

### November beekeeping notes

Your bees should be settled for winter by now, and woodpecker and mouseguards should be in place. Floor inserts for open mesh floors should be **out** now. Close off ventilation at the top of the hive and put some insulation on the crownboard under the roof.

Pat Allen

### Bulk Buys

I will be making a Bulk Buy purchase in February 2020 of wired wax foundation, National Bee Supplies SN1 and DN5 frames and Apiguard.

Please check your stock and make a list of requirements over the winter.  
Details of costs and ordering next month.

Lorna Pattle

### ROMFORD HONEY SHOW 12th OCTOBER

Another good year for Romford beekeepers. The display of exhibits looked very impressive and smelt wonderful too. Well done to all those who entered.

This year we had the privilege of two prominent judges, Bill Fisher and Sue Carter, so a blue ribbon award was also up for grabs.

It took quite some time for both judges to find winners from 105 jars of honey in various classes, 24 items of delicious bakery, 11 entries of fudge, together with candles, beeswax blocks, photographs and bottles of mead. There were 8 jars of gift honey which will go to St. Francis Hospice.

The supper was a success as always, plenty of food and drink, with both judges seated amongst us giving out tips and encouragement for future shows.  
An enjoyable day and social event, so if you missed out this year be sure to get next year's date in your diary early.

Angela Mander

### Romford Division Contacts:

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### Websites:

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

[romfordbeekeepers.wordpress.com](http://romfordbeekeepers.wordpress.com)



EBKA Charity Number: 1031419

November 2019

# Romford Division

### DATES FOR THE DIARY

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

**December meeting:** Thursday 5th 2019 at 8pm  
**Venue:** Chadwick Hall Main Road, Gidea Park, RM2 5EL

**This will be our pre-Christmas Social.**

**Please each remember to bring:**

- some goodies to share (sweet or savoury),
- what you want to drink,
- a small wrapped gift for the free raffle.

Family and friends are welcome too



### EBKA Conference 2019

The recent Conference was well-attended and very good. The Essex Show cups were presented and guess who had won loadsa cups? Jim, of course!

Well done, Jim.

### Varroa Management in 2019 Spoilt for Choice – Robert Smith

Varroa originated from Asia and is responsible for killing millions of honey bees. The varroa mite was first noticed in the British Isles in 1992, when there were limited treatments. Now there are fifteen approved treatments available.

The mite cannot survive without contact with the honey bee whether it be pupae or adult bee. It reduces the life expectancy of the bee and can wipe out full colonies. The mite sucks on the adult bees' fat for energy.

There is a combination of ways to treat varroa. Each treatment has a different way of tackling the varroa mite. The more we know about the varroa mite the better our knowledge to treat it. Some of the chemical treatments get absorbed into the body of the mite, others when contacting the mite have a physical effect on it, while others encourage the defensive conduct of the bee.

A natural way to treat varroa is to dust the bees with icing sugar. The bees clean each other to remove the sugar causing the mites to drop off. Also, the icing sugar prevents the varroa from gripping on to the bee.

Beekeepers need to keep a close watch for the mite in their hives to try to control this dreadful parasite.

**JILLY SPEAKMAN-BELL**

### Congratulations to Paul Wiltshire and Simon Perchard !

Paul and Simon took the BBKA Basic Assessment this summer. Both passed with credit and – even more – they were the only two Essex members to be given the Miss Avey award for gaining the highest points. The award comprises a certificate **and** £25.

Many of our members have not taken this assessment yet so, if you are eligible (i.e. you have had a couple of seasons of managing a bee colony yourself), why don't you have a word with Paul or Simon about the experience of taking it. Preparing for this assessment and taking it will certainly help to improve your beekeeping and give you confidence.



### National Honey Show Results for Romford

Congratulations to our new member **Rosanna Seels** getting a First in one of the open classes for Artistic needlecraft. Well done.

#### Other Results

|                         |     |           |                          |
|-------------------------|-----|-----------|--------------------------|
| <b>Filippo Negri</b>    | 1st | Class 94  | Skep                     |
| <b>Pat Allen</b>        | C   | Class 269 | 1 Jar Gift               |
| <b>Romford Division</b> | C   | Class 32  | 6 Jars Honey             |
|                         | 1st | Class 263 | 2 Jars Medium Honey      |
|                         | 2nd | Class 266 | 2 Jars Set Honey         |
|                         | 3rd | Class 269 | 1 Jar Gift               |
| <b>Jim McNeill</b>      | 3rd | Class 85  | Honey Label              |
|                         | HC  | Class 111 | 2 Jars Medium Honey Gift |
|                         | 2nd | Class 262 | 2 Jars Light Honey       |
|                         | 3rd | Class 263 | 2 Jars Medium Honey      |
|                         | 3rd | Class 265 | 3 Jars Different Honey   |
|                         | C   | Class 269 | 1 Jar Gift               |
|                         | 1st | Class 272 | 3 Beeswax Candles        |
|                         | 1st | Class 274 | 1 Bottle Sweet Mead      |

### Photos from the Romford Show 2019. Thanks to Mick Speakman-Bell

