



Harlow Bees January 2021 Newsletter



HBKD ZOOM MONTHLY MEETINGS

****NEXT MEETING = THURSDAY 7th January 19.00 hrs****

General and AGM meeting – all welcome



COVID-19 update: Please follow Government guidelines, wear your face mask in public, regularly wash your hands and maintain a normal but safe routine. **Stay safe.**



Secretary Notices:



Our December Xmas meeting was very entertaining! Nick kindly composed a general and 'bee related' Xmas quiz and we were all split into teams (amazing what can be done on Zoom!). The quiz commenced and the teams battled hard but there can only be one winning team: the 'online virtual trophy award' for the Xmas Quiz winners of 2020, went to...(drum-roll)... 'Danny's Darlings!' Well done Danny, Val and Pam!

I would like to give a big thanks to David Swindale for enabling us to meet up through the Zoom meetings, and to those who joined us. Whether there was a speaker or not, it was good to catch up and see how everyone is getting on.

The AGM will be held at the beginning of January via Zoom. I will be sending our invitations with Minutes of the Last AGM and the Agenda, which includes the descriptions of the vacant roles. If you need any further information about the vacancies which need to be filled, please contact me or any other member of the committee.

We also need 'ad hoc' volunteers throughout the year particularly to help look after the bees at the Parndon Wood Apiary (great if you want more exposure to bees and pick up some tips with other HBKD apiary members) and to help organise outdoor events later in the year.

After the challenges that the year 2020 brought us, it would be wonderful to for the HBKD to re-group and build an even bigger, diverse and multi-talented committee (is this even possible..?) and take our HBKD association into the New Year and beyond...! '...Many hands make light work'

Meetings and Events: Until we can meet, associations are arranging 'online' meetings and lectures. These are being advertised and promoted via the 'Harlow-bees-Google-group'; Essex Beekeeping Associations; BIBBA; Eventbrite and on <https://beekeeping.events/>

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Safe and Happy Christmas and very best wishes for 2021.

Membership Secretary Notices:

At the beginning of January, you will receive an email inviting you to renew your Annual Subscription for 2021. This will have a link to renew online - once completed please pay immediately either by BACS or send Pauline Tidmass a cheque. If you prefer to complete a subscription form first, a form will be included (a hard copy will be sent to our 3 members who have no email) and once completed, payment will be required immediately.

The subscription and payment process must be completed by all members by the end of January 2021. If you are not renewing please let me know straight away so that I don't keep chasing you.

Please read the information sheet that will be provided, as a few things have changed. Each member is required to have their own subscription completed separately either online or by form; Partners, Juniors and Associates must complete a separate application from the Full Registered Member and we cannot accept any cash payments, due to COVID. If you have any questions, please let me know.



Beekeeping notes for January:



- Check hive entrances are clear of dead bees and debris and monitor Varroa mite drop from hives. Heft hives to check food stores. If food stores are light, place some fondant over the crown board hole.
- If you are planning to use Oxalic Acid treatments again Varroa, this should be done by the end of the month.
- Order in or make fondant/ pollen patties for late winter/ spring – before the rush!
- Check you are registered on BeeBase and that your details are up to date.
- **Arrange and pay for your Bee Craft and HBKD January 2021 subscription (regretfully, we cannot accept cash).**
- Keep in touch with your fellow beekeeping chums!

January Forage: Winter Aconites, Snowdrops, Mahonia, Sage and Witch Hazel – not much around at this time of year and usually bitterly cold! The bees will be clustered up keeping warm – apart from on very warm sunny days – when they will complete a quick ‘cleansing flight’ – and then shoot back under the giant ‘bee duvet’ in the hive!!

Did you know?

Famous Beekeepers: **Hippocrates** (460 – 370 BC) – the Godfather of medicine! He used his knowledge of bees, beekeeping and honey to treat his patients.

He believed in the healing power of food and other natural medicines for the body. Honey was used with vinegar for the treatment of pain; he prescribed honey for, muscle pains, headaches, fever, and other symptoms; Honey Mead for treating thirst; Honey and pollen to clean and heal ulcers and sores (still used on horses today with Turmeric).

A honey vinegar mix was used to treat respiratory problems and remove excess water from the body, whilst invigorating the patient.

He also dedicated much of his life to treating sick children using a raw honey diet and was one of the first documented people to investigate bee venom, as a treatment against arthritis.

Curious corner: Jewish New Year (Rosh Hashanah) is celebrated in September/ October and Honey is traditionally shared and eaten to signify the ‘sweetness of life’ throughout the coming year.

In Scotland, New Year celebrations and in particular Burns Night are celebrated by enjoying traditional food and drink. One favourite Scottish tippie that is enjoyed is ‘Atholl Brose’. Traditionally, it was made by mixing Oatmeal brose, Honey, Whiskey and on special occasions, cream! It has now been modified into a very popular cocktail!

Folklore: Romans celebrated the New Year by offering sacrifices to Janus (January) in the hope of good fortune for the next 12 months. Homes were also decorated with laurel branches and people attended bacchanalia festivities. Friends, family and neighbours made a good start to the year by exchanging well wishes with gifts such as figs and **honey**.

Bad Bee joke of the month: When LL Langstroth invented the modern beehive, there were a lot of beekeepers who didn’t think it would work. They were **skep-tics**....



Other dates for your diary:

ALL PHYSICAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE unless an online alternative is available.

Divisional Library:

The Library Monitor position is available and it is up for grabs! Fancy reading all those books on bees when they’re not being enjoyed by other members!? If you would like to take on this role and look after the collection of bee-related books, please contact David or check out the website for details. ***New committee members will be voted in at the January 2021 HBKD AGM meeting.***



Jars for Sale:



Heavily discounted and bulk orders of honey jars can be made through the HBKD in time for 2021'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:

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

Used Wax & honey separator pail – THIS IS A BARGAIN! It would make a great Christmas present?! A new one from National Bee Supplies is **£96.75** – offer more than £50 and any extra will go to HBKD funds.

HBKD Committee Members (current vacancies highlighted in yellow):

(New members to be voted in at the January 2021 AGM meeting).

Position:	Name:	Position:	Name:
President:	Danny Nicoll	Council Liason:	Ralph Cullen
Chair person:	David Tyler	Swarm Liason:	David Swindale
Vice Chair:	Mike Barke	Spray Liason:	Ben Hart
Secretary:	Carol Sissons	Training Officer:	Bihn Nguyen
Membership:	Pauline Tidmas	Bee Health Officer	Pamela Chambers
Treasurer:	Sue Frazer	Asian Hornet Co-ordin	Louise Carr
Apiaries Manager	David Tyler	Newsletter:	Pamela Chambers
Divisional Librarian	David Tyler	Website:	Nick Holmes
Swarm Liaison:	David Swindale		