



Harlow Bees

June 2021 Newsletter



NEXT ZOOM MEETING – June 3rd, 2021 at 19:30 – 21.00 hrs BST.

We have a guest speaker for the next ZOOM Meeting!

Mr Andrew Durham will present '**The Asian Hornet – a Beekeepers' Guide**' from 19.30 – 21.00 hrs.

Andrew will share the most up to date information, research and findings about this insect and how it affects Honeybees – and Beekeepers.

(Andrew is a Cambridgeshire beekeeper who has spent the last 6 years researching the Asian hornet. His research has three main objectives; to understand the effect of the hornet's predation on honeybees, to quantify the threat, and to formulate a defence strategy that builds on the lessons learnt by French beekeepers since the arrival of the hornet in France in 2004. Andrew became aware of the threat from the Asian hornet during his extensive travels in France and in 2015, realising that the hornet was on the verge of invading the UK, he focused his attention on France, determined that both he and UK beekeepers should benefit from the lesson learnt by the French. He has reported his findings into a series of articles in the BBKA News, with the aim of ensuring that British beekeepers were fully informed on the threat from the Asian hornet and the defences available to the beekeeper).

NB: This presentation cannot be recorded, filmed or copied.

Secretary Notices:

Last month, Hertfordshire Seasonal Bee Inspector (SBI), Peter Folge discussed "**Four topics: Imports, Spring Preparations, Queens and Treatments: the do's and don'ts!**" at the HBKD May meeting. Peter updated us about the post Brexit legislation regarding the importation of Queens and packaged bees; confirmed whether Varroa is – or is not a 'notifiable disease'; recommended what we should all be doing in and around our apiaries at this time of the year; how to select Queens for Queen rearing; registered treatments for Acarine, Nosema and Varroa and shared some 'tips of the trade'. A very informative and timely talk.

In the absence of a Secretary (*see committee positions vacant*) here are some ways to keep up to date & / or events that you can watch if you missed them, care of the BBKA.

BBKA Spring convention – extract of message from Joyce Nesbet BBKA Spring Convention Committee Chair: "It's worth reminding members that, although it's over, the whole event (*The spring convention*) is available to watch again for all those that paid, until 31st May at: springconvention.bbka.org.uk

Beekeeping Equipment: For those of you still looking for equipment or purchases, all the vendors contributing can be found at "The [Market Place](#)". Here is a tip if your buying, ask the vendor if they offer a discount for BBKA members (you usually only need your membership number)

Selling Equipment: For those who have items to sell please advertise with an e-mail to the group e-mail address. Basic rule is first come first served.

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/>

Membership Secretary Notices:

We have a long waiting list for the Introductory training courses. Please encourage anyone interested in taking up beekeeping or even those who simply want to get involved in organising events, to join up. If you know of anyone interested in joining, please send them my details or a copy of the membership forms. Thanks, Paul. Link to Membership contact page - <https://harlowbees.co.uk/members/>



Beekeeping notes for June:



- Keep in touch with your fellow beekeepers by joining the next meeting (see above).
- Make sure you have spare brood and super frames available for nucs, supering and swapping out old brood frames.
- Make sure you have ordered honey jars and are preparing for the honey harvest in July/ August or earlier if your bees are working on Oil Seed Rape fields!
- Check your colonies regularly (every 7-8 days is recommended).
- Have your Swarm strategy ready in the event the colony has decided to create a new Queen.
- Make sure your bees have plenty of food – watch out for the 'June dirth'.
- Monitor for Varroa – and European Foulbrood...

Food For Thought.....

Did you know that former 'Destiny's Child' singer Beyonce (wife of musician and producer Jay Z) has added 'Beyhives' to her home?

Her daughters both suffer from skin conditions: the active organic ingredients in the harvested honey are used as a treatment to alleviate discomfort – and enjoy with food!

Honey has been used for medicinal purposes for centuries, both for external and internal complaints.

Did you know that Honey is a brain food? It is a flavonoid and is the only food that contains 'Pinocebrin' that is also found in propolis, Chinese Ginger and the Damiana shrub. It has been shown to treat neurodegenerative and cardiovascular diseases and potentially more disease...



Bad Bee joke of the month:

Why did the bee go to the Dermatologist? *Because it had hives...* (or 'Beyhives' - like Beyonce!)

Divisional Library:



The Library Monitor position is vacant. 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.

Jars for Sale:



The Essex bulk ordering of honey jars offers members across Essex BKA, including Harlow, the opportunity to buy jars & lids at significant one-off discounts. Please read the following carefully and note the dates / times because this year's process has changed. In particular, the schedule for ordering & window for collection is tight.

- Request forms need to be with Pauline by 12pm (Noon) on **Monday MAY 24th, 2021.**
- Payment is by BACS (Bank Transfer) **ONLY.**
- Collection of the jars is on **Saturday June 19th between 10am and 12pm ONLY.**

You should receive an e-mail from the Essex e-mail system with the details & the Order forms. If, not, first check your 'junk' mailbox in case it was diverted.

If this is your 1st year of beekeeping, you may have a honey surplus & need jars before the 2022 bulk opportunity comes around, in which case order now.

For Sale:

Items for sale are often listed via the group e-mail (harlowbees@googlegroups.com), some more longer term offerings are listed below. Please feel free to message a committee member to add a long-term listing to the following:

For sale	Price	Contact	Tel / E-Mail
Wax	Assorted	Roy Cropley	01992 626668 Roy.cropley@virginmedia.com

HBKD Committee Members

The Harlow branch are seeking active members for all the roles highlighted in **YELLOW**
If you would like to get involved in any of these roles, please contact a committee member for details.

Position:	Name:	Position:	Name:
President:	<i>Danny Nicoll</i>	Council Liaison:	<i>Ralph Cullen</i>
Chair person:	<i>David Tyler</i>	Swarm Liaison:	<i>David Swindale</i>
Vice Chair:	<i>Mike Barke</i>	Spray Liaison:	<i>Ben Hart</i>
Secretary:	<i>Carol Sissons</i>	Training Officer:	<i>Binh Nguyen</i>
Membership:	<i>Paul Chapman</i>	Bee Health Officer	<i>Pamela Chambers</i>
Treasurer:	<i>Sue Frazer</i>	Asian Hornet Co-Ordinator	<i>Louise Carr</i>
Apiaries Manager	<i>David Tyler</i>	Newsletter:	<i>Rotating contributions</i>
Divisional Librarian	<i>David Tyler</i>	Website:	<i>Nick Holmes</i>