



EBKA Charity Number: 1031419

November 2020

# Romford Division

## Membership Renewal 2021

This is a 'heads-up' about renewing membership for 2021 as it will be a bit different.

- **Students** who carried over their Beginners Course booking to 2021: I shall be in touch with you separately, so the following does not apply to you.
- **Members wishing to renew** for 2021 will be doing this online via the Membership System called eReturn2 (eR2 for short). You will be sent an email message within the next month 'inviting' you to renew and giving instructions how to do this.
- If you do not have an email address, then you will be sent a paper subscription form to complete in the usual way.
- There will be no change to the subscription rates for 2021.

**Pat Allen**  
*Membership Secretary*

## Members 'Take Action' Message

The BBKA annual honey survey is open on the website. It really does only take a few minutes to complete and we would like to encourage as many members as possible to take part. Here is the link :

<https://wh1.snapsurveys.com/s.asp?k=160092551774>

**Sue Richardson**

## Romford Division Contacts:

Secretary: **Sue Richardson**

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## Websites:

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

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

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

**Committee Meeting:** Wednesday, 11th November, 7.30pm,  
via Zoom.

**No Christmas social this year**



**December meeting:** Thursday 3rd 8.00pm, via Zoom.

**Speaker:** Graham Royle

**Topic:** If Heath Robinson had been a Beekeeper.

Hints and Tips, Widgets and Thingymabobs.

*A practical and humorous talk based on 25 years of trying  
out new ideas for Beekeeping Equipment.*

*Contains something for everyone.*

## November Beekeeping Notes

There should be little to do with the bees this month because they ought to be well settled for winter already. If you have mesh floors, take out the varroa insert and make sure top ventilation is closed. If you have not put top insulation on yet, then do this, and protection against woodpecker damage and entry by mice should be in place by mid-November at the latest. Take the opportunity to clean up the spare equipment – scrape down and scorch crownboards and spare boxes, etc.

**Pat Allen**

## **ABBERTON NATIVE BEE PROJECT** – Kevin Thorn 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020

Kevin is a bee farmer who has 100 colonies in the area of Lavenham. He is chairman of the West Suffolk Beekeepers and working on the Abberton Native Bee Project. His aim is to help beekeepers raise and improve their queens.

Kevin explained that BIBBA is a national charity that is promoting the reintroduction of native and near native bees. Native bees have been in Britain since the Ice Age.

Kevin said that locally adapted bees are better equipped with the local environment, flora and diseases. You can accomplish improving bees with the qualities you want fairly quickly using selection. The difficult task is to achieve your standard.

Essex and Suffolk Water were maintaining the reservoir and wanted to raise the water level to counteract environmental effect. In July 2017 three native queen bees were introduced to the nuclei. The bees were wintered at the reservoir. The initial funding was from Essex & Suffolk Water. Local beekeepers were recruited to the project and met every Saturday from May to August. Members donated some of their bees for mating colonies. Tesco gave a grant of £2,000 and additional money was given for the project by Essex & Suffolk Water. In the first year they raised 20 mated daughter queens.

In July 2019 new stock was doing well. They now have 17 strong colonies and produce honey to help with the cost.

Kevin spoke about different ways of queen rearing and trying to make it as easy as possible.

Kevin explained the different phases of the project and what they hope to achieve in the future.

**JILLY SPEAKMAN-BELL**

## **A Late Gift for the Bees**



My bees have been very lucky this autumn, they have had a wonderful display of ivy flowers to exploit to top up the honey I left them and the syrup I fed them. And, just as the ivy seems to be going over, my Strawberry Tree (*Arbutus unedo*) has put on the most wonderful display. The flowers are being visited as I write by bumblebees (new queens) as well as honeybees.

The photo shows the fruits as well as the flowers and it is normal for flowers and fruit to be on the tree at the same time. This tree is a very good small tree for a suburban garden, it is evergreen and, as you can see in the photo, has very attractive flowers.

It does flower well every year but this year is particularly spectacular. The fruits are pretty too, but although they are not actually poisonous they are not tasty.

**Pat Allen**