



September 2018

Romford Division

EBKA Charity Number: 1031419

Possible new apiary site:

I have been contacted about the possibility of an apiary site in Ockendon. The site has not been viewed yet so this is not definite, but if you are considering finding a new apiary site and Ockendon is convenient for you, then let Pat Allen or Jim McNeill know. You must have passed the Basic Assessment.



Pat Allen

Romford Division Contacts:

Secretary ~ Pat Allen

01708 220897 ~ pat.allen7@icloud.com

Chairman ~ Jim McNeill

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Websites: www.ebka.org

romfordbeekeepers.wordpress.com

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Committee Meeting: Wednesday 12th September 2018, 7.30pm.
Jim's Place, Collier Row

October meeting: Thursday 4th October 2018, 8pm, Chadwick Hall
Topic: Beekeeping with the Rose Hive'
Speaker: Matt Broughton, Romford Member

ROMFORD HONEY SHOW

Saturday 20th October 2018

It's time to showcase what your bees have provided.

Whether you are a seasoned exhibitor or a complete novice there are categories to suit all. Jars of honey, bakery, candles, wax, mead, photographs, something for everyone.

We need to impress the judges with plenty of exhibits so take a look at the schedule and enter as many categories as you can. If you are a novice beekeeper and want to know more about how to prepare and exhibit don't hesitate to ask for advice from others. You could even be a winner!

I will be taking entries at the October meeting where I will give out labels for your exhibits. Or you can email me with your entries to;
angelam59@hotmail.co.uk

The venue as usual will be the Ascension Church in Collier Row. RM5 2BA

Judging will be in the afternoon followed by the annual supper, early evening, when all the winners will be announced. This is a great opportunity to socialise with fellow members and talk bees! Includes a buffet supper and wine for just £15. Please book yourself in, the more the merrier! To purchase tickets please contact Liz McNeill at jimandliz44@aol.co.uk

So get preparing and good luck.

Angela Mander

August Meeting:

There was a good attendance at the August meeting at the Teaching Apiary. We split into groups and each group opened one or two colonies. The weather was fine and the bees were good-tempered, but they decided that this was the day they would show us beekeepers how fast they can run around! I have not known them to be so runny before (nor since in fact) so I guess it was something in the atmosphere. The queens remained elusive but the presence of plenty of brood in all stages was evidence of their presence in all but one colony (queen seen in this colony since). There was evidence of Deformed Wing Virus in one colony but otherwise all were healthy and strong.



There was lots of honey on the hives and this has since been removed and extracted. This year has brought a record crop of honey from the teaching hives. We started with five colonies in spring and, with splits for swarm control, there are currently seven colonies from which we have taken nearly 600lbs honey. And there is plenty left on for the bees.

The surface underfoot in the apiary is very uneven and, although very green at the moment with wildflowers/weeds not grass, we need to make it safer for walking about. We plan to cover the surface with sand and soil and to grass it over. This will entail a lot of work which will need many willing hands. Please be ready to answer the call for help when it comes, probably later in autumn.

Pat Allen

September Beekeeping Notes:

September is a critical month for winter survival of our colonies. If we prepare them properly this month then they will come through whatever kind of winter we have. The most important jobs are treating against varroa (if you have not already done so) and feeding to ensure enough stores for winter; remember when treating and/or feeding the floor insert must be **in** if you have mesh floors.

Varroa Treatment: Do this as early in the month as possible and don't forget to record what you do.

Feeding: You may have left the bees some honey but at least a top-up of syrup is a good idea as it gives a mix of stores in the hive and stimulates the queen to lay which will provide lots of winter bees. Heavy syrup – 1kg sugar to 600ml water. They will need 20–25kg stores to get through winter (a National frame will hold about 2.5kg). Get the feeding done as early as possible because once the weather cools down it will become more difficult for the bees to evaporate the water from the feed.



Once feeding and treating are done, if you are wintering on National brood plus super, reverse the boxes to put the super underneath and – most important – **remove the queen excluder**. Whatever hive type you have, remove the floor insert and close off ventilation at the top of the hive (ventilation at the bottom is enough and is better).

Pat Allen