



Harlow Bees-letter

April 2019



Upcoming HBKD Meetings for your diary:

April meeting

4th April 2019 at 8.00 pm – 10.00 pm – **Fun with Pollen Traps – Robert Smith**

May meeting

2nd May 2019 at 8.00 pm – 10.00 pm – **Honey – From Hive to Jar – Mike Barke**



Secretary Notices:



The speaker in March was **Khalil Attan** talking about managing swarming. It was appropriate to be reminded at this time of the year of the signs to look out for and how to manage them. He had a very practical approach to his demonstration and it was good to be reminded that by just knocking off the queen cells, was not the best method to use.

The **Parndon Wood** ladies are pleased to say that we have 3 hives that have come through the winter, so far. Unfortunately, the bees that were transferred from the top-bar hive that was donated to us last summer, did not survive the winter. We can only presume that the queen was old and the colony could not manage. We have cleaned all the spare hives and we hope the others will continue feeding and thriving.

Membership Secretary Notices:

Thank you to all members for your **subscriptions**. All schedules and notifications have now been issued. It was a hard push to get members to pay on time and we chase many members to pay! It is hoped that when the new online system comes into effect this year that members can pay online and update their own details. We will keep you posted.



Treasurer:



Presently, the Executive Committee of Essex Beekeepers are reviewing the layout, content and cost of creating and issuing the **Essex Beekeeper Magazine**. Over half the members always receive everything by hard copy: it is time consuming to format, produce and send the magazines and plus printing and postage costs are becoming expensive.

Therefore, both the Essex Beekeeper Magazine and our own **Newsletter** are now available on line, which negates the need for receiving a hard copy. Many Divisions are now charging members extra and in addition to their subscription, for Newsletters and Magazines - or are not posting anything at all.

Our committee will be looking closely at our **costs** for the year ahead. We have no additional or spare funds above the limited amount we get from subscriptions, other than our small raffles.

Many thanks to those members who bring in small items to help us in the **raffles**.

Beekeeping notes for April:

The weather is warming up now; you have probably already seen your bees completing **cleansing** flights on sunny days and returning to the hive loaded up with **pollen**. This indicates that the Beekeeping season is about to 'kick-off'! The **Queen** is starting to increase the amount of eggs she is laying so now is the time, on a warm wind-free day, to complete the first full hive **inspection** of the year – if you haven't done it already.

Bees will be bringing in pollen from a variety of Trees, shrubs and plants including Apple, Primrose, flowering current and crocus, plus the odd Dandelion.

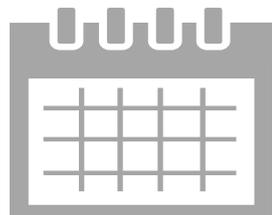
Asian Hornet Queens will start to emerge too and will be on the look-out for food and nest sites. Keep those 'peepers peeled' and either set up traps or if you do see one, inform your local **Bee Inspector** asap!



Apiary Jobs for April:

- Complete hive inspections on warm, still days: mark and clip the Queen/ check for any anomalies and disease
- Start regular inspections and update hive records
- Start comb changes to reduce pathogens within the hive
- Check food reserves and start feeding bees sugar syrup at 1:1 i.e. 1 x kilo sugar to 1 x litre of water
- Clean any equipment that is removed from the hive and store

Other dates for your diary:



The Spring Convention:	12th – 14th April 2019 , Harper Adams University, Shropshire
Bee Health Day:	20th June 2019 , 09.30 – 16.00 hrs, The Millennium Centre, Dagenham Road, Romford, RM7 0SS
Hatfield Heath Festival:	23rd June 2019 , Hatfield Heath, Hertfordshire
Parndon Wood Education Day:	28th June 2019 , Parndon Wood, Harlow, CM19

Did you know?

Folklore and Superstition: Ancient Egyptian pharaohs used the honeybee as the royal symbol during the period between 3000 - 350 BC, representing the King of Lower Egypt. It is also believed that ancient Egyptians believed that the soul of a man took the form of a bee after death: the humming noise from the bee was the faint voice of the soul.

Famous Beekeepers: **Peter Fonda:** (1940 – present) U.S. actor: Hollywood actor who starred in the classic film 'Easy Rider'. Also portrayed an American beekeeper in the 1997 film 'Ulee's Gold' that developed his interest in keeping bees. He now keeps his own bees.

Curious Corner: But seriously, where does the word **Honeymoon** come from?

The first wines were made of honey. Honey was used to make Mead – a honey wine. In ancient Babylonia, the lunar calendar was used to track the months. Therefore, following the month after a wedding, the Bride's father would give the groom all the mead he wanted. Babylonians started **calling** the month the "honey month or **honeymoon** (although most honeymoon durations only last for a month)!



Divisional Library:



David Tyler is responsible for the ever-growing library and he brings the books to every meeting!! All EBKA members can borrow the books – have a browse and see what takes your fancy! But remember not to hang on to the books for too long, as other people may be waiting to read them. Now is a great time to curl up in front of the fire and read up and plan for the beekeeping year ahead!

Honey Jars:

Bulk Honey Jar Orders:

Orders can only be made annually, so **next chance to order is May 2019**. Now is a good time to take stock and see how many jars you already have and may need.



Items Always For Sale

Honey Buckets £2.00
David Tyler 01279 730228

Wax
Roy Croyley 01992 626668

Division Committee

President: Danny Nicoll
Chair/Librarian: David Tyler
Vice Chair: Mike Barke
Secretary: Carol Sissons
Membership: Pauline Tidmas
Treasurer: Sue Frazer
Mailing Officer: Lisa McCorkindale

Swarm Liaison: David Swindale
Spray Liaison: Ben Hart
Council Liaison: Ralph Cullen
Training: To be confirmed
Website: Nick Holmes
Newsletter: Pamela Chambers