



Harlow Bees

SEPTEMBER 2019

Newsletter



Upcoming HBKD Meetings for your diary:

- September meeting:** 5th September at 20.00 – 22.00 hrs – **A-Rated Homes** – Derek Mitchell
- October meeting:** 3rd October 2019 – **Gift making for the Festive Period**. Please share your ideas for making gifts from hive related produce.



Secretary Notices:

Last month's **Harlow Honey Show** went ahead with entries in most categories. Thanks to all who helped set it up and made the event possible. We hope that those who entered will go on to enter in the Essex Show.



While entries were being judged, we had an excellent presentation by Jane Ridler on Drone-laying queens & Basic Assessment. Jane described the genetics and chemistry behind why the bees resort to drone laying and what to do in the event of this happening. She also told us about the variety of courses available and particularly the Basic Assessment which is a practical based assessment. All details can be found on the EBKA website

The **Parndon Wood Education** day was reasonably well attended considering the weather. The candle rolling and badge making was very successful and as usual we had the observation hive to demonstrate the internal workings of the hive. There was a good selection of honey to be sold including that from Parndon Wood, which has been extracted and jarred by our own volunteers. We have been invited back to support Ecco at Christmas and further details on this will follow. Huge thanks to the volunteers who attended this and the other shows this year. It is hard work with so few people but the general public really enjoy learning about the bees and honey. From these shows, we now have a good list of people who wish to attend the Harlow Division course next year.

Beekeeping notes for September:

Now that all of the honey supers have been removed, the honey extracted and the wet supers cleaned up by the bees, it is time to feed, feed, feed the bees, to replace all the honey that has been taken off – and some!



Sugar syrup should be mixed up at 1 kg of sugar per 0.5 litre of water and given to the bees continuously if possible, until the end of the month, so that the bees have plenty of time to remove excess moisture. If you feed later in the month, then a thicker syrup should be given to the bees.

Depending on the size of your colony, the bees will need in **excess of 15 kgs/ 40 lbs of stores** to take them through the winter.

It is also time to apply Varroa treatments, so depending on your choice of treatment, either feed your bees before or after applying the treatment, but it *must be completed in September* so that the bees go into winter with healthy 'mite-free' bees!

September Forage: Dahlia, Dandelion, Fuchsia, Himalayan Balsam, Ivy, Ling Heather, Marjoram, Michaelmas Daisy, Poppy, Rosebay Willowherb, Scabious, Thistle, Virginia Creeper.

Did you know?

Folklore, Superstition and Religion: In this country and until the 20th century, it was believed that if a colony of bees swarmed, it was the job of the women and children of the household to follow the swarm, whilst clattering pots and pans to encourage the swarm to settle – and let everyone else know what was happening! Only in these circumstances was it acceptable to trespass on someone else's land...

Famous Beekeepers: The Actor (currently starring in the film 'Once Upon A Time in Hollywood, by Quentin Tarantino), Film Producer and Environmentalist Leonardo DiCaprio (who has also just donated \$5M to the Amazon Rainforest crisis), was introduced to Beekeeping by his Mother's boyfriend, as a way of de-stressing, before he attended the Oscars. Leonardo now keeps his own hives in his Los Angeles garden.



Leonardo DiCaprio

Curious Corner: Did you know that the Queen Bee was known as the King Bee until the late 1660's, when Dutch scientist Jan Swammerdam dissected a 'King' and discovered... ovaries!

Bee joke of the month: What animals are smarter than talking parrots? Spelling bees.

Dates for your diary:



- Essex Honey Show**** **7th September**, Orsett Showground, Thurrock, RM16 3JU
- EBKA Conference** **20th October**, Felsted School, Felsted, Dunmow, CM6
Tickets: £25 via <https://www.swbka.org/>
- National Honey Show** **24th to 26th October**, www.honeyshow.co.uk

The **BBKA** is organising courses for beekeepers, with at least three years' experience, at several venues around the country:

- Warwickshire: September 14th & 15th at BBKA Apiary, Stoneleigh
- Cleveland: September 17th & 18th, venue to be confirmed

Details of other courses will be posted on the website when confirmed. The cost of the course will be £75. If you would like to apply for a place on the course please apply through the website shop: <https://www.bbka.org.uk/pages/shop/department/training-courses> or contact the **BBKA office on 02476 696679**.

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:



The not-so-new feature to the HBKA monthly newsletter: if you have any Beekeeping related equipment to sell with a value of £50.00 or more, you can advertise it here to other HBKA members: please contact Pamela Chambers if you wish to sell any equipment.

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
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Treasurer:	Sue Frazer	Newsletter:	Pamela Chambers
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