

# Harlow Bees-letter - May 2016

## Upcoming Meetings

**May 5 - Bee Diseases & Pests; with David Rudland**

**June 2 - Beekeeping in the Caribbean; with Clive de Bruyn**



## Secretary Notices

Last month - We learnt about raising bees in mini nucs and how to safely introduce a new queen to a hive, thanks to Pat Allen - hopefully people will be able to use this information once it gets warm enough to do something with their bees.

Nick Holmes also did a small but informative reminder about swarm control, the general message was 'Be Prepared'.

## 50 Years in Beekeeping

The sun was shining as Jill Solomons received her Certificate from Danny Nicoll for 50 Years in Beekeeping which was issued by the BBKA. Jill follows in the footsteps of



other Harlow Members, her late husband Bethal Solomons, Eric Fenner & Mike Morgan, who have also achieved this milestone in Beekeeping. Jill still runs her favourite hive, the WBC, sited in her beautiful garden full of many bee friendly plants.

## Jars

Just a reminder that now is the time to order your honey jars at **very good prices**. You need to order enough jars to last you until June 2017

I know we have until the beginning of June this year to place our order but please **don't leave it until the last minute**. Remember we can only have a local delivery if we get enough orders to warrant our own delivery otherwise we will all have to travel to Stock near Chelmsford. Obviously we will be monitoring the situation so please order as soon as possible Should you require another set of forms email [pauline@harlowbees.co.uk](mailto:pauline@harlowbees.co.uk) or ring 01279 441941

## Beekeeping course

The bee course went well this year, at least the theory sessions did - as I write this the practical sessions have been delayed again due to bad weather - not to worry it will all be worth it in the end - and trust me you want your first visit to bees to be when it is nice weather and the bees are on their best behaviour. Fingers crossed for the bank holiday weekend. .

## EBKA Events

The Ted Hooper memorial Lectures with talks from Clive de Bruyn - it was a lovely venue and great event. The books available at the event, at 40% discount, were so popular they sold out - so the deal has been extended. "The Bee Friendly Garden" £9 (rrp £15) "The Beginner's Bee Book" £6 (rrp £10) - contact Nick Holmes before May 20th if you would like to order ([wwwcight@gmail.com](mailto:wwwcight@gmail.com)).

## HarlowBees Events

Upcoming in the next few months we have **Hallingbury Flower Show** on Sunday 24th July and **Pandon Week Bee Weekend** 30th & 31st July

## 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

**Newsletter** Nick Holmes & Roy Cropley

**Mailing Officer** Lisa McCorkindale

## Applying for the BBKA Basic practical assessment

*I am leaving this section in this month - it is not a newsletter mistake. Other divisions are ahead of us on this one.*

We've had a few members saying they don't know how to get involved in taking the BBKA Basic. As such, with help from David McCorkindale, who is taking "the basic" this year, here is a small guide to booking and getting on the assessment.

1. Go to the BBKA site and download the entry form ([http://www.bbka.org.uk/learn/examinations\\_assessments](http://www.bbka.org.uk/learn/examinations_assessments)) - assesment fee is £21 - you will need a committee member to sign you off as 'ready' to do the assesment.
2. The assessment syllabus is also on the above link.
3. This form needs to be sent to the county Education officer - Pat Allen ([pat.allen@btconnect.com](mailto:pat.allen@btconnect.com)) - before July 31st
4. You will need to take the assessment before the end of August - arranged with Qualified beekeepers across the county.
5. You may chose to take advantage of the county subsidised training <http://ebka.org/whats-on/bbka-basic-assessment-training-day/> - book before 31st March

...any questions ask Nick ([wwwcight@gmail.com](mailto:wwwcight@gmail.com)) or David ([davidmccorkingdale@hotmail.com](mailto:davidmccorkingdale@hotmail.com))

### Swarming

It's sad when you lose a swarm. Away goes the queen with 20,000 workers. No chance of honey. Perhaps another swarm called a cast will leave with a virgin. Swarming is due to a queen from swarmy parents, or she is old or the hive is overcrowded and needing supers. When you collect a swarm put it on foundation. If you don't want it give it to another member. Do not climb ladders. If the swarm is in an awkward place do not kill the bees. Leave that to the professionals.

### The Bait Hive.

Sometimes a swarm comes your way and takes up residence in an empty hive. It may be attracted to a used brood comb or to a particular smell. Bees for nothing. Some members have suffered winter losses. Here's a way to get some more bees. A swarm is best requeened with a young queen from a reliable source. Some of the queens which were bought last year were poor and not worth having, including imported ones. Please resist bringing queens back from holidays abroad.

### Queen production

Every beekeeper should produce queens. Queen cells can be obtained in a number of ways and put to hatch out in nucleus hives. I buy cells from a reliable queen breeder. I do not use the plastic mininucs advocated in the last meeting. I use wooden 5 frame hives which use more bees, combs, honey, pollen and brood. Also the young queens can stay awhile until needed.

*by Roy Cropley*

## Sell your honey

Just a reminder that we have a honey map you can advertise your local honey or other apiary harvest products on <https://ebka.org/for-sale/essex-honey-for-sale/> - to be added please fill in this form <https://ebka.org/members-area/honey-map/> or contact the secretary (Nick Holmes).