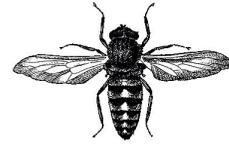


**HALIFAX AND DISTRICT  
BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION**



**Newsletter  
Spring 2017**

**Brickhill Farm, Scholes Lane  
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The weather this last winter has turned out to be rather benign compared to the dreadful winter of 2015-16. At Brickhill Farm the weather has been cold, the skies largely overcast, but there hasn't been the prolonged wet weather of the previous year. Spring has definitely sprung now, (a little bit unseasonably) and the trees, shrubs and spring flowers are blossoming: the bees have been out for some time and are furiously working away to replenish depleted winter stores.

Meg and I did our first work on the hives some 10 days ago, putting the boxes back to their summer formation( we reverse the brood box and super for winter), cleaning the floors , placing a thymol varroa treatment and checking at a glance that all was well. We found that despite the early flying stores were still very low and decided to give them a Spring feed just to help. It was too cold for a full inspection.

I'm delighted to say that all 3 of my hives have survived this year as opposed to last year when I lost 3 out of 4, I hope that this is the same result for all our members - it will be interesting to compare winter losses this year and last year. Please let me know your experiences.

You never know, with this early start to the season, we may have a great year for honey production - let's keep our fingers crossed!

We now have our marquee at the Southowram apiary, with enormous thanks to David Holmes, who researched and purchased it and to Skipton Building Society for donating money. Its inaugural use will be for the Bee Breeding day on 28th May. We are looking for volunteers to help set it up - anyone willing to help should contact me.

Jackie Haigh, as our Education Officer, has been very busy encouraging members to become more involved in the theory and expansion of beekeeping knowledge. We would encourage those new beekeepers who have had bees for 12 months to take the Basic Beekeeping assessment and Jackie is offering a training morning on 20th May for those who are interested.

The Beginners Course course, run by Phil Gee and Jackie began on 24th March and will run for 8 weeks. There has been great interest in the course, 18 people are attending, 10 are HBKA members and 8 non-members. This also includes a 'Meet the bees' apiary visit for the candidates on 6th May.

Other dates in the near future in a very busy schedule are:

The final winter meeting. Wednesday 12th April. 'Swarms' - all aspects, by Gerry Collins held at St Paul's Church, Sowerby Bridge 7.30pm.

HBKA Auction Sat 13th May at Brickhill Farm

Bee Breeding Day 28th May by Master Beekeeper Jim Pearson at Southowram Apiary.

And last, but definitely not least,

HBKA Barbeque 24th June with a talk by P Khorassandjian at Brickhill Farm. Our first BBQ was very well received last year and we hope it will be as popular this year, tickets will be available soon.

I hope you find the Newsletter interesting or useful, but in future I wish members to participate by sending me their stories and experiences to include in the quarterly newsletters.

