



Harlow Bees

DECEMBER 2019

Newsletter



Upcoming HBKD Meetings for your diary:

December meeting: 5th December – Christmas Party!!

January 2020 meeting: 9th January – AGM meeting.



Secretary Notices:



Our October meeting was about the Abberton Native Bee Project by Kevin Thorn. The black honey bee, also known as *Apis mellifera mellifera*, is a native species to the UK but was thought to have been wiped out by the early 20th century. It flies at lower temperatures than non-native bees, which makes them more successful at finding food and mating.

Three hives were placed at Abberton Reservoir, in Essex and populated with black queen honey bees. The site was chosen because it is far enough away from other hives to prevent inter-breeding and ensure the "purity" of the bees. Queens were raised to establish more colonies in the area and there are now 20, in two seasons.

The project is a partnership between Essex and Suffolk Water, the Essex Wildlife Trust and the Bee Improvement and Bee Breeders Association (BIBBA). Members of Colchester beekeepers volunteer to help Kevin. Honeybees face an uphill struggle for survival, most notably from the thousands of bees that are imported every year and with them pests and diseases. It was stated that when bees are moved to a different area, they do not thrive as well as in the place that they were taken from.

There is a Facebook page: Essex4bees – where you can follow their progress.

I am preparing a list of speakers for 2020 so if there is anything that you would be interested in hearing about, please let me know.

Membership Secretary Notices:

Pauline will be talking about, amongst other things, next year's subscriptions payments and the online subscription and registration system (eR2) for 2020. Pauline will also explain how this will benefit the HBKA and the changes it will involve to the administration and management of membership information.

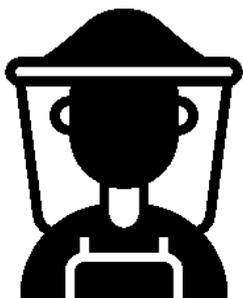


On another, but related note, please be aware that from January next year, **only a small number HBKA newsletters will only be available at the monthly HBKA meetings for those people who cannot access the internet. Otherwise, they can only be available to view online.**

...and finally, the forthcoming HBKA Christmas Party – yes! – **our Christmas Party, will be held at our next meeting on the 5th December!!** Be there or be square!!!

It would be great to see all of our HBKA members at our very last meeting of 2019! Come and celebrate over a mince pie!!

Beekeeping notes for December:



Preparing the colonies of bees for winter should be finished and beehives closed up securely for winter now. Periodically, check that entrances to hives are clear.

Between Christmas and New Year, medicate bees with Oxalic Acid Varroa treatments, if this is part of your Varroa treatment plan and heft hives, to check that bees have plenty of food.

Relax and enjoy your Christmas and New Year celebrations!

Apiary Jobs for December:

- Clean up, repair, sterilise and store away equipment and frames for winter
- Visit beehives and apiaries and check that they are secure and there is no damage to the hives
- Keep inspection notes up to date!
- Pre-order 2020 nucs of bees and Queens
- Melt down old wax and store away or use for Christmas gifts!



December Forage:

- Aconites, Evergreen Clematis, Cyclamen, Dandelion, Dogwood, Heather, winter flowering Honeysuckle, Ivy, Mahonia, Primrose, Strawberry Tree, Thistle, Viburnam and Willow.

Did you know?

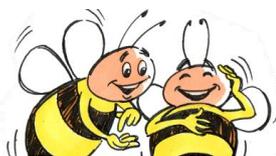
Famous Beekeepers: James Middleton, brother of the Duchess of Cambridge, and his fiancée Alizee Thevent have recently taken up Beekeeping! James Middleton reportedly finds the craft relaxing and sees great benefits in keeping bees to manage anxiety and stress. He joins other members of the Royal Family who support bees including Her Majesty the Queen and also the Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall.



Folklore and Superstition: According to Christian tradition, it was believed that bees hummed loudly at midnight on Christmas Day to announce the birth of Christ. When the Gregorian calendar was implemented in 1752 and 11 days were dropped from the calendar, the bees were not heard humming inside the hives. Christians believed that the silence was due to Gods disapproval of the changes!

Curious Corner: The Eastern European community celebrate Christmas on Christmas Eve with foods soaked in Honey. In Russian

communities, 'Kutya' a honey, wholegrain and poppy seed biscuit is enjoyed; in Slovakia Oplatky wafers are shared amongst the community; in Greece they eat Melomakorona biscuits dipped in honey and walnuts and in Germany, Honey based biscuits are enjoyed.



Bad Bee joke of the month: What does the bee Santa Claus say? - 'Ho hum hum'!!

Other dates for your diary:

BeeTradeEx: 14th March 2020, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG

BBKA Spring Convention: 4th – 6th April 2020 – Harper Adams University, TF10 8NB



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.*



For Sale:



1. **Used Wax & honey separator pail** – a new one from National Bee Supplies is £96.75. Any offers over £50 (extra will go to HBKA funds). Will be brought along to November meeting.
2. **Used large settling tank with filter and lid.** £50. Contact Louise on 07974 212958, if interested.

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