

Harlow Bees-letter - April 2017

Upcoming Meetings

April 6 - Bee Spacing* with Bob Smith, NDB

May 4 - Making for Increase with Roger Patterson



Secretary Notices

Last month we had Planting for pollinators with Darren Lerigo, which I think we can all agree was a entertaining, informative and useful talk for this time of the year - so get planting... [helenium](#), [sedum](#), [oregano](#), [borage](#), [veronicastrum](#), [teucrium](#), [calamint](#), [eupatorium](#), [centaurea](#), Lavender (honey bees on interested in certain types).

Here is a post Darren made on our talk - <http://modernmint.co.uk/harlow-beekeepers/>

With that in mind here is another guide on the same subject

<http://www.countryfarm-lifestyles.com/honey-plants.html>

This month we are having Bob Smith, whom some of you may know from the Essex conference. Bob is coming to talk to us about the importance of bee space in a hive and why it is important to buy the right kit to make your beekeeping that little bit easier.

Asian hornet news

I'm sad to have to report that an Asian Hornet has been found in Scotland, [as reported](#) on 17th March, and mentioned by the speaker Wally Thrale at the EBKA AGM; it was found in a warehouse.

Events

- [The Ted Hooper Memorial Lecture](#) – 2nd April – Coggeshall CO6 1TG

This should be a very informative event, we have **Dave Goulson** coming, who while mainly focused on bumble bees, is an excellent and knowledgeable speaker (ed. from personal experience) and has been doing some research into which plants that you buy from garden centres already may have been grown with neonicotinoids, even the one advertised as great for bees.

Darren Lerigo that we saw last month will also be speaking.

- [BBKA Spring Convention](#) – 7-9 April – Shropshire, TF10 8NB

Lots of good speakers at this one, and the usual sales at the trade show

- [BBKA Basic Assessment Training Day](#) - Sunday May 14th at Great Easton

For those interested in taking the BBKA basic assessment this is a great help.

- [Bee health & disease recognition day](#) – Thurs 15th June – Copped hall, Epping, CM16 5HS

As excellent time to learn first hand about bee disease, and its FREE - book early to avoid disappointment

- [Hallingbury Flower Show](#) - 16th July 12-4pm - Gaston House, Little Hallingbury, CM22 7QR

We will be having a stall at the flower show again this year and will be **looking for support from members** to run this.

Google group

We are going to be resetting our google groups - both the one for information and discussions and the one the newsletter gets mailed out to. If we get something wrong, please get in touch on wwwcight@gmail.com.

Tea and Coffee

Its was agreed at the AGM that tea and coffee would be done by different people each month from now on, and that we would be asking for a volunteer for the next meeting at the end of each meeting. Please be forthcoming in this.

How do you like your eggs in the morning?

This was sung by Dean Martin forty years ago when singers had talent. I like about a thousand, each one in a worker cell. A complete patch of brood without any misses. No eggs? Perhaps no queen. Or she is no longer fertile and the bees may be united with another colony. If the queen has mated with drones which are closely related she will produce diploid drones. These are small and in worker cells. They have larger cappings and when they emerge they are useless.

Drones

During the season the queen usually lays some unfertilised eggs in large cells which become pupa with domed cappings. This may be a sign that swarming is on the way. Drone brood is much more attractive to varroa than worker brood. For this reason some drone brood is welcomed provided it is removed before the drones emerge. Drone brood may be encouraged by drone foundation or use a shallow comb in the brood chamber and cut off the drone comb when it is capped. (This latter idea only works in theory).

Supering

A good colony at this time of year has half a dozen combs of sealed brood. Put on a queen excluder and super. The super is to accommodate bees and reduce overcrowding. Any honey is a bonus. This year I intend to remove honey as soon as it is capped. Last year I left it on as winter feed. It went hard and the bees went hungry. The best advice.

Produce some queens. I use 5 frame nuc boxes with some sealed brood, food and pollen and 3 frames of bees. A queen cell from a good source is put in and a fortnight later there is a beautiful young laying queen. I then build this up into a colony to overwinter.

Wax

A colony of bees makes two pounds of wax each year. It can be recovered but it is uneconomic and time consuming to do so. And what a messy job. But no part of beekeeping will make you rich. I hate to see it going to waste so I just say beekeeping is a hobby. It's a lot of fun.

By Roy Cropley

For sale

Buckets

- Honey buckets £2
David Tyler (01279
730228)

Wax for sale

- recycle wax with Roy
Roy Cropley (01992
626668)

Division committee

President Danny Nicoll

Chairman & Librarian David Tyler

Vice Chair David McCorkindale

Secretary & Web Editor & Swarm Liaison

Nick Holmes

Treasurer Pauline Tidmas

Divisional Trustee Martin Cavalier

Spray Liaison David Swindale

Training Liaison David McCorkindale

Council Liaison Brian Bull

Newsletter Nick Holmes

Mailing Officer Lisa McCorkindale