

# Harlow Bees-letter - December 2016

## Upcoming Meetings

*December 1 - Christmas Party*

*January 5 - Harlow AGM*



## Secretary Notices

Last month we had a talk by Robert Pickford about a trip that he and a number of other beekeepers, including Danny, made to France.

This month is the **CHRISTMAS PARTY !!!** Please come and join in the fun. There will be a Christmas Quiz, so bring your thinking caps. Bring along party snacks also...

## Annual Subscription

It is that time of year to renew subscriptions. Please find the subscription form here

<http://harlowbees.co.uk/division/membership/>

Please note if you wish to be a swarm collector please see the agreements on

<http://harlowbees.co.uk/division/members-only/>

## Divisional Programme

The below are the selected talks for 2017 (subject to bookings), they will be slotted into the calendar subject to speaker availability.

- Propolis and pollen
- Honey Beer...
- Making for increase
- Mistakes people made while leaning beekeeping - individuals & group discussion
- Candles and wax moulding -
- Wax cleaning -
- *Planting for pollinators*

We also have What I did for the BBKA Basic with David McCorkindale set for February after tea, already booked in

## Introduction to Beekeeping course

This years course has been planned. Those who wish to take the course again should book soon. If you would like to buy someone else a course for Christmas there is a voucher option. Otherwise if you can help us advertise the course wherever you can that would be appreciated.

Please email [pauline.bees@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pauline.bees@hotmail.co.uk) or telephone 01279 441941 if you would like to book or help advertise.

## Bee news

Research at University College London has found treating bees with light therapy can counteract the harmful effects of neonicotinoid pesticides and improve survival rates of poisoned bees.

"We found that by shining deep red light on the bee which had been affected by the toxic pesticides that they could recover, as it improved mitochondrial and visual function, and enabled them to move around and feed again,"

Read more at: <http://phys.org/news/2016-11-therapy-bees-deadly-pesticides.html>

## The Festive Season

We are all thinking of nothing but Christmas. The honey is all extracted, the bees are fed, the mouse guards are on and the hives that might be open to woodpecker damage are protected. We can now sit back and think of Christmas presents. To the person who does not want to be stung on the hand there are leather gauntlets. It is not easy to do much with them. The inspectors wear thin plastic gloves which they discard so as not to spread disease. I sometimes wear Marigolds which are also used for washing up but I prefer to do my beekeeping with bare hands. Father Christmas may put a bee book or a video in my stocking.

## Set honey

In the old days before OSR we extracted once a year in mid-July. We were happy with 30 pounds from each hive and it stayed runny. Some honey was left on the hive for winter feed to be augmented with sugar. There were some people who never fed sugar and used names like 'Natural Honey' Now we have better bees and more crops and expect over 100 pounds per hive. Most seasons the supers fill with honey which sets quickly because of the high glucose content. Get the stuff extracted. My advice:- Filter it straightaway through the stainless steel strainer and then through fine cloth and into jars or buckets. What do you do with combs of solid honey? The most common thing is to cut out the combs, put in a bucket and put in a warming cabinet at about 35 degrees for two days to liquefy it. A lot of extra work. During Autumn ivy honey is collected. This has two bad marks, it sets hard and it tastes awful. It is not good to leave solid honey as winter feed. In cold weather it is hard for them to uncap and add water to reduce the sugar content from 75% to 50%. One beekeeper extracts all the honey, capped or uncapped, and replaces it with syrup.

## Cappings

These may be put back on the hive. The bees will transfer the honey and some of the wax but care is needed not to convey disease to the colony. Of course the wax is exchanged for foundation. Cappings from a suspect colony are melted in rain water. When cool the water/honey solution is poured down the drain and not into the ground water. On a personal note:- I am well set up to deal with cappings and hard combs. Happy shopping to everyone.

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

**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