



Harlow Bees March 2020 Newsletter



Upcoming HBKD Meetings for your diary:

March 2020 meeting: **5th March** – EFB and the Hive Spring Clean – Salma
April 2020 meeting: **2nd April** - HBKA Apiary and the Beginners Course



Secretary Notices:



At our February meeting we had a very interesting speaker Khalil Attan, from Epping Division, who talked about Queen Rearing for All. He explained how he raises his own queens to get rid of undesirable traits eg. He wants docile bees, early brood build up, no disease. It is very important to know the bee developmental timeline.

Traditionally, queen rearing starts on 1st May. BIBBA has a Queen Rearing timetable which can be useful. Khalil described several methods but explained there are many methods and suggested picking one and trying it before moving another if that is not satisfactory.

Further details of Khalil's work can be found at his Website – bushwoodbees.co.uk

2021 Essex Conference

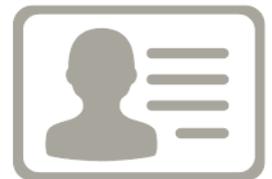
It's Harlow's turn to run the Essex conference (every nine years). We need people from the division to step forward and help plan and organise the event – it's our opportunity to 'shine'! We need ideas for a theme, speakers, a location and catering, for example. We'd also like to know if anyone has any ideas for sponsorship from local or bee related companies as the other divisions have benefited from this in previous years. Can you help?

HBKA Committee vacancies: Also, there are three new positions within the committee that need filling! If anyone is interested in joining, or getting involved in supporting any forthcoming events, please contact Carol Sissons or Pauline Tidmas before March 1st: we have had some interest from members and names for these posts will be put forward at the next EGM to be held at our HBKA monthly meeting, on 5th March.

Bargains! We have heard through the grapevine that The Bee Shop is offering discounts on some of its' stock, but this is unconfirmed... For further information please contact www.thebeeshop.co.uk

Membership Secretary Notices:

Subscriptions registrations are now complete.
The new 'Online Subscription Procedure' has been used successfully by many members; obviously, as with any new procedure it had a couple of issues, which have been successfully addressed.
During this year, we will be working towards adding the link for 'Online Payments' to the 'Online Subscription Procedure' so everything is done in one place.



Beekeeping notes for March:



March Forage: Blackthorn, Bluebell, Crocus, Dandelion, Hazel, Ivy, Mahonia, Primrose, Snowdrop, Sycamore, Willow and Yew.

Apiary Jobs for March:

- Ensure entrances to hives are clear of dead bees or any debris
- Heft hives and check that the colonies of bees still have plenty of food
- Give bees fondant and pollen patties, if stores are light
- Start making up frames of foundation
- Order new equipment or nucs of bees – last chance!
- **Keep a look out for Asian Hornet Queens looking for new nest sites**
- Update and prepare apiary notes, ready for the new season



Did you know?

Famous Beekeepers: Martha Stewart, American retail businesswoman, has had beehives of honeybees in her back yard for years. She regularly uses honey from her hives in her creative cake recipes and uses the beeswax for 'homemaker' crafts and projects.

Folklore, Superstition, Religion and Mythology: In Greek mythology Icarus and his father Daedalus wished to escape the island of Crete. They made a pair of large wings of beeswax and feathers that were strapped to the back of Icarus. Icarus was warned not to fly too close to the sun in case the wings melted. He did and they did and Icarus fell into the sea and died...

Curious Corner: Did you know that honey was used by the French porcelain factory in the 18th century, to fix gold leaf decoration to the surface of porcelain items, just before firing? Once the piece was fired in the kiln, the honey would evaporate leaving behind the gold decoration.



Bad Bee joke of the month: How do you fight a killer bee? With a buzz-ooka...!



Other dates for your diary:



CBKA: Bee, Forage, Pollination & Sustainability: 7th March 2020, Storey's Field, CBB 1AA

140th EBKA AGM: 7th March 2020, Writtle College, Room E06, Chelmsford, CM1 3RP

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

Ted Hooper Memorial Lecture, 21st March 2020 – Essex Wildlife Trust, Colchester, C05 7RZ

Herts BKA Annual Spring Show, 28th March 2020 – Peartree Hall, Tewin, AL7 1BW

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 – especially if they are studying for BBKA examinations!*



Jars for Sale:



Bulk Honey Jar Orders: Orders can only be made annually, so *orders can be made from May 2020.*

For Sale:

Used Wax & honey separator pail – a bargain! – a new one from National Bee Supplies is £96.75. Any offers over £50 (*extra will go to HBKA funds*). Any offers...?



Items always available 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 Liaison:	Ben Hart
Chair/ Librarian:	David Tyler	Council Liaison:	Ralph Cullen
Vice Chair:	Mike Barke	Training Officer:	To be confirmed...
Secretary:	Carol Sissons	Bee Health Officer:	To be confirmed...
Membership:	Pauline Tidmas	Asian Hornet Co-Ordinator:	To be confirmed...
Treasurer:	Sue Frazer	Website:	Nick Holmes
Swarm Liaison:	David Swindale	Newsletter:	Pamela Chambers