



Harlow Bees

June 2020

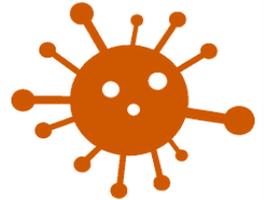
Newsletter



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, until further notice.

Until we hear anything to the contrary, observe the 2 metre social distancing advice, try and maintain a normal but safe routine, refer to the HBKA, BBKA and NBU website for updates and stay in contact with our fellow beekeeping friends (by telephone or email!) - and above all - stay safe.



Remember: *Wash your hands regularly, using soap and warm water. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Stay away from groups of people and anyone with a cough, fever or are displaying flu-like symptoms. Familiarise yourself with the symptoms of Coronavirus. Make sure that you have the contact details for at least 2 x beekeepers that live near your hives who are happy to manage your bees, just in case you are in self-isolation - or just want a chat....!*

Secretary Notices:

At the recent CEC meeting, there were discussions about Virtual meetings and presentations that are happening around the association with all the EBKA divisions, apart from Harlow, having hosted and run them; Chelmsford are even running the theory part of their beginners course, over the internet!



There was further discussion about members attending other divisional groups virtual meetings (mostly over zoom) and concerns about non-members cheekily gaining access. Arrangements need to be made between the secretaries of the divisions to validate membership. Details are still being arranged, but if you are interested in attending any of the presentations hosted by another group or would like Harlow to set up a meeting, please let Nick Holmes know on wwwcight@gmail.com

The EBKA is an informal trust and discussions are currently under way to change the status of the EBKA to a CIO – a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. This may affect the rights and responsibilities of HBKA members, so we strongly encourage all members to refer to the key points at www.ebka.org before deciding if you support this or not as a vote will be required, at a later date.

Finally, we do not know how long the Coronavirus will be around for, but if restrictions for social gatherings are lifted sooner, rather than later, the HBKA Conference will be going ahead: if you would like to volunteer your services (*and we need help!*) please contact Carol or Nick.

Beekeeping notes for June:

It is still the swarming season and people are losing their bees! Make sure that your Queens are clipped and that the colonies have space within the brood box (es) and you have plenty of supers ready: the bees are bringing in lots of food!

June Forage: Bramble, Campanulas, Ceonothus, Choisya, Cotoneaster, Echinops, Geraniums, Hebe, Laburnam, Lavender, Lime, Nepata, Privet, Pyracantha, Sage, Sweet Chestnut, Thyme, Valerian and Wall flowers.



Apiary Jobs for June:

- **EUROPEAN FOULBROOD ALERT:** complete a full inspection of all your hives – EFB has been detected in Harlow and AFB near Colchester: please check frames thoroughly. If you find anything suspicious close hives and contact the Bee Inspector asap.
- Make sure all your hives and your details are registered on BeeBase: 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 and subject to stock supplies.
- Prepare extra brood and super boxes and frames – just in case you need them! The Honey flow could happen anytime soon!
- ...and on the flip-side – make sure you have plenty of sugar/ syrup available, should we experience the June dirth...
- Make up 'bait-hives' to attract a swarm – free-bies!

Did you know?



Famous Beekeepers: Sylvia Plath (1932 – 63) was an American novelist, poet and short-story writer and was married to Ted Hughes. She took up beekeeping when she moved to Devon and attended a local beekeepers association. She wrote a variety of poems about bees and found that it helped her cope with depression, until she committed suicide.

Customs, superstitions, myths and folklore: In Croatia, a bride's first job on entering her new home was to dab honey on the door lintels, as a gesture of friendliness towards the resident hives of bees and in parts of the UK, the bride would take a spoonful of honey before entering her new home.

Curious corner: How and why are the following girl's names Melissa, Missy, Deborah, Debbie, Pamela and Mischa connected to the Honeybee? They are Greek, Russian, English and Hebrew names for Bee or Honey.



Bad Bee joke of the month: Why do bees have sticky hair? Because they use Honeycombs...



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:



NB: Details regarding the Essex bulk jar order will be sent out to members shortly: in the meantime, please note that prices have increased minimally on a couple of items and due to the Covid 19 lockdown, delivery of jars is expected towards the end of July. Please note that 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