

# Harlow Bees-letter - September 2015

## Upcoming Meetings

**3rd September** - "Winter Preparation"

**1st October** - "Wax Extraction - cleaning and making products , then Ideas for 2016 programme"



## Secretary Notices

Last meeting was the 2nd **Harlow Honey show**. This was an effort to advance the Division to annual Honey Shows where members could take part in a fun event. There were 4 classes compared to just 1 last year, covering Honey, Wax and Baking (being the same classes taken from the Essex Honey Show so people could practice and reuse entries there).

Obviously with the Division having around 80 members and each having the opportunity to participate in 4 classes we were ready for a good event.

As members arrived items were booked in and placed upon the display tables ready for Jim McNeil to judge with prizes and certificates given at the end of the evenings session. This did not take too long as only 11 members entered the event and only 17 entries were recorded overall

We had a great showing from the juniors members with three quarters of them putting in the multi-part (honey, cookies, art and candle) junior entry, two thirds of the junior honey entries would have beaten most of the adult entries, said judge Jim McNeil.

Results are as follows:

### Class 1: 2 Jars Light Clear Honey

**1st Mike Barke 2nd David McCorkindale 3rd Val Jepps**

### Class 2: 2 Jars Medium Clear Honey

**1st Mike Barke 2nd Val Jepps 3rd Nick Holmes**

### Class 3: Cake of Beeswax

**1st Val Jepps**

### Class 4: 6 Honey Nut Cookies

**1st Pauline Tidmas 2nd Val Jepps 3rd Susan Swindale**

### Junior Class

**1st Harvey Wilkins 2nd Daniel Holmes 3rd Benjamin Holmes**

Congratulations to our winner and many thanks to all those members who took part.

At the Divisional Meetings in the next few months where we will be agreeing the way forward for next years Divisional Programme it would be great to discuss how people felt about the event and any changes people may feel appropriate.

## This month elsewhere



The Royal mail have released a range of Bee stamps - available from the Post office or as a first day cover from the BBKA shop.

Bee-killing Asian hornets spreading across Europe now face a natural enemy that lures them to destruction - a carnivorous North American Pitcher plant

Imidacloprid, a nicotine-like pesticide used on crops, led to loss of bee colonies in England and Wales, according to Fera science. The research, based on large-scale data on pesticide use, crop yields, and honeybee losses spanning 11 years, looked at the effects of coating seeds with imidacloprid in nine regions between 2000 and 2010.

## Events reminder

We have the last event of the year coming up coming up and we will need people to come and help.

[harlowbees.co.uk/events/](http://harlowbees.co.uk/events/)

**19th September : 12-4pm -  
St Mary-at-Latton Church -  
Medieval event to  
celebrate 1000years of the  
church**



### A busy time

There were a number of swarms this year. I put some on foundation and they built up very well. They built comb, stored honey and there was good brood. Then they swarmed. A friend gives his swarms a few weeks and then replaces the queens with his own queens bred from a non-swarmy type. I am happy to deal with swarms but I don't like to lose them after so much care.

### Summer is over.

Why did summer go so quickly? Was is something that I said? Nothing is coming in but each colony is eating two pounds every day. Some stocks have no stores and many are low, especially those which were extracted. A colony eats 300 pounds of honey in a year, some of it about now. Some colonies have starved to death.

### An apiary visit

I opened three hives as a demonstration for beginners. The stocks looked perfect from the outside. Bees were flying freely and bringing in pollen. One colony was perfect with four frames of sealed brood, one with unsealed brood and a patch of eggs. There were two frames of honey, some sealed, some fresh and unsealed. The second lot had a little patch of brood, sign of a failing queen. It is lucky I have some young queens in mating nucs just coming in to lay. The third hive had no brood and the bees made the characteristic noise of a queenless lot. There is no point in requeening them at this time of year so they will be united with a five frame nuc. They all looked perfect from the outside.

*by Roy Cropley*

Bees are naturally and automatically vaccinated before birth, and new research has worked out the ingenious mechanism that does it. Now, vaccines could be developed for bees, to help halt their more than half-century decline.

Bees can haul up to half their own body weight in pollen, according to a team of researchers led by Harvard biologist Andrew Mountcastle. By comparison, a Boeing 747-400 can only safely transport an additional third of its empty weight .

## For sale

### Buckets

- Honey buckets £2

**David Tyler (01279 730228)**

### Wax for sale

- recycle wax with Roy

**Roy Cropley (01992 626668)**

## 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