

Harlow Bees-letter December 2014

Bee quote of the month: John Keats;
*"Even bees, the little almsmen of spring bowers,
know there is richest juice in poison-flowers."*

Upcoming Meetings

5th February - Gardening for bees
5th March - Spring Preparation



Secretary Notices

We are still waiting on 30 people to pay their subs.

This is 40% of the membership and makes things very difficult for Pauline, who tries to keep all the records in order. Payments on to, BBKA, EBKA, BDI, etc have to be made starting in February.

Meeting news

At the last meeting we had our AGM - minutes attached : highlights include our new County Delegate Martin Cavalier and new Council Liaison Brian Bull.

One of the other discussions was about what we want to spend divisional funds on this year? Last year we bought a banner and a gazebo to support our community work. The year before we got a projector and a projector screen. This year thoughts are that we need a laptop - as we have been borrowing Pauline daughter's laptop. Also it is suggested that we get some pull up scrolling signage with beekeeping infographics (Hive structure, Bee castes, etc).

We are hoping that the EBKA will provide matched funding for these items as they have for other divisions. If you have ideas about how we might best utilise our funds then please get in touch by emailing the group or bringing it up at a meeting.

Beekeeping Course

Beekeeping beginners course starts Tuesday 10th March. If you would like a refresher or know someone who would like to be a beekeeper, please go to the website <http://www.harlowbees.co.uk/course> or contact Pauline (01279 411941)

Ideas for speakers for talks and visits out to places.

This month elsewhere

Research has identified the toxin released by the bacteria that causes American foulbrood (*Paenibacillus larvae*), essential for the bacteria to colonize the hive and thus opens a possible pathway for control.

The dose makes the poison: have "field realistic" rates of exposure of bees to neonicotinoid insecticides been overestimated in laboratory studies?

A research team from Ohio State University has developed a new method that utilizes DNA metabarcoding to analyze pollen to determine its origin. The alternative, microscopes, suffer from being difficult, slow, and often imprecise.

Viruses carried by commercial bees can jump to wild pollinator populations. Researchers behind the work are calling for new measures to make sure commercial pollinators are not introduced into natural environments.

Other EBKA divisions have talks that **you** can attend as an EBKA member as shown - <http://ebka.org/whats-on/ebka-programme/> or in the Essex Magazine each month

Seed bombs can be made and thrown on to waste ground to provide bee forage. Simply put seeds in clay soil and roll in a ball -

Winter Blues

This is the month when some colonies are lost. They may have eaten all their food making brood in that warm spell in the autumn, or the food went hard when it was full of ivy honey, or the bees could not reach the honey. There may have been trouble with a mouse or woodpecker and varroa with its associated viruses. Nobody said beekeeping was easy. If it was I would go back to growing tomatoes.

Ventilation

A full sized colony consuming 35 pounds of stores will metabolise this and produce lots of carbon dioxide and 4 gallons of water. They eat very little food before February but then the queen starts to lay a few eggs and the brood needs to be fed on honey and digested pollen. Also the nest is kept at 34 degrees which is achieved when the adults eat. So the bees do a balancing act. Too much water and they need ventilation to evaporate it. Too little water and they fly out even when it is cold to get some to dilute honey to about 50:50.

Disease

Some hives I was looking after for myself and other beekeepers suffered from EFB, European Foul Brood, and the inspector did a shook swarm. The bees were saved but lots of beautiful combs and lots of honey were burnt. When you pay your subs don't skimp on your contribution to BDI, Bee Disease Insurance, and if you are unlucky and get it make sure you get the inspector to fill out a claim straightaway and post it to Bernard Diaper. Details and forms are on the internet.

Roy Cropley

disperse and wait. Or you can buy them.

For sale

Roy Cropley (01992 626668)

- Quality Wax at rock bottom prices
- Remember to recycle wax with Roy

David Tyler (01279 730228)

- currently has 30 Buckets clear Borage Honey for sale at £2.25/lb

Division committee

President, Spray Liaison & Swarm

Liaison Danny Nicoll

Chairman & Librarian

David Tyler

Vice Chair

David Tidmas

Secretary & Web Editor

Nick Holmes

Treasurer Pauline Tidmas

Divisional Trustee Martin Cavalier

Training Liaison Mike Barke

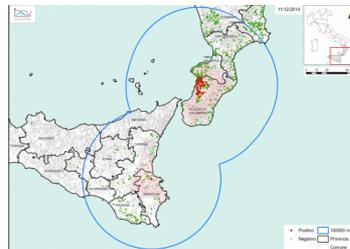
Council Liaison Brian Bull

Mailing Officer Zena Wilkins

News Letter Nick Holmes & Roy Cropley

Small Hive Beetle update

SHB has been found in a total of **60 apiaries** (as of Jan 7th). The increase month on month seems to be slowing.



<https://sites.anses.fr/en/minisite/abeilles/detection-aethina-tumida-small-hive-italy>