



Harlow Bees

May 2020

Newsletter



ALL HBKA MONTHLY MEETINGS ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Secretary Notices:

Coronavirus or COVID-19 update:

To date and for the foreseeable future, the UK is in total 'lockdown'. Until we hear anything to the contrary, we urge everyone to stay at home, try and maintain a normal but safe routine, look after their bees, refer to the HBKA, BBKA and NBU website for updates, stay in contact with our fellow beekeeping friends (by telephone or email!) - and *stay safe*.

To minimise the risk of infection, all meetings, events, courses and general gatherings have been cancelled, until further notice. This is an essential decision to protect and keep our friends, families and colleagues safe.

Remember: *Wash your hands regularly, using soap and warm water whilst singing 'Happy Birthday' twice!! Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Stay away from groups of people and anyone with a cough, fever or displaying flu-like symptoms. Familiarise yourself with the symptoms of Coronavirus. Make sure you have food should you need to self-isolate for 14 days and finally, ensure that you have the contact details for at least 2 x beekeepers that live near your hives who are happy to manage your bees, in case you are in self-isolation.*



Beekeeping notes for May:



The weather over the past month or so has been warm and dry and has encouraged the bees to build up their colonies, forage for food and produce drones! So, now is the time to look out for swarms – make sure that your colonies of bees have a young, healthy Queen, plenty of space, food and the bees are disease free. Hopefully, this will suppress any ideas of swarming that the bees may have....!

May Forage: Acer, Allium, Apple, Birds Foot Trefoil, Catmint, Comfrey, Cowslip, White Clover, Cotoneaster, Forget-me-not, Foxglove, Holly, Horse Chestnut, Lungwort, Marjoram, Medlar, Pyracantha, Rowan, Whitebeam.

Apiary Jobs for May:

- If you haven't already – start regularly inspecting your beehives. The 'swarming season' is upon us and the weather has been perfect – so look for Queen cells!
- Make up Nucs and/ or divide colonies to expand the beehives in your apiary.
- Make up 'bait-hives' to attract a swarm.
- Remove and extract rape honey – before it quickly solidifies!
- 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 for discounted foundation or keep for home projects.
- Prepare extra brood and super boxes and frames to keep the bees busy and at hand when you need them!
- Turn the negative lockdown position that we find ourselves in, into a positive by reading lots of books and magazines to improve your knowledge of beekeeping.

Did you know?



Famous Beekeepers: Suggs, the lead singer from the popular music group Madness, kept bees for some time before he gave up after his bees died. He is an avid supporter of the Urban Beekeeping movement, encouraging more of his fellow Londoners to take up the craft.

Customs, superstitions, myths and folklore: Did you know that Jupiter, the king of the Roman gods, is said to have given the honeybee her stinger, to protect her honey? However, Jupiter's wife Juno insisted there must be a trade-off for this gift of a weapon. So, Jupiter gave the stinger to the bee with the condition that if the bee used the stinger, she would die.

Curious corner: *What's the answer to this very old riddle...?*

Behind the king's kitchen there is a great vat... And a great many workman working at that... Yellow are their toes, yellow are their clothes... Tell me this riddle and you can pull my nose...?

Bad Bee joke of the month: Why do bees stay in the hive in winter? S'warm...

Other dates for your diary:



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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 – still available for sale and it is 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:	Bihn Nguyen
Secretary:	Carol Sissons	Bee Health Officer:	Pamela Chambers
Membership:	Pauline Tidmas	Asian Hornet Co- Ordinator:	David Tyler
Treasurer:	Sue Frazer	Website:	Nick Holmes
Swarm Liaison:	David Swindale	Newsletter:	Pamela Chambers