



# Harlow Bees

## OCTOBER 2019

### Newsletter



#### Upcoming HBKD Meetings for your diary:

**October meeting:** 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2019 – **Gift making for the Festive Period.** Please share your ideas for making gifts from hive related produce. (Please let Carol Sissons know if you would like to contribute to October's meeting, by describing any hive related products you have made for gifts)

**November meeting:** 7<sup>th</sup> November – **Abberton Native Bee Project.** Kevin Thorn



#### Secretary Notices:



Our speaker last month was Derek Mitchell and his wife Elaine. He gave a fascinating talk on why the present design of beehives we use is unsuitable for a colony of bees. His argument is based on his research into the thermal efficiency of bees in their hives, which he described in detail. He has compared heat loss in various hives, including colonies who have nested high up deep inside the cavity of trees with thick trunks.

He suggested that there could be standards for heat loss similar to household appliances. 'A' hives would lose heat the same rate as trees, polystyrene hives would be 'C' rated and wooden hives would be 'H' rated.

If you were unable to make the evening, there is an article written by Derek in BBKA News – No 225 – November 2018.

#### Membership Secretary Notices:

With the new computer Data-base up and running and with its' new available email service, we will be issuing more information via email, especially as we have a few more users working on the system.

Access to information on this system has now been granted to our Secretary, Treasurer and to Myself, the Membership Secretary, so that We can deal with Annual Membership Registration & Details, Payments and Receipts, as well as Information Distribution by Email. Please do not unsubscribe to our eReturn2 Email System.

We have successfully completed all required tasks for this current year using the new system and we are preparing the database ready for next years, registration.

There is an online Registration Renewal System which we are currently assessing which seems to be quite straight forward for members to do their own renewal online. If we decide this is the correct way forward, we will cover this at a Divisional Meeting, in the near future. We will let you know very soon.

**Please note: HBKA Newsletters will only be printed in hard copy until December: from 2020, a limited number of hard copies will be available at the monthly HBKA meetings for those people who cannot access the internet or can be viewed online. Please advise if you require a hard copy of the HBKA newsletter.**

#### Beekeeping notes for October:

Hopefully by now, you have completed your Varroa treatments on your bees, have swapped out any old frames inside the hives and have been feeding the bees sugar syrup for over a month: the bees are now healthy, clean and have plenty of stores to take them through winter.

#### Apiary Jobs for October:

- Reduce hive entrances
- Apply mouse-guards to the hives
- If your hives are in an area shared with woodpeckers, protect the hives
- Clean up, repair and store away equipment for winter
- Keep an eye out for Wax Moth...and Asian Hornet!
- Melt down wax and make candles and gifts for winter – or give spare wax to Roy Cropley
- Order Spring flowering bulbs to plant up around the hives.



## October Forage:

- Blackberry, Dandelion, Michaelmas Daisy, Figwort, Fuchsia, Ling Heather, Himalayan Balsam, Ivy, Mustard, Poppy, Thistle

## Did you know?

**Famous Beekeepers:** Pam Ayres – celebrity beekeeper and poet ...'I love my bees, I really do - keeping bees is good for you - I don't say they will bring you money... just lots of fruit and luscious honey!...

**Folklore and Superstition:** During the inquisition, it was believed by Witch-finders that Witches and Sorceresses would swallow a Queen Bee before they were arrested, so that they could withstand torture and trial without confession. As a result, victims were condemned to death...

**Curious Corner:** Beeswax, Honey, pollen and bees have been important ingredients in many religious ceremonies and in herbal preparations around the world for centuries. Paracelsus (1493-1541), the famous occultist and founder of toxicology used honey in many of his medicinal preparations and some are still used by Herbalists today.

**Bad Bee joke of the month:** What do you call a Bee that has had a spell put on her? 'Bee-witched'!



## Other dates for your diary: EBKA Conference



National Honey Show



20<sup>th</sup> October, Felsted School, Felsted, Dunmow, CM6 Tickets: £25 via <https://www.swbka.org/>

24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> October, [www.honeyshow.co.uk](http://www.honeyshow.co.uk)

## 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 2020.*



## Items 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		