

Harlow Bees-letter - February 2017

Upcoming Meetings

February 2 - Spring Preparation & What I did for the BBKA Basic with David McCorkindale

March 2 - Planting for pollinators (speaker TBC)



Secretary Notices

Last month we had the AGM, minutes & accounts attached - some points of note below

New committee members

Last month we had a number of changes to our committee members

- David McCorkindale takes over the Vice Chairman role - many thanks to David Tidmas for his tenure
- Nick Holmes takes over Spray Liaison from Danny Nicoll (Danny promises there is nothing involved)
- Swarm Control will be done by David Swindale, taking over from Danny Nicoll as the official contact for the group
- Training Liaison is taken on by David McCorkindale, thanks to Mike Barke for his years of service in this role
- Roy Croyley has relinquished his role on the newsletter - but has furnished us with a last piece for this month's newsletter

Tea and Coffee

It was agreed at the AGM that tea and coffee would be done by different people each month from now on, and that we would be asking for a volunteer for the next meeting at the end of each meeting. Please be forthcoming in this.

Annual Subscription

You are cordially reminded that subscriptions for 2017 are now overdue, please make arrangements as soon as possible if you have not already done so..

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/>

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 or telephone 01279 441941 if you would like to book or help advertise.

Winter blues

Winter is not my favourite time of year. I hate the cold. Why people want to waste time and money going on holiday where there are snow and ice baffles me. When it is cold I keep indoors and eat a bit more to produce body warmth. I never go out when it is dark. When it is warm I go out and enjoy the flowers, their pretty colours and sweet smell. The bees have begun to copy me. They stay indoors when it is cold and dark and rely on stored food. They huddle together to conserve heat with the queen at the centre with a little space to move. When she is fed she will lay a few eggs. The outside of the huddle is cold but the workers

maintain the centre at 34 degrees. A few bees will fly, even on cold days, to collect water so that honey which has only 20% water can be diluted to 50%.

An Unusual Winter

Every year we say 'This is strange weather'. This time we have cold nights and some warm days. Much of the winter feed is used when brood is reared during the warm spells. Pollen is coming in, a sure sign the queen is active. We never used to feed during winter but so much honey has gone from the cluster area and the bees might not get to the stores so a regular lump of fondant staves off hunger. These days honey goes hard and the bees cannot uncap it. Some of us leave honey on the hive thinking that a he is good enough.

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 Danny Nicoll

Chairman & Librarian David Tyler

Vice Chair David McCorkindale

Secretary & Web Editor & Swarm Liaison Nick Holmes

Treasurer Pauline Tidmas

Divisional Trustee Martin Cavalier

Spray Liaison David Swindale

Training Liaison David McCorkindale

Council Liaison Brian Bull

Newsletter Nick Holmes

Mailing Officer Lisa McCorkindale