

Harlow Bees-letter - July 2016

Upcoming Meetings

July 7 - Honey Hygiene and regulations; with Andy Pedley

August 4 - Harlow Honey Show



Secretary Notices

Last month - We we had an engaging talk from Clive de Bruyn about his adventures beekeeping in Jamaica - a well rounded talk and we even learnt about the pollination of coffee, why the moon can cause your hive stands get eaten by termites and how afros can come in handy - who would have thought?

At the start of June we also had a splendid day at Foxholes farm event, with some glorious sunshine entertaining young and old alike while educating them on beekeeping, rolling candles and tasking honey.

Our next event

'Hallingbury Flower Show' Harps Farm Bedlars Green, Great Hallingbury CM22 7TL

Sunday 24th July 2016 12 noon until 4pm

Followed the very next weekend by our annual event

Parndon Wood Nature Reserve, Parndon Wood Road, Harlow Essex CM19 4SF

2 day Event 'Buzzing Bees' lots of stands to cover

Saturday 30th and Sunday 31st July 2016

11am until 4pm each day

Then there is the Essex Show including The Essex Beekeepers

Essex Honey Show Barleylands Farm Centre & Craft Village Barleylands Road, Billericay, Essex CM11 2UD

Annual 2 Day Event with large marquee, beekeeping exhibits and bee displays

You can volunteer to help and get free entry to the whole show for the day

Volunteer to help to Nick Holmes 07730 735752 or secretary@harlowbees.co.uk

Start getting your honey ready to exhibit in the name of Harlow we need those points

Details re the Essex Show will be out in the Essex Beekeeper very soon.

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

Apology

I missed the June meeting. I'm sorry. I just had a senior moment. Some of my senior moments last quite a while these days. I'll be at the next meeting.

What weather.

We had some pretty bad weather for June. There was little nectar to forage for and bad weather for the bees to struggle through. Some of us extracted spring honey and left the colonies hungry. A colony eats 2 pounds of honey every day. When there's nothing coming in and the stores are low they need a feed. Be careful not to feed so much that the bees store it to be extracted later.

Queens

Many queens disappeared this year. And many never got mated. It's not ideal to find a colony without a queen and no brood and then pay a week's pocket money for a queen. All the bees are old and there's not much chance of building up a decent lot in the remaining season. A better idea might be to unite to a queenright hive. Best of all is to have a nuc or two to take care of your queen problems.

Swarms

A month ago we collected a swarm. It was put on foundation and never looked back. The bees are so gentle. I forget to smoke them and I don't need gloves. Beekeeping at its best. It was united with the Daily Mail to a queenless lot and it made a fine colony.

Wax

Even old brood combs will give clean yellow wax in the solar wax extractor. I admit it's not cost effective and rather time consuming. If you recover wax but it turns out a poor colour (such as brown) then look to change your method. All my equipment is stainless steel (aluminium is nearly as good). I wish you all 'Happy Beekeeping'.

by Roy Cropley