



# Harlow Bees

## July 2020

### Newsletter



**ALL HBKA MONTHLY MEETINGS ARE CANCELLED, UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

**Coronavirus or COVID-19 update:** To minimise the risk of infection, all meetings, events, courses and general gatherings are still cancelled. Please observe the 1+ metre social distancing advice and try and maintain a normal but safe routine. Refer to the HBKD, BBKA and NBU website for updates and above all - *stay safe*.

**Remember:** *Wash and clean your hands regularly. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Stay away from large groups of people and anyone with a cough, fever or are displaying flu-like symptoms. Stay in contact with other beekeepers should you need to self-isolate and need assistance with your beehives.*



### Secretary Notices:

The bees at the Parndon Wood Apiary are going great guns! They are feeling very secure now that a new fence and gate has been installed by the council. Here's to lots of honey!



You may have seen the emails that Barbara Maurice and Nick Holmes sent out to the group regarding orders of APIKEL: if you would like to take advantage of the discount, please confirm orders by **10/07/20**.

Discussions are still ongoing regarding the change of the EBKA to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. We strongly encourage all members to refer to the key points at [www.ebka.org](http://www.ebka.org) before deciding if you support this.

It has been confirmed that the EBKA conference that was planned for October 2020 has been postponed until next year.

Finally, The Romford Division have invited members of the EBKD to join their monthly Zoom meetings, that held on the first Thursday of each month.

**Their next virtual meeting will be held on Thursday 2nd July at 8.00 pm, Pat Allen will be giving a presentation on Using Mini-Nucs.**

If you would like to join, please email [susanmrichardson7@gmail.com](mailto:susanmrichardson7@gmail.com) or Paul Wiltshire at [paul.g.wiltshire@btinternet.com](mailto:paul.g.wiltshire@btinternet.com), and they will email back the sign in details.

### Beekeeping notes for July:

Essex has had some interesting and very hot weather recently! Make sure your colonies of bees have plenty of room inside the hive, are well ventilated and Queens are clipped to reduce any swarming behaviour. Keep up regular inspections of your colonies, as there have been reports of European Foulbrood in the Essex area.

**July Forage:** Abelia, Birds Foot Trefoil, Bramble, Bugloss, Ceonothus, Choisya, Cotoneaster, Dog Rose, Elder, Escalonia, Gorse, Hemp Agrimony, Himalayan Balsam, Knapweed, Laburnum, Lavender, Lime, Privet, Purple Loosestrife, Ragwort, Santolina, Scabious, Sweet Chestnut, Teasel, Thistle, Wild Marjoram, Wild Thyme, Valerian and Water Mint.



### Apiary Jobs for July:

- Make sure all your hives and your details are registered on BeeBase: [www.nationalbeeunit.com](http://www.nationalbeeunit.com)
- Inspect beehives regularly and look for Queen cells and any swarming behaviour!
- Continue gradually phasing out and removing any old frames in the hives for fresh frames of foundation; keep the bees busy drawing out new foundation!
- Keep any spare wax/ old foundation/old comb and melt it down in your Solar or by hand and recycle the wax into lovely golden blocks of beeswax – give to Roy Cropley in exchange for discounted foundation or keep for home projects.
- **Plan ahead** - order hive equipment, frames, **sugar, honey jars**, treatments etc early – suppliers are working but due to social distancing and reduced labour, stock orders are taking longer to process.
- Make up 'bait-hives' to attract a swarm – free-bees!

## Did you know?



**Famous Beekeepers:** Maria von Trapp (1905 -1987), head of the Trapp Family Singers and immortalised in the 1960's film 'The Sound Of Music', was a keen beekeeper. After fleeing Austria with her family on the eve of the second world war, they settled in Vermont, USA, where she was encouraged by her husband to take up beekeeping.

**Customs, superstitions, myths and folklore:** In Scotland's western isles, it was believed that the bees embodied the ancient knowledge of the Druids.

**Curious corner:** Also in Scotland, a preparation of Heather honey whisky and cream (Atholl Brose) is often given to people suffering wasting diseases – or any other disorders for that matter! - not sure this is a treatment available on the NHS....!!

**Bad Bee joke of the month:** Why did the bee hum? Because she didn't know the words...!



## Other dates for your diary:



**ALL COURSES, EVENTS, MEETINGS AND FETES ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

## 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:



The delivery of pre-ordered jars from the supplier is expected towards the end of July. The collection date for orders will be confirmed via a group email nearer the time, but for now please pencil in **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2020**.

NB: cash transactions cannot be accepted this year and social distancing must be followed when collecting orders.

## For Sale:

**Used Wax & honey separator pail – THIS IS A BARGAIN! C'mon! GO CRAZY – MAKE AN OFFER OVER FIFTY QUID!!!** – You know you want one! A new one from National Bee Supplies is **£96.75** and any extra will go to HBKD funds so you'll be supporting your fellow HBKD comrades too! Go on – You need one!



## 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:	Bihn Nguyen
Secretary:	Carol Sissons	Bee Health Officer:	Pamela Chambers
Membership:	Pauline Tidmas	Asian Hornet Co- Ordinator:	Any takers for this position?
Treasurer:	Sue Frazer	Website:	Nick Holmes
Swarm Liaison:	David Swindale	Newsletter:	Pamela Chambers