

Harlow Bees-letter - August 2016

Upcoming Meetings

August 4 - Harlow Honey Show

September 1 - Winter preparation



Secretary Notices

Last week we had a lovely day at Hallingbury flower show, education and honey all round



This weekend we have

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

Harlow Honey show

Please support our honey show by bringing along entries. We plan to be exploring in the session what makes a winning entry in each of the categories. Any issues please contact Pauline or Nick.

Hot topic

...on the internet this week the hot beekeeping item is :

Male bees may have inadvertently been taking contraceptives – a possible factor in the alarming decline in bee populations across North America and Europe over the past 15 years. Neonicotinoids significantly impair the fertility of male honeybees, according to a new study. Drones exposed to the neonicotinoids at levels found in fields showed around 39 per cent less living sperm on average. On top of this, the mortality rate of the drones during the study was almost doubled when exposed to the pesticides.

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

Stands the village clock at ten to three

And is there honey still for tea?

After a good start to the season June turned out to be a cold and damp month. The honey stored in spring was eaten at the rate of two pounds every day. One American visitor to see the tennis asked why we don't have Wimbledon in the summer? It was a bad time for trying to get queens mated. There were lots of swarms, many with poor queens. There were large colonies which suddenly had no queen and no brood. Yet no sign anything was wrong.

The mating nuc.

There are many ways to get a nice young queen but I favour a five frame nucleus box. In goes a frame with sealed brood in it and a frame of honey and one with pollen. I add a drawn comb and one of foundation. The combs are well covered with bees, especially young ones. Best if moved to another apiary. A queen cell which will emerge a day or so later is put by the brood. The queen will emerge in a land of plenty. She needs 200 young bees to provide her with royal jelly to develop her egg-laying tubes. Two weeks later there is a queen. This can be left to build up or until a queen is needed. Buying a nuc. is different. BBKA has stated the standard for a nuc. There should be frames of sealed brood well covered with bees and a young queen. There are stores. To put a swarm on five frames of foundation and call it a nuc is a wrong description. It has no sealed brood, an old queen or a virgin and mostly old bees.

The two lines at the beginning are from the poem 'Granchester' which I learned 65 years ago in school. Education was better then.

by Roy Cropley