

Harlow Bees-letter April 2018

Upcoming Meetings

5th April – The Shook Swarm with Robert Smith NDB

3rd May – Queen Rearing with Ted Gradosielski



Divisional Newsletter: we are now looking for a member to volunteer to collate and write the monthly newsletter. Nick has taken on the role of Central Executive Committee Trustee. Guidance will be given. Please email Pauline @ pauline.bees@hotmail.co.uk

Secretary Notices:

15th March brought our much awaited Divisional Meeting with Dr Sara Robb. We had a great attendance of around 40 members, not bad for a rescheduled meeting within the middle of the month. Sara Robb spoke about soap making using a conventional method where the soap takes around 6 to 8 weeks to cure. However she then gave instruction and demonstrated of her way of soap making whereby at the end of the meeting she was able to cut a block of newly made soap into equal pieces; enough for everyone present. This meant that the soap was made and ready to use within 2 hours. Sara than spoke about creams & ** and the requirements needed to follow if members wished to sell such products; 'cosmetics'. A very interesting and worthwhile talk for any division to consider.

Membership & Treasurer Notice

As you know payment of subs is always an issue. Please note for next year that the deadline for payment is 15th February. After that date you will be seen as a lapsed member and this will affects your Bee Disease Insurance.

Introduction to Beekeeping Course: This year's course is well underway with the potential of 23 new beekeepers. Hopefully the weather will soon change and warm up enough not to affect our out Apiary sessions.

Divisional Library: We have gradually been adding books to our reading library which all members can borrow. David Tyler is responsible for the library and he brings them to every meeting. Why don't you have a look?

Divisional Events:

- **Sunday 8th July** – 11am – 5pm Celebration Event @ the Newly Created Wildflower Meadow in the Harlow Town Park, Stort Valley Meadows.
- **14th or 15th July** – On a Sunday (date to follow) Hallingbury Flower Show
- **August** – Weekend Education Event (date to follow) @ Parndon Wood Nature Reserve, Harlow

Essex Association Dates:

Ted Hooper Memorial Lecture, Sunday 22nd April 2pm Lecture Theatre, Writtle College. Speaker Norman Carreck

Essex Honey Show, Saturday 1st September, Orsett Show, Orsett Showground.

EBKA Conference, Saturday 3rd November, Chelmsford City Racecourse.

Items Always For Sale

Honey Buckets £2.00
David Tyler 01279 730228

Wax
Roy Cropley 01992 626668

Division Committee

President Danny Nicoll
Chair/Librarian David Tyler
Vice Chair Mike Barke
Secretary/Web/Trustee Nick Holmes
Treasurer Pauline Tidmas
Mailing Officer Lisa McCorkindale

Swarm Liaison David Swindale
Spray Liaison Ben Hart
Training David McCorkindale
Council Liaison Ralph Cullen
Newsletter Vacant

Make a beeline for your garden – Help all pollinators

Take a look at the Wild Bee Action Pack @ www.wildaboutgardensweek.org.uk

Our gardens have immense value for wildlife. Each patch is part of a network of 15 million gardens that criss-cross the UK, put together, they cover 667,000 acres – an area seven times the size of the Isle of Wight



Bumblebees, solitary bees and our little friends and many other pollinators emerge when the weather warms up, but pollen and nectar can be hard to come by. A huge number of plants rely entirely on bees and other insects for pollination, and yet population numbers are declining. But you can help them with your garden!

Many insect species have been hibernating since autumn, and when they come out they need food for energy. Hoverflies, butterflies and hibernating bees such as bumblebees and solitary bees will come out at the first sign of warmer weather – this can be any time from February to April. The sweet nectar hidden among the brightly coloured petals of early spring flowers can be a lifeline for hungry insects.

Some species of bee, such as our little pals don't hibernate, so they will become more active and start collecting nectar and pollen as soon as your spring flowers arrive. The pollen is needed to get their hypopharyngeal glands working to produce the Brood Food and Royal Jelly, which will stimulate the Queen in to laying more.

Here's are some top spring-flowering plants for Our Bees:

Crocus - **(Crocus)**, Galanthus - **(Snowdrops)**, Hellebore - **(Christmas/Lenton Rose)**,
Muscaria Neglectum - **(Grape Hyacinth)**, Malus Domestica - **(Apple Tree)**,
Ribes Sanguineum - **(Flowering Currant)**, Primula Vulgaris - **(Primrose)**,
Erica Carnea - **(Heather)**⁴³, Hyacinthoides Non-Scripta - **(Bluebell)**,
Mahonia Japonica - **(Japanese Mahonia)**, Eranthis Hyemalis - **(Winter Aconite)**,
Salix - **(Pussy Willow)**