

BCOG Bee Report April 2016

My visual inspection of the Hives over the Winter repeated the pattern of the previous year. Hive 1, the original hive, had bees flying on any day warm or dry enough for them to get out. I fed them up to the New Year and they seemed fine. At hive 2, I saw bees flying until mid February and then on subsequent visits, no bees. I also fed these bees up to the New Year. I opened the hive in March on a warmish day and the colony had not survived. The sugar water I had given them had crystallised so I must have made a batch too concentrated and I think this had proved impossible for the bees to break down and left them insufficient stores. Another sad lesson learnt.

I made a quick inspection of Hive 1 and without being too invasive all looked ok.

I had a visit from the Bee Inspector who checks for sign of disease and pests and offers good helpful advice. The good news is the hive is free of disease and pests and there are eggs, larvae and brood. The Queen, however, is a new queen and he raised out whether she has been mated. She was moving about as only a queen can with jerky movements around the comb but her abdomen was not filled out as it would be after she has made her mating flight and been fed up by the nurse bees. I will need to watch closely over the next few weeks to make sure eggs are being produced. The bees are going about their business bringing in pollen and nectar. There is a good source of food in the dandelions that abound and in the willow in the vicinity.