

Harlow Bees-letter - February 2018

Upcoming Meetings - Feb 1 - Soap making with Sarah Robb & EGM -

March 1 - Alternative bee hives with Peter Aldridge



Secretary Notices

New Website - We have a new website <https://harlowbeekeepers.wordpress.com/>

The migration to the new site is not quite complete but hopefully will be by next month. If you have any ideas / suggestions they would be gratefully received; and offers to write pages even moreso.

This month's speaker Dr Sara Robb is an award-winning scientist, professional speaker, author and managing director of her company Bath Potions. Sara studied pharmacognosy and toxic natural products at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, before moving to Hershey Medical School for her PhD. Sara left academic research and founded her company Bath Potions, which specialises in honey soaps and beeswax creams. Recipes are available in her first book, Dr Sara's Honey Potions. Sara runs workshops at the British Beekeepers Association Spring Convention and The National Honey Show each year. Sara has a continued interest in aging and anti-oxidants, particularly, the anti-oxidants in bee products and how they can slow the aging process.

EGM Last month we had a 'surprise' curtailed AGM with an upcoming EGM to do the bits we didn't do last month this month. We are still looking for a CEC Rep / Divisional Trustee

Facebook - Ben Hart is going to be pushing the facebook page for the group forward <https://www.facebook.com/harlowbees.co.uk/> to increase social engagement and help us look for speakers.

Programme - Last month we move forward with the programme, we hope to move further soon :

- 1 Feb - Soap making with Sarah Robb & EGM
- 1 Mar - Alternative bee hives with Peter Aldridge
- 5 Apr - The shook swarm with Robert Smith NDB
- 3 May - Queen rearing with Ted Gradosielski

Essex Association Dates

Some other dates for your diaries - more can be seen on the <http://ebka.org> website

AGM Saturday 24 March EBKA AGM 2pm at Writtle College - Speaker(s) to be arranged - usually a good speaker

Ted Hooper Memorial Lecture - Sunday 22 April Ted Hooper Memorial Lecture 2pm Lecture Theatre Writtle College - Speaker: Norman Carreck - Other speaker to be arranged

Essex Honey Show Saturday September 1 Orsett Show

EBKA Conference Saturday 3 November - Chelmsford City Racecourse

Beekeeping Course

Our Annual course starts again 27th February 2018 for 5 weeks 8-10pm and 2 apiary sessions, only £50 or £90 for 2 people sharing 1 set of notes - For Further Information ring David on 07988 595054 or email davidmccorkindale@hotmail.com

Subs - Lots of people still need to pay subs more forms will be available at the next meeting and cash or cheques can be accepted there - **Cheques** should be made payable to 'EBKA Harlow Division' and sent to Mrs Pauline Tidmas, [83 Greygoose Park](http://83GreygoosePark) Harlow Essex CM19 4JR or **BACS** Bank: NatWest - Sort Code: 60 2232 Account No: 49619551 - Account Name: HARLOW DIVISION. ESSEX BEEKEEPERS - Please include the following reference: 'SUBS 2018 and Your Name'

National Honey Show videos

This year's national honey show was recorded here are some of the Videos

- [Do we Have an Audacious Vision for the Future of Bees? by Heather Mattila](#)
- [One question many have several different answers - Panel discussion on beekeeping](#)
 - A lecture given by Tom Seeley, Peter Jenkins, Meg Seymour and Roger Patterson
- [The Bee Colony as a Honey Factory by Tom Seeley](#)
- [All About Drones by Kim Flottum](#)
- [Beekeeping as a Profitable Sideline by Will Steynor](#)
- [A Novel Defence of Honey Bees Against Formidable Wasp Predators by Heather Mattila](#)
- [Well-mated Queens Produce the Busiest Bees by Heather Mattila](#)
- [The Bee Hive as an Information Centre by Tom Seeley](#)
- [Honey Bees in the Wild - PART 1 - What can we learn from them? by Roger Patterson](#)
- [Honey Bees in the Wild - PART 2 - What do we know about how they live? by Tom Seeley](#)
- [The Thirst of a Hive: How Does a Honey Bee Colony Control its Water Intake? by Tom Seeley](#)
- [Hard Working Bees Need Pollen! by Heather Mattila](#)
- [70 Years. Man and Bee by Peter Tomkins](#)

Ivy Honey

Two ladies spent a lot of money on a new cedar wood hive and a nuc. in their first year of beekeeping. In the autumn the hive was heavy. No need to feed. Christmas came and the bees died. The honey had set rock hard and the bees had starved surrounded by 40 pounds of ivy honey. Start again. Cut out the combs, warm them in a bucket at about 45 degrees for a day or two and strain through a stainless steel sieve. The honey is strong favoured and not to everyone's taste. The wax is recovered by heating in rain water. It smells a bit unpleasant.

Good advice

It should be a law that every beekeeper does queen rearing. There are many ways of doing this but I like to use a five frame National nuc box with a frame of food, one with pollen and one with brood. I put in a queen cell and leave it for 14 days. In most cases there are eggs and the little colony can be supported with feeding or addition of bees or brood or a swarm. The nuc has many uses such as to requeen a colony where the queen is lost or replace an old queen or to build up to one which will overwinter. I get some cells from a queen producer in May and June every year and hope for good weather.

The Law of 75%

If you start off with 16 tiny bee larvae 12 will convert to queen larvae. Of these 9 virgins will emerge. Then 6 will mate and lay eggs. Two of these will be useless. You will have 4 good queens. Lucky you.

Roy Cropley

For sale

Buckets

- Honey buckets £2

David Tyler (01279 730228)

Wax for sale

Roy Cropley (01992 626668)

Division committee

President Danny Nicoll

Chairman & Librarian David Tyler

Vice Chair TBC

Secretary & Web Editor Nick Holmes

Treasurer Pauline Tidmas

Divisional Trustee TBC

Swarm Liaison David Swindale

Spray Liaison Ben Hart

Training Liaison David McCorkindale

Council Liaison Ralph Cullen

Newsletter Nick Holmes

Mailing Officer Lisa McCorkindale