

## Courses

**Beginners** Course starts this month and final information will be sent out to the eight students.

**'Improvers'** Sessions dates are currently being arranged. These sessions are now full.

### \*\*\* A Bit About Barnards Farm ([www.barnardsfarm.eu/](http://www.barnardsfarm.eu/)) \*\*\*

'A garden for all tastes and ages: 67 sculptures from the grand to the quirky carefully placed in the 17 hectares of garden and woodland bring surprise and delight. Daffodils by the stream, crab apple blossom; rose covered belvedere; summer flowers and climbers around the house; vegetable plot; Japanese garden; fountains, ponds, lake: frogs, dragonflies, butterflies and bees'.

If you are interested in this outing, please see Jilly Speakman-Bell for more details and to book your place.

### Romford Division Contacts:

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April 2015

# Romford Division

EBKA Charity Number: 1031419

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

**Committee Meeting:** Thursday 14th May, 7.30, Jim's Place,  
Collier Row

**May meeting:** Friday 8th, 8pm

**'Queen Rearing'**

Led by Terry Watson

**BEGINNER PRACTICAL ~ frame making, hive building.**

Saturday 16th May at 1.00pm

## BARNARDS FARM ~ CLUB OUTING

I have had a reply from Sylvia Holmes regarding the above outing. On sending her the three dates that we had agreed upon at the last Committee meeting, Sylvia has booked for us the 29th August.

This is the day she was able to arrange for us to view the car collection and also for the tea shop to be open for afternoon tea.

The cost per person will be £6.00 for entrance and £3.00 for tea and cake.

JILLY

\*\*\* (Please see back page for more details). \*\*\*

Website: [www.ebka.org](http://www.ebka.org)

## FOLKLORE OF BEES by William Tyler – 6<sup>th</sup> March 2015

The talk made us realise how important bees are in folklore from very commonly used sayings such as 'busy as a bee' because of the amount of times a bee visits flowers to collect nectar for 1lb of honey, and that honey is the ingredient for making mead which is one of the oldest alcoholic drinks in the world.

In Celtic mythology the bee is a messenger and if a bee flies into a house that would indicate that a visitor was due and if the bee was killed the visitor would be the bearer of bad tidings.

Ancient Egyptian Pharaohs used the honey bee as their royal symbol, whereas the Greeks thought that a baby whose lips were touched by a bee would grow to be a good speaker or a poet. One of the saints of beekeepers is St. Ambrose who was found by his father covered in bees whilst sleeping; a bee buzzing around a child that is sleeping means they will have a happy life. It was believed that bees were little servants of God.

Several of us knew about the saying that anything important you have to 'tell the bees'. If there is a birth, marriage or death the bees have to be told and they will spread the message. One of the traditions was that you have to bang 3 times on the hive, but everyone agreed they would not be doing that!

Bees do not like to live with a quarrelsome family, nor do they like bad language.

It is bad luck to sell bees, if you do and receive payment for the bees you will be left with bad luck, the good luck going with the bees to the new owner, so instead of paying with money it is better to barter for the bees.

The behaviour of bees was watched to predict the weather and several poems are recorded indicating their importance in weather forecast.

*When bees to distance wing their flight  
Days are warm and skies are bright  
But when their flight ends near the home  
Stormy weather is sure to come*

Also when the bees enter the hive and none leave the hive it shows that rain is near.

*Bees will not swarm before a storm  
If bees fly away, fine will be the day*

J.K. Rowling used the old English word for bees which is Dumbledore for one of the characters in her Harry Potter stories.

JILLY SPEAKMAN-BELL

## Beekeeping notes for April ~ written by Pat Allen

We are now into the active beekeeping season so you need to begin weekly inspections from this month. The bees seem to have come through winter well so we may have a lot of swarming this year.

- Have your Swarm Control Plan ready, and the equipment it needs.
- Super ahead of the bees' needs; if the bees are two-thirds across the existing super, add another.
- Get your queens clipped (ask for help with this if you cannot do it yourself).
- The bees will start by raising drones – no swarms without drones.
- Don't worry about queen cups, or even eggs in queen cups.
- **But** – as soon as you see queen cups being extended to become queen cells and these contain larvae in royal jelly, then implement your Swarm Control Plan.

If a colony is not building up, get a Nosema check done. Be prepared to do a complete comb change if the test proves positive (ask for help if needed).

## HONEY JAR ORDERS

The bulk buy of honey jars is imminent. Pat will be sending the list around (by email) very soon. The actual order of jars will be made late May for delivery in early June. Any member who does not have an email address but would want to order jars will need to collect an order form from Pat at home or at the May meeting. BE PREPARED!

## Newsletters

On the subscription form you were asked how you wanted to receive your newsletters, etc. The options are: email only; hard copy collected at meeting; hard copy posted. The last option incurs an extra postage charge of £6 for the year.

Some of you did not indicate an option so one has been chosen for you. If you have an email address, then 'email only' is the option allocated. If you do not have an email address, then 'hard copy to collect at meetings' is your allocated option. Papers will no longer be posted to you.

If you wish to change your newsletter option, please let Pat Allen know. You will have to pay £6 if you wish to change to have papers posted to you.