



Harlow Bees October 2020 Newsletter



HBKD MONTHLY MEETINGS WILL RESUME – USING ZOOM (*I'm a poet and I don't know it!*) ON THE FIRST THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH. NEXT MEETING = THURSDAY 1ST OCTOBER 2020



Coronavirus or COVID-19 update: To minimise the risk of infection, all physical meetings and general gatherings are still cancelled. Please wear your face mask in public and try and maintain a normal but safe routine. Refer to the HBKD, BBKA and NBU website for updates regarding beekeeping activities and above all – stay connected and stay safe.

Secretary Notices:



Asian Hornets: An Asian Hornet nest was discovered in Gosport, Hampshire a few weeks ago and was promptly destroyed. Whilst we are all getting busy preparing the bees for winter, it is worth keeping an eye out for Asian Hornets and Queens that may still be flying around on warmer days and/ or looking for new nest sites..!

Foulbrood: Throughout the summer, several divisions reported cases of European Foulbrood and a few cases of American Foulbrood, so it is worth getting to know the signs and symptoms, inspecting your hives and ensuring that your bees are going into winter super healthy and disease free!

Zoom meetings: In the absence of physical meetings, regular Zoom meetings, seminars and events are being organised by various Essex divisions, including Southend and Braintree and you will all receive invitations to attend the events and receive your 'fix' of bee related information and put 'faces to names'.

BIBBA: The Bee Improvement and Bee Breeders Association are also running seminars and lectures online and if you are a member, you are also able to listen to and in some cases, participate in the lectures.

HBKD: Our very own division is back in the swing of things and **our next online monthly meeting will be on Thursday 1st October**, time to be confirmed. Details of how to join the meeting will be emailed out to you so that you can partake in the meeting and enjoy the talks by our guest speakers.....!!

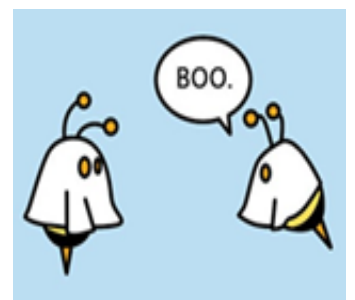
Committee Vacancies: We are looking for a new **Secretary, Membership Secretary and Newsletter co-ordinator**. If you are interested in any - or all the roles, please refer to the website for more information about the responsibilities or contact Carol, Pauline or Pam. The next AGM will be in January 2021 and new committee members will be voted in then.

Beekeeping notes for October:



We have had the most amazing weather over the summer and now the nights are drawing in and it is getting darker and colder. Winter is on its' way. The bees will still be taking every opportunity to get out, source as much pollen and nectar as possible and remove any hive debris before it is time for them to call it a year.

For Us Beekeepers, it is also the last opportunity to carry out inspections, ensure that colonies are Queen-right, healthy and have loads of food stores. It is also the time to tidy the apiary and prepare to lock-down the hives.



Apiary Jobs for October:

- Continue to feed your bees heavy syrup. **Remember: bees need at least 40 lbs of stores to get through winter, so feed, feed, feed!!**
- Reduce hive entrances and keep entrances clear from obstructions.
- Apply mouse-guards to hives *after* completing hive inspections on a warm day (to ensure that you are not trapping mice inside!).
- Varroa treatments should be coming to an end. Make sure treatment strips and trays are all removed after treatments have expired.
- Keep a look out for Wax Moth larvae and Asian Hornets.
- Strap up and insulate hives, if needed.
- Clean up, sterilise and repair equipment.
- Store away any redundant equipment and frames.
- Order bee-friendly Spring bulbs, such as Snowdrops, Aconites, Crocus, Tulips and Daffs etc.

October Forage: (subject to rainfall and temperatures).

Abelia, Aster Daisy, Bird's Foot Trefoil, Blackberry, Autumn Crocus, Catmint, Choisya, Cosmos, Dandelion, Michaelmas Daisy, Figwort, Fuchsia, Knapweed, Ling Heather, Himalayan Balsam, Ivy, Mustard, Penstemon, Poppy, Rudbeckia, Scabious and Thistle

Did you know?



Famous 'non-Beekeepers': In the 1992 horror film *Candyman*, the lead actor Tony Todd who played the supernatural killer surrounded by bees, negotiated a 'bonus' of \$1000 for every bee sting he received on set. The filmmakers used newly hatched, young bees that had less powerful stings – but as he had to act with live bees on his face and in his mouth (!) he got stung - 23 times. He is not a beekeeper and does not keep bees...



Curious corner: 'Trick or treat/!' – This Halloween tradition originates from Holland! To mark the end of the summer harvest and to celebrate the Honeybees' hard work, Dutch Farmers dressed up as bees and paraded themselves around their local village collecting sweets and cakes. Those who would not participate, would


Folklore: burning a beeswax candle on Halloween is said to attract spirits from beyond the grave – so if you want to scare the living daylights out of yourself, give it a go...!!

Bad Bee joke of the month: What kind of bee never dies? A 'Zom-bee'...!

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 HBKD library. If you want to borrow any books, contact David to see what he has in stock that may be of interest.



Jars for Sale:  Heavily discounted and bulk orders of honey jars can be made through the HBKD in time for next year's summer honey harvest, **from May 2021**. If you require jars in the meantime, purchase direct from BBKA recommended suppliers who also offer discounts to BBKA members.

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 know you need one!

Used Flow Hive for sale – including bees - £500. Just over two years old and may be of interest to anyone who fancies trying something a bit different? Please contact Brian Bull for more information.



Items always available for Sale

Items for sale:	Price:	Contact:	Telephone no.
Honey Buckets:	£ 2.25 each	David Tyler	01279 730228
Wax:	Various	Roy Cropley	01992 626668



Committee Members and Vacancies (highlighted)

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 and Louise Carr
Treasurer:	Sue Frazer	Website:	Nick Holmes
Swarm Liaison:	David Swindale	Newsletter:	Pamela Chambers