



Harlow Bees

May 2019

Newsletter



Upcoming HBKD Meetings for your diary:

May meeting:	2 nd May 2019 at 8.00 pm – 10.00 pm – Honey, From Hive to Jar – Mike Barke
June meeting:	6 th June 2019 at 9.00 pm – 10.00 pm - Bee Stings – David McCorkindale



Secretary Notices:



The meeting last month on *pollen traps* was very interesting. 10 years ago Robert conducted an experiment on his colonies in Kent, to determine what pollen his bees brought back to the hives at different times of one day. The results from different hives yielded different results even though they were in the same apiary. He plans to repeat the experiment this year.

Our first show is on the 23rd June at *Hatfield Heath*. If you are able to help but didn't put your name down at the last meeting please let me know. If you are able to help at any of the other shows (listed in the diary), please let me know. We have had a request from the *Hallingbury Flower Show* but the date is 21st July not 14th as in the Calendar.

Beekeeping notes for May:

Swarming season is upon us – so *bee-ware!!* Regular inspections should now be underway, specifically looking for swarming signs; nip any potential problems in the bud so that your bees don't disappear! Make sure you have a spare nuc-box in case you are lucky enough to acquire a swarm.

Apiary Jobs for May:

- Start regular inspections and update hive records – specifically looking for Queen cells!!
- Monitor Varroa drop
- Repair and prepare Queen excluders, brood boxes and supers and make up new frames – you never know when you'll need them!
- Remove and extract ripened rape honey asap – order honey jars now!!
- Prepare solars for melting and recycling old wax



Remember!

'A swarm of bee in May, is worth a load of hay; A swarm of bees in June, is worth a silver spoon; A swarm in July is not worth a fly...'

May Forage:

- Apple, Bluebell, California Lilac, Cherry, Cotoneaster, Horse Chestnut, Lungwort, Rowan, Water Avens, Wood Spurge,

Did you know?

Famous Beekeepers: Did you know that Debbie Harry from the punk/rock group Blondie now keeps bees? Blondie regularly campaign to support the bees and named their last album 'Pollinator'!



Folklore and Superstition: When a beekeeper died, it was the responsibility of the eldest son or widow of the owner to tell the bees. It had to be communicated quickly and by tapping each hive with the front door key: if this was not done, it was believed that the bees

Curious Corner: Did you know that **Honey** is a brain food? It is a flavonoid and is the only food that contains '*Pinocembrin*' that is also found in **propolis**, Chinese Ginger and the Damiana shrub. It has been shown to treat neurodegenerative and cardiovascular diseases and potentially more disease...

Bad Bee joke of the month: Do bees make honey in May? 'Maybe'!

Other dates for your diary:



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

International Bee News:

On the 15th April, a huge fire broke out on the roof of Notre Dame Cathedral, in Paris. Although the spire was destroyed and much of the roof was damaged, the fate of the resident colonies of honey bees that occupied the beehives on the roof, remained in the balance. Thankfully, the resident Beekeeper confirmed five days later that the beehive and bees had survived the fire. Hurrah!



Divisional Library:



David Tyler is the Library Monitor for the ever-growing library. David brings the books to every meeting and 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!

Honey Jars for Sale:

Bulk Honey Jar Orders:

Orders can only be made annually, so **orders can be made from May 2019.**



For sale:



This is a new feature to the Newsletter – if any *HBKD members* have any Beekeeping related equipment (with a minimum value of £50) for a 'one-off' sale, that may be useful to other HBKD members, please notify the HBKA Secretary at the beginning of the month, so that details can be added to the Newsletter. Suitable items may include; *sterilised* second hand beehive equipment, solars, honey extractors or larger items that were purchased in error.

Items Always For Sale

Items for sale:	Price:	Contact:	Telephone no.
Honey Buckets:	£ 2.00 each	David Tyler	01279 730228
Wax:	Various	Roy Cropley	01992 626668

Committee Members

Position:	Name:	Position:	Name:
President:	Danny Nicoll	Spray Liason:	Ben Hart
Chair/ Librarian:	David Tyler	Council Liason:	Ralph Cullen
Vice Chair:	Mike Barke	Training:	To be confirmed...
Secretary:	Carol Sissons	Website:	Nick Holmes
Membership:	Pauline Tidmas	Mailing Officer:	Lisa McCorkindale
Treasurer:	Sue Frazer	Newsletter:	Pamela Chambers
Swarm Liason:	David Swindale		