

Our long winter was a worrying time for Yorkshire Beekeepers. – What would we find when we could finally look inside our hives? Death and decay or the fresh scent of newly made honey? Despair or happiness? For three years the combination of varroa (a blood sucking mite), viral diseases and cold wet weather



# THE SUN SHINES FOR YORKSHIRE'S BEES

purposeful and lively without being aggressive. In the warmth I can take my time to examine each comb in the first hive, finding eggs, larvae and pupae in abundance. If anything the bees are stronger than I've seen them for many years. Fresh honeycomb smells of spring. I don't need to see the queen; all the signs are that she is alive and well. Will the same be true of the other colonies?

One-by-one the hives reveal good news until we reach the colony from hell. Bees fly aggressively straight at my face and I can tell that I'll find no queen. My veil protects my face but hands and ankles suffer. I take action to solve the problem; bees without a queen are trouble.

I'm pleased with what I find. Two colonies are queenless but the rest are the healthiest I've seen in several years. This good news is shared by most of the 1500 Yorkshire Beekeepers and is especially good because so many of them are new to beekeeping. We have seen a huge boost in numbers over the last 3 years. As the number of bees have declined the number of Beekeepers has soared, the result of our publicity campaign to get the government to put money into



bee disease research.

Yorkshire people have realised the importance of bees and have responded in style. Becoming a beekeeper is easier than you might think. You can help halt the decline and get a personal honey crop too.



Contact Yorkshire Beekeepers Association  
[www.yorkshirebeekeepers.org.uk](http://www.yorkshirebeekeepers.org.uk)  
 Bill Cadmore, Vice Chairman Yorkshire BKA



have devastated our bees but with true northern grit and optimism we always look for better days to come.

I approached that first hive inspection with my heart in my mouth. I had made sure they were well stocked with food in the autumn and I had added extra sugar paste to help them through the long cold spell. I was worried about how well they had survived. Good news – bees are flying well in the April sunshine. They are

Thank you for supporting local trade

## Rochester House Gallery

17 Main St. Haworth 10-5 Thurs-Mon

Local self-taught artist, David Lamb, is exhibiting his work at the Rochester House Gallery in Main Street, Haworth from 5 June to 2 July.

David's one-man exhibition showcases his paintings of local scenes and animals in a wide range of media.



Born and brought up in Haworth, David attended Haworth school until 1959 when he served a six-year apprenticeship to become a woollorter. But 11 years ago he had an accident that seriously affected his life.

David was fixing a hoist when he slipped and fell 93 feet to the ground. Fortunately some bales of wool waiting below broke his fall, but he was critically injured and complications after the accident led to his right leg being amputated.



Nowadays David spends much of his time painting and has become well known in the village as an amateur artist.

Keen on art when he was at school, David's talent has led to exhibitions at Haworth Tourist Information Centre and the Rochester House Gallery, and he is currently the President of the Bingley Arts Society.

David is an inspiration to everyone who meets him, and proves that life goes on after suffering such trauma.

He is available to take commissioned work. Contact Rochester House Gallery 01535 648832

Say you saw it in the Worth Valley Mag!