



January 2016 Newsletter

Letter from the Chair

Firstly may I wish everyone a belated Happy New Year, The January report is the shortest in the calendar year simply because it is the time when there is very little Hive activity. I spend most of my time looking at the sales bargains on Beekeeping equipment and there certainly bargains to be had. I also spend some time reading up on things to do at the start of spring. I did do a quick inspection on New Year's Day just to see if there were adequate stores; the bees did look Healthy and were out flying due to the mild climate. I will not do any further inspections until the end of February, I hope your Colonies survive the winter and you have a very successful year ahead.

The Branch held a very enjoyable Skittles Evening in December with Frances Rumming winning the tournament, well done Francis.

I would remind members that we have a very special speaker in January yes it is our own Ron Hoskins, when we invited him we asked him to choose his own subject, I am sure we will have a very interesting and informative evening so please make every effort to attend.

Since the last report I have attended a special meeting of the Wiltshire County Committee where our views were expressed on many of the issues that need addressing, I am pleased to say that the new chairman Chris Rawlings has taken the matters very seriously and I think we will see a major move forward during the next year or so on many of the issues that he will address. Watch this Space.

Mike Benson

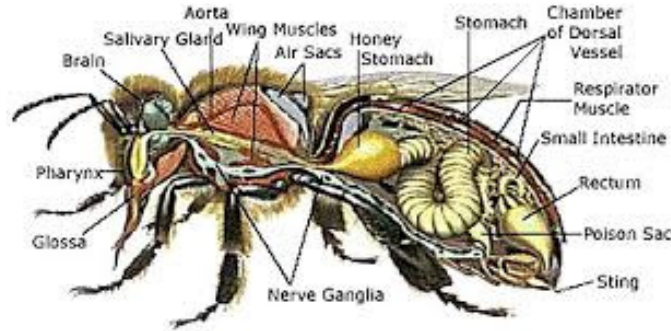
MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Thanks to all of you who have returned your membership forms and paid the fees.

Due to pressure of work (I am an accountant and December and January are "manic") I have not yet issued the Insurance Certificates but in the words of Martin Smith from BDI

"Your members are insured from the day they pay you, whether they have a certificate or not."

Please bear with me and I will issue the certificates as soon as I can
Kathy



NEXT MEETING

As Mike mentioned in his letter Ron Hoskins is coming to talk to us next Thursday – he has confirmed that his talk is entitled

The Results of Twenty Years Chemical-free Beekeeping

If you haven't heard Ron before please come along to what will surely be a very informative evening. Those of us who have heard Ron will be looking forward to this talk.

*Nicola Perrett holds a small stock of fleeces, polo shirts and sweat shirts
If you would like to purchase one please contact her
nicola.perrett@btinternet.com*

DIARY DATES

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|------------------------|--|
| 28 JANUARY 2016 | Ron Hoskins |
| 25 FEBUARY 2016 | Open forum |
| 31 MARCH 2016 | Swarm Control - Stephen Greenaway |

We are currently planning the rest of the 2016 meetings. If you have any suggestions please let Kathy Hobson know.

**Meetings are held on the last Thursday of the month throughout the year (except December) in
The Skittle Alley, Haydon Wick Club,
Blunsdon Road, Swindon SN25 1JD
Meetings start at 7.30pm
Please support the bar**