



Harlow Bees

September 2020

Newsletter



ALL HBKD MONTHLY MEETINGS ARE CANCELLED, UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE



Coronavirus or COVID-19 update: To minimise the risk of infection, all physical meetings, events, courses 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:

I hope you have been able to take advantage of some of the online meetings that have been arranged by some of the other Essex divisions? At Harlow, we are currently planning to have speakers present to us via Zoom at our October and November meetings. Before then and as a trial run, we plan to hold a Zoom meeting on **September 3rd** (*details to be confirmed*) and catch up with everyone! I hope you will be able to join us?



The Parndon Wood Apiary has continued to flourish, thanks to our willing volunteers. We have been able to jar up 140 jars for Ecco and Parndon Wood. **We really need more volunteers** to lighten the load on the few volunteers that we have. Please contact me if you would be prepared to help on a rota basis – ‘every little helps...’!

Committee Vacancies: We are looking for a new **Secretary**, as I am retiring from the role. We also need a new **Membership Secretary**, as Pauline has been covering this position for a while and currently covers other duties within the Committee. If you are interested in either role, please contact me for more information about the responsibilities. Please note that the next AGM will be held in January 2021 when the roles will be discussed and new committee members voted in – ‘you ‘ve got to be in it - to win it!!’

Beekeeping notes for September:



Ahhh, the honey extraction! It is all but a distant memory now – or if not, the last of the honey harvest should be removed asap, ready for the autumn preparations.

Once the honey is extracted, the bees have cleaned up the super frames and the supers have gone back into storage technically, the beginning of the beekeepers’ year begins. August, September and October are all about getting the bees healthy, Queen-right, fed and strong and preparing the bees for the winter months ahead.

All being well weather-wise, we still have the autumn months of September, October to achieve this to give our bees the best possible chance of surviving winter and ready for Spring.

Apiary Jobs for September:

- Remove wet super frames and store away in their supers over the winter.
- Remove excess wax, audit and recycle old frames and throw the last of any wax into the solar wax extractor and melt it all down – whilst we have sunshine and hot weather. The wax can be cleaned and recycled into blocks and exchanged for wax foundation or sold/ donated to Roy Cropley.
- Any propolis can be stored up and used for tinctures and other projects.
- Clean, drawn out brood frames and redundant brood boxes can be tidied up and stored away.
- Any repairs and maintenance can be done in and around the apiary now that the supers are off the hive.
- **Treatments:** now is the time to make sure that if you are applying chemical or biological treatments to the bees to knock down Varroa, that the treatments are applied between August and September, after the honey harvest has been removed.
- **Ensure that the Varroa treatment Product name, Lot number and Expiry date details are noted in your inspection records or complete a VMR form.**
- Treat all colonies within your apiary at the same time and follow the product instructions for use.
- **Feed** your bees syrup after the honey harvest is removed and preferably after the Varroa treatment, subject to the bees needs and the chosen Varroa product treatment.
- **Remember:** *bees need at least 40 lbs of stores to get through winter, so feed, feed, feed!!*
- Pre-order more syrup/ Autumn feed and any equipment or materials needed to prepare the bees for winter.
- Order and plant up Spring bulbs and shrubs for late Winter/ 2021.

September Forage: We may be lucky at this time of year with some very minor and sporadic nectar flows from some plants that will come into flower late Summer/ early Autumn depending on the weather, such as from Ivy. Do not be fooled – keep feeding the bees syrup so that any Ivy ‘honey’ is diluted and does not go hard over winter and starve the bees. Plants that are loved by bees at this time of the year include...

Dahlia, Dandelion, Fuchsia, Himalayan Balsam, Ivy, Ling Heather, Marjoram, Michaelmas Daisy, Poppy, Rosebay Willowherb, Rudbeckia, Scabious, Thistle, Virginia Creeper.

Did you know?



Famous Beekeepers: Did you know that the fictional private detective Sherlock Holmes, created by the British writer Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, eventually retired from his investigative work to become....a beekeeper!

Curious corner: Mmm. When Alexander The Great died of malaria, his men filled the golden coffin containing his body, with honey to preserve it throughout the long journey home to Macedonia.

Folklore: Cornish folklore says that the beekeeper must inform his or her bees of any imminent move ‘lest they sting him/her to death’.... Yikes!

Bad Bee joke of the month: What do bees wear to the beach? A Bee-kini!!

Other dates for your diary:

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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.

Used manual 2 x frame plastic tangential honey extractor - £40 – in good condition and with some propolis staining. Useful bit of kit for a beginner beekeeper. Contact Pamela Chambers.



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

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