

East Lancs BKA Weekly Hive Opening Report 7th Jan 2018

A Happy New Year to you all from the bees and us!

I went up to Offshoots earlier today to check the bees and to give Pat Smith, the new Offshoots Project Leader, her first experience in the Apiary. I have loaned her one of our beesuits until she gets her own.

Offshoots

None of the three hives (A1, A3 and A10) had consumed much of the kilogram packs of fondant I'd left them three weeks ago. However, I checked down each hive using a torch and there are live bees in each hive. Once they'd see the light, the bees came up to investigate and I was able to show Pat the bees using their long tongues to eat the sugar solution that had collected on the top of the frames.

A10 remains the heaviest hive but both A1 and A3 have dropped in weight a bit, indicating that the bees are choosing to consume their more easily accessible stores around the cluster rather than venturing up to the top of the hive to get at the fondant. Despite this there don't seem to be any signs of starvation. It's not easy too assess the number of dead bees around the hives as the floor at Offshoots is very dark and bees will fall through the open flooring.

Dyneley

Nothing to report from Dyneley but I'm assuming the remaining two colonies are still active. I'll possibly go up there next time I'm at Offshoots to check for myself.

That's all for now . . .

*Dave Parker
Apiary Manager*