

# Harlow Bees-letter - March 2016

## Upcoming Meetings

**Mar 3 - Bee Venom allergy & Anaphylaxis - with Mike Morgan**

**April 7 - Queen Rearing : Mini nucs and queen introduction; with Pat Allen**



## Secretary Notices

Last month - We had Spring Preparation with Danny. Checking you bees, clearing the entrances, hefting, fondant feeding, pollen patties, early short inspections and then the full spring inspection and clean.

## Beekeeping course

The annual introduction to beekeeping course has started. We have a good group this year again, exploring the life-cycle and history of the Honey Bee in the first week..



### Quiz.

To make it easy here are the answers. All you have to do is supply the questions.

**1. 13 2. 10,000 3. 21 4. 15/16 5. 24 6. 6,000 7. 3 8. 8 9. 101**

We used to say that if you put two people together in a room you would get three opinions. It now seems if you put one person together in a room you still get three opinions.

In 55 years I've seen many things come and go. One time we were told to put a microphone in each hive to listen with earphones and so find if a swarm was eminent. But three new things have appealed to me.

(1). Varroa floors. I've used them for two years and get on well with them.

(2). Neopoll. A sticky blend of sugar and pollen from Germany which is fed throughout the winter. It costs £4 a kilo. The bees love it and take it although the hives are heavy. Perhaps their stores have solidified with rape and ivy honey. Bees were bringing in pollen during January and February, a sign the queen is laying.

(3) Some colonies of bees are immune to varroa. The number is growing and soon varroa will be as rare as acarine and braula. In the meantime the oxalic acid vaporiser will clear all the mites off the bees. A tiny amount of the crystals is put on a spoon and heated with a 12-volt car battery. The vapour condenses on every surface in the hive. The bees are unaffected but all the varroa is killed. It is interesting to see how many varroa survive after other treatments. Price of the equipment is about £140 at Thornes and much less on the internet.

### Quiz questions

1. Average number of drones to mate with a virgin queen is 13.
2. Number of bees in a hive in early spring is 10,000
3. Number of days from egg to adult for a worker is 21.
4. A queen spends 15/16 days from egg to emerging.
5. The drone takes 24 days from egg to adult.
6. Each antenna has 6,000 nerves to the brain.
7. A bee has 3 ocelli (simple eyes) on top of the head.
8. The worker has 8 glands in the abdomen producing wax.
9. Each of your colonies will produce 101 pounds of honey this year.

*by Roy Cropley*

## For sale

### Buckets

- Honey buckets £2

David Tyler (01279 730228)

### Wax for sale

- recycle wax with Roy

Roy Cropley (01992 626668)

## Division committee

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**Liaison** Danny Nicoll

**Chairman & Librarian**

David Tyler

**Vice Chair**

David Tidmas

**Secretary & Web Editor**

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