



Romford Division

It is sad news that Ruth Huggins, wife of Arthur Huggins, passed away on Tuesday 28th April.

As many of you will know, Arthur passed away in January this year. He was a very long-standing member of Romford Division, a committee member and warden of The Chase Apiary.

Until Ruth became poorly, she gave her time generously at the meetings helping with the catering alongside Liz McNeill.

Remembering a lovely lady.

Our thoughts are with her family.



Romford Division Contacts:

Secretary: **Sue Richardson**

01708 381900 / 07971 957333 ~ susanmrichardson7@gmail.com

Chairman: **Paul Wiltshire**

01277 375454 / 07870 258192 ~ paul.g.wiltshire@btinternet.com

Divisional Voting Member/Trustee: **Jim McNeill**

01708 765898/ 07743 310143 ~ jimandliz44@aol.co.uk

Membership Secretary: **Pat Allen**

01708 220897/07958 938427 ~ pat.allen7@icloud.com



Websites:

www.ebka.org

romfordbeekeepers.wordpress.com

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Committee Meeting: Wednesday 27th May, 7.30pm, via Zoom.

We have held two Zoom meetings, both very kindly set up by Paul Wiltshire, the first with just a few committee members to try out the technology. It worked quite well, so we held a 'full' committee meeting on 15th April last. A couple of committee members had trouble with the technology but it is hoped we can sort that out for the future.

June meeting: Thursday 4th, 8.15pm, via Zoom.

Speaker: Dr Gerry Brierley.

Topic: Medicinal Apitherapy - the Healing Hive.

Bulk Buys

Thank you to Members for payment and collection of their Bulk Buys.

Lorna Pattle



Zoom Meetings for members

Over the last couple of weeks we have been trialling Zoom online videoconferencing software so that we can continue to conduct our regular meetings. We had two Romford Division Committee meetings in April to see how the system works and to decide if this was suitable for the Divisions General Meetings. The trials worked well although we had a few initial technical problems. As a result we decided to purchase a subscription for the Division and organise a General Meeting for the 23rd April. This was a short meeting where Pat Allen played a video of Queen clipping and marking followed by a Q&A session. We had 39 people attended (not all with video) which is a similar number to our usual meetings and everyone enjoyed seeing and hearing from their fellow beekeepers.

Paul Wiltshire

Honey Jars

We have heard from Jean Smye, who organises the bulk order of Honey Jars on behalf of all EBKA members. She is in regular contact with the supplier and is hopeful that this will still go ahead as usual, although delivery may be a little later in June than usual. We'll keep you updated and send out the forms when this is confirmed.

Paul Wiltshire

May Beekeeping Notes

A lively swarming season is in prospect if the weather continues warm as it has been through April. There are plenty of drones about and colonies are building up well and fast. There is a good nectar flow **so get those supers on**. Give them some new foundation to work on if you can.

Keep your eyes peeled for queen cells and make sure you have the equipment and plan ready for when you need to split the colony. Be **especially** vigilant if you have not clipped the queen's wings or you may lose a lot of bees.

Plan ahead if you think you may need to extract some honey this month and you need to borrow the division's extractor – book it in good time, you may not be the only one needing it. (Contact details in your information pack.)

May is a good month for a disease inspection. Inspect the combs carefully, shaking off the bees so that you can see every cell (**except** a frame with a queen cell you want to keep of course, do not shake that frame but brush the bees off instead). If anything is amiss, contact your mentor or Jim McNeill. If you suspect Foul Brood disease, contact also the Bee Inspector (details in *The Essex Beekeeper*). Put in the floor insert for a few days to monitor the varroa drop and be prepared to treat if there is a heavy load.

Pat Allen