

# Harlow Bees-letter - October 2015

## Upcoming Meetings

**5th November** - "BBKA - what's is all about" with Doug Brown BBKA, Chairman , then Ideas for 2016 programme"

**3rd December** - "Xmas quiz and party"



## Secretary Notices

Last month we learnt all about cleaning & preparing wax with Mike Barke, with some pictures from Nick Holmes of his process. Also discussed was the programme below.

Next month we will have having our annual Christmas party, come along, bring a few snacks and have fun. Nick will be running a bee related Christmas quiz so bring your thinking caps.

## Last minute winter preparation

Hopefully you've all finished feeding enough to get your bees through the winter - if not it might be too late for syrup feeding as it's too cold for capping. In winter you can always use bakers fondant in an upturned chinese container over the crown board hole.

Don't forget to get your mouse guards in place - I can speak from personal experience that opening a hive in spring to find nothing but mouse debris is not great.

Lastly if you are at risk of green woodpeckers don't forget to get your hive protected in your chosen way before it gets cold.

## Resolutions.

The most important thing I intend to do this coming year is to produce some queens. I want them to produce workers which are gentle, low swarming and disease resistant. I'll do more than one batch to allow for bad weather during mating. I will produce my own queen cells and buy cells from other beekeepers. The queens are best kept in their 5-frame mating nucs and are available as replacements when needed.

I was given some nice swarms this year but the queens went AWOL after a month or so. In future swarms will be requeened after I am sure they are disease-free.

After 50 years of boiling kettles to dissolve sugar for feeding i am going to use the syrup which comes from maize. It is made when an enzyme is added to starch. Unlike granulated sugar it is already invert sugar and saves the bees work. My bees are getting lazy.

I am going to keep better records.

When things are put away for the winter they should be protected against moth and mice and be ready to use in the spring. There is painting to be done and some gentle work with the blowlamp.

## This month elsewhere

Api-bioxal approved by the VMD - a fully registered oxalic acid product. This approval overcomes the uncertainty over the legality of the use of oxalic acid products.

Female bees choose mates based on buzzing 'language' Female bees can tell where a male bee is from based on his buzzing pattern, and uses that to accept or reject him.



It's official: the buff-tailed bumblebee is the nation's favourite creepy crawlie, according to a nationwide poll.



2015 Nikon Small World Photomicrography Competition winning image this year: a close-up of a bee's eye, covered in dandelion pollen.

Diesel fumes in polluted areas may be destroying half

Every year there are beekeepers who suddenly find there is an urgent need for foundation. Please try to get in a stock before it is needed and not after.

*by Roy Cropley*

## Selected Programme ideas

Last month we selected the following subjects to be discussed :

1. Bee Venom allergy & Anaphylaxis
2. Queen rearing talk - with a focus on successful introduction techniques
3. Plants and pollination
4. Candles and wax moulding
5. Cooking with honey
6. Honey marketing - setting up your stall - options etc
7. Honey handling & hygiene - rules, regs and advice
8. Beekeeping in other countries - different techniques / environmental considerations in other countries, e.g. Caribbean
9. Honey diseases and poisoning / Disease control and integrated pest management
10. Swarm taking - not by Danny

## One for Winter - Honey Cough Syrup

### Ingredients

- 1½ tablespoons – Zest of 2 lemons
- ¼ cup – peeled, sliced ginger , or ½ teaspoon of ground ginger
- 1 cup – water
- 1 cup – Honey
- ½ cup – lemon juice

### Directions

In a small saucepan, combine lemon zest, sliced ginger and 1 cup of water. Bring mixture to a boil, simmer for 5 minutes, then strain through into a heat-proof measuring cup. Rinse the saucepan out and pour in 1 cup of honey. On low heat, warm the honey, but do not allow it to boil. Add the strained lemon ginger water and the lemon juice. Stir the mixture until it combines to form a thick syrup. Pour into a clean jar with a lid. Note: This can be refrigerated for up to 2 months.

For children ages 1 to 5, use ½ to 1 teaspoon every 2 hours. For children ages 5 to 12, use 1 to 2 teaspoon every 2 hours. For children 12 and older and adults, use 1 to 2 tablespoons every 4 hours.

From: <http://www.honey.com/recipes/detail/38/honey-cough-syrup>

of the most common flower odours used by bees to find their food, according to researchers from the universities of Southampton and Reading

The UMF Honey Association says it has found the solution to fake manuka honey products, developing a portable device which tests for the nectar of *Leptospermum Scoparium*, the native manuka bush.

Maisemore sale is now on.  
<http://bees-online.co.uk>

## 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 & Mailing Officer**

Pauline Tidmas

**Divisional Trustee** Martin

Cavalier

**Training Liaison** Mike Barke

**Council Liaison** Brian Bull

**Newsletter** Nick Holmes & Roy Cropley