

Call for help: The Teaching Apiary needs you - *again!*



Mick Speakman-Bell will be arranging a work party to tidy up the Teaching Apiary. There are some big perennial weeds to dig out and brambles and nettles to cut back. The plan is to do this some time in late October or early November, that is, before it gets too cold and the ground gets too hard. Please answer the call when it comes.

October Beekeeping Notes

Feeding and treating of your bees should be finished by now. The weather is getting too cold for the bees to reduce the water content. If their stores are not adequate to get through winter by now then you will have to supply fondant, not syrup. Don't forget to record the varroa treatment you gave the bees – this is a legal requirement and records must be retained for five years.

With feeding and treating completed the floor inserts should be removed and the varroa count noted in your records. Leave the insert **out** now for the winter. **Remove the queen excluder!**

If you have a super above the brood box, then sometime during this month swap the boxes to put the super below the brood box. The bees will be warmer that way. If you have mesh floors, give insulation at the top under the roof. Woodpecker and mouse-guards need to be on by the end of this month.

Pat Allen

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www.ebka.org

romfordbeekeepers.wordpress.com



EBKA Charity Number: 1031419

October 2019

Romford Division

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Committee Meeting: Wednesday 13th November 2019, 7.30pm,
Jim's Place,
Collier Row

November meeting: Thursday 7th 2019 at 8pm
Venue: Chadwick Hall Main Road, Gidea Park, RM2 5EL
Topic: Bumblebees

Essex County Show at the Orsett Show – Saturday 7th September

This was a great day for Romford Division. A good number of members entered exhibits, and overall we did very well indeed. The President's Cup is awarded to the division gaining the most points and this time... **Romford Division won the President's Cup!!!!** Hooray! Not only that, but Filippo Negri won the Blue Ribbon Award for best exhibit with his chunk honey, and Paul Wiltshire won the Best Novice Award for his honey. It was good to see so many of our very new members taking part, even if they had no honey they entered the cookery and needlework classes and gained many awards. We would not have won the Cup without them.



The weather could have been better, it was very windy and cool, which put a stop to the live bee demos, but we had lots of visitors to the marquee.

It was a good social event as Essex beekeepers from all divisions are there helping. Helpers get a good cheap lunch and free refreshments all day. If you have never been to the Essex Show - try it next year - it's a good day out.

Pat Allen

September Meeting – Beekeeping Experiences

The first speaker was Pat Allen who gave a run-down on the Honey Extraction process. First, the supers, which must be kept clean, bee-free, and off the ground (Pat suggested a garden tidy tray). The extraction area must be clean and free of animals. A tray of some kind is needed to catch the cappings, which can be removed with a knife, an uncapping fork or an air gun, before the comb is placed in the extractor. While the extractor is spinning Pat cleans up the super itself.

Paul Wiltshire then talked about the safe use of the extractor. He stressed that you should start slowly and make sure it has come to a full stop before changing direction to avoid breaking the gears. Most important, do not put your hand or arm into the extractor while the combs are spinning! Make sure you drain out the honey before it reaches the bottom of the frame holding the combs – the extractor doesn't work very well if the comb lugs have to plough through honey. After use, the extractor must be cleaned, using cold water, which will ensure all the bits of wax will come off easily.

Then Pat explained about straining and storage – a coarse strainer is good enough if the honey is to be stored in buckets, but a fine strainer must be used if the honey is to be bottled straight away. A log should be kept of the extraction process, showing apiary, extraction dates, water content, yield.

Re-use of jars was discussed – this is fine so long as they are properly cleaned (e.g. in dishwasher), and sterilised (e.g. in the oven). Treatment of cappings was mentioned too; they can be rinsed (soft water), dried and melted, or given to the bees in a rapid feeder to be cleaned up. The recovered wax can be made into candles or exchanged for foundation.

Roz McCarthy told of her experience when she helped another beekeeper who did not use the smoker correctly and upset the bees. Roz ended up with 23 stings! Not one to be repeated but it has not put her off beekeeping, Roz said.

Dave Redman asked for advice regarding his bees that were dying a couple of days after Apiguard was applied. After some discussion it was suggested that the Apiguard may have been affected badly in storage by the high summer temperatures.

All in all a very informative evening.

Dawn Doyland

ROMFORD HONEY SHOW

Saturday 12th October 2019

At the Ascension Church Hall,
Collier Row Rd, Collier Row, RM5 2BA

Romford division won the Presidents Cup at the Essex Show this year, we obviously have wonderful bees, honey and many talented members. So, its time to support the annual Romford Honey Show by entering as many categories as you can from the schedule. We need to impress the judge with plenty of exhibits, be it honey, bakery, candles, photograph, mead, candles, there's something for everyone, from novices to seasoned exhibitors.

I will be taking entries at the next meeting on October 3rd, where labels will be given out for your exhibits. Or you can contact me by email, angelam59@hotmail.co.uk with your entries and labels will be handed out on the day.

Please ensure all exhibits arrive at the venue in good time. Judging starts at 2.30pm.

RETURN OF TROPHIES. If you have one from last year please return it cleaned at the October meeting or contact me.

The ANNUAL SUPPER will follow at 6pm.

This is an great opportunity to socialise with fellow beekeepers. The winners will be announced and trophies given out. The evening includes a buffet supper, soft drinks or wine, all for £15. To purchase tickets for the supper please contact Liz McNeill at jimandliz44@aol.co.uk

Good luck

Angela Mander

Show secretary

NHS

All you members who did so well at the county why not enter the National Show?

You have prize winning entries so download the schedule from the National Honey Show site. Enter them in the Essex classes; you have already beaten them once so you don't have an excuse not to.

I will take your exhibits up there for you but you must send in your entry forms first to get your labels.

Best of luck!

Jim

