

#224 March 2017

Next meeting: 23rd March. Rhu Church hall, from 7.15pm:

This month Ian Craig will be talking about “**The variable brood chamber**”

What’s happening in the hive?

Spring appears to be (slowly) arriving. Activity should be increasing as the colony starts to expand. Ensure entrances are clear of any debris/dead bees. Starvation is obviously possible if forage is scarce, but in general now is a time to largely just stand back and observe. If a removable varroa floor is fitted then debris falling from above can be indicative of the level of activity.

Ben Bellamy

At last month’s meeting Ben Bellamy, compered by Tim “Parkinson” Syddall, gave a fascinating background to his life in beekeeping. One of the most interesting discussions was the history of how HDBA came about.

Mike Thornley writes for The Scottish Beekeeper magazine

In case you haven’t seen it, Mike Thornley has written a piece entitled “*Archie Leitch: an appreciation*” (p116) in which he describes Archie Leitch’s contribution to beekeeping in the Helensburgh and District area. If you don’t have access, send me an email and I’ll forward a photocopy (andrew.shaw24@gmail.com).

The Scottish Beekeeper MIKE THORNLEY

Archie Leitch: an appreciation

Members who attended the Centenary Convention may recall Helensburgh and District Beekeepers Association’s display panels, one of which featured Archie Leitch, the senior beekeeper in our area, who died on 16th January 2017. Archie was born Baillieston in 1924 and went to school in Coatbridge. As a young man he played junior league football (as a right back who perfected the then legal shoulder charge). He studied science at Glasgow University and in 1944 was recruited, with other members of his year, to work on experimental naval projects at Coulport. After being demobilised he completed his degree and then trained as a teacher at Jordonhill. He taught at Hermitage Academy in Helensburgh for more than 40 years.



Archie met his future wife when at rector of Hermitage Academy, who came into Archie’s class one day to report that a

SBA workshops

The Scottish Beekeepers Association are running a collection of workshops (tickets are tight but you never know):

- 15 April - Skep making at the Pyramids at Bathgate
- 19 August - Processing and preparing honey at Thornes at Newburgh

Link of the month:

Two links this month. Firstly, <http://www.naturalbeekeepingtrust.org/blog>. It’s arguable whether the practices advocated by the ‘natural beekeepers’ should be promoted – notably avoidance of chemical *Varroa* treatment – but it is nevertheless interesting to read about things from a different perspective. Secondly, if you’ve ever wanted electronic monitoring of your hives, and don’t fancy buying the expensive stuff, then here are some DIY instructions using a Raspberry Pi <http://www.instructables.com/id/Raspberry-Pi-Beekeeping-Server/>.

Raspberry Pi Beekeeping Server by pvalyk in raspberry-pi

Download

7 Steps

+ Collection



Bee Monitor