, supply some fondant to bridge the gap until more forage is available.

## Club apiary

Another plug for the club apiary. This is a valuable resource that we should be thankful for. Having an association apiary allows demonstration of best practice beekeeping and, importantly, serves as a gene pool for mating queens. The arrival of *Varroa* and subsequent disappearance of feral/wild colonies will almost certainly have made genetic diversity a big issue in areas with few colonies. Hopefully we can get more involvement from members over the coming season, both in terms of helping out as well as getting queens mated. Remember that to use the apiary you must both be a member of the SBA and have treated your bees appropriately for *Varroa*. Please contact Neil for more information: 01389841408 or [neilmsandison@gmail.com](mailto:neilmsandison@gmail.com).

## Facebook

HDBA now has a Facebook page - this will allow members to share tips, photos, ask questions or just chat and gossip! The page is a closed group meaning that,



although anyone can search for this page and see who's a member, only members can post and see what's been posted. To use the page, you will have to be signed up to Facebook. Joining instructions will be sent out by email shortly. A big thankyou to Gordon for setting all of this up.

## Link of the month: <http://theapiarist.org/>

The Apiarist is a blog written by David Evans, a beekeeper who's recently moved to St Andrews University. It's easy to sign up to receive an email alerting you when a new post is online. Recently he's been looking at *Varroa* control and the best way to go about it.