Barrwood Apiary Meeting Sat. 30.04.16

Eight Hives with a Bluebell Backdrop.

Bluebells in full bloom as far as the eye can see.

Twelve Members watched the BBKA President, our Vice Chairman, inspecting Hive No.8.

With the recent snow and cold conditions, it was not the plan to open up the hives at the apiary meeting on Saturday 30th April, however, a period of warming sunshine allowed the inspection of hive no.8.

With 12 people observing, John Hendrie opened up this double brood National Hive. The queen and all the brood were in the top box. The bottom brood box was removed, and a new brood box full of new frames and foundation was placed on top of the box with the queen.

Although the colour for 2016 is in fact white, the queen was found and marked a fetching shade of pink.

John, using empty boxes, went on to demonstrate the Pagden Method of artificial swarm control. Click on: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BCReKLV6CB4 to watch a simple graphic of this procedure.

The old brood frames from this hive were used to make up two bait hives, which were placed around the apiary. With a large number of people on the swarm request list this year, it is hoped that these bait hives may help to provide bees to some of those on the list.

The day finished off with a bonfire, some tea, and then a lot of unexpected driving around as John Farrow's car had auto-locked itself with the keys inside - blocking in John Hendrie's car too!!

Branch Secretary & Now Chief Pyrotechnic Engineer.

Sarah Rapley [Web Editor & Librarian]