



Romford Division

Membership Renewal

Subscriptions for 2021 are due on 1st January 2021. Usually December is when the new subscription forms are sent to members but this year we will not be using the paper forms.

Renewal will be online via the eR2 Membership System. Look out for the email inviting you to renew your membership. It will contain a link which will take you to the membership renewal screen. Once you have entered the renewal information you will receive a confirmation email with the details of how you can pay. Receipts will be sent out at the end of January for those who have completed the renewal process, including payment.

Courses:

Beginners Course 2021

We are determined to run a Beginners Beekeeping Course in 2021 and the Committee have been discussing how we can do this safely. The dates have been set, but we are not yet sure about the venues. The **theory** sessions will ideally be held in the Education Room at Thames Chase, but they will be via Zoom if it is not possible to meet indoors.

Practical sessions will be held in the Teaching Apiary at Thames Chase, but some may be held in parallel elsewhere if we need to restrict numbers at any one venue in order to remain socially distanced. For these we will of course be outdoors, and wearing bee veils, and can wear masks too if necessary.

I will contact those of you who are on the waiting list for this course and get you booked in. Membership can be renewed but we will not be taking payment for the course itself until nearer the time, in case we need to cancel.

Course dates: Theory – April 20, 27, June 22; Practical – May 4, 11, 18, 25; June 8, 15.

Pat Allen



Bee Safe

Wishing a Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays to All

Romford Division Contacts:

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Websites:

www.ebka.org

romfordbeekeepers.wordpress.com

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Committee Meeting: Wednesday 20th January 2021 7.30pm, via Zoom.

Annual General Meeting: Thursday 14th January 2021, 7.30pm, via Zoom.

**Enid Ford
1921 – 2020**



Enid at one of our mock honey shows (2002)

We have had the sad news that our longest-standing member, Enid Ford, has died, aged 99. Enid had been a member of the Division for around 40 years and was active on the committee through the years, in particular she was Secretary for many years into the 1990s. Rest in Peace, Enid.

Pat Allen

From Helen Kingsford:

So sad to hear Enid has died.

I first met her when she came to our IT centre to learn how to use computers. I enjoyed teaching her, and because she mentioned her honey bees, it struck up an interest for me. She was a quick learner and determined to keep up with the latest communication techniques.

We will remember her.

WHAT THE BOOKS DON'T TELL YOU AND WHY BEES CHANGE THEIR MINDS

Buckfast Abbey Bee Keepers – 5th November 2020

We believe a lot of statements we hear that actually are not true i.e. if holly has a lot of berries it will be a cold winter – this is not true. Likewise, with all the information we read or hear about bees.

A lot of ideas about why and how the bees swarm are not necessarily true, neither are various ideas about the queen and the temper of the bees depending on the queens' temper. Don't believe everything you see and hear on YouTube or from books. It is better to observe your own bees and make your own mind up.

Another misconception is that a bad-tempered colony will produce more honey and if you harvest queen cells from a colony preparing to swarm the colony will be swarmy.

Some other incorrect saying about bees are:

Superseding cells are always on the surface of the comb rather than the edge.

Varroa always infests drone brood rather than infesting worker brood.

Therefore, it is best to observe your own bees as they all have a mind of their own and do not necessarily behave to form. After all they don't read the same books as we do!

JILLY SPEAKMAN-BELL



Beekeeping Notes

This is a good month to give your bees oxalic treatment if you think they still have varroa – between Christmas and New Year is good when the weather is pretty cold. This will ensure minimum brood in the hives, which is what you want for oxalic treatment.

Check the hives are upright and not under attack from woodpeckers. Apart from that take the opportunity to plan for next year.

Pat Allen

Committee Posts Becoming Vacant at the January 2021 AGM

Helen Kingsford, Education Officer, and Lorna Pattle, Bulk Buys Secretary, will both be standing down from their current posts at the AGM in January. Thanks to them both for a summary of what the roles entail.

Education Officer Role

My role in this post has been responding to schools/clubs etc who seek to have a visit from a beekeeper.

Once contact is made I arrange a booking. It is worth getting an up to date list of members who would like to do these visits, and are available daytimes.

You may lead on giving the talks or be the organiser. A talk to schools would entail daytime of course, taking the club's virtual hive and picture boards, junior size suits to try on, and either a pot of honey supplied by Pat Allen - or for those who have little budget, a sample taste of honey.

A Primary school class of 30 children does need 2/3 beekeepers to attend so that the children see all the boards and try on suits, as a visit will only be for about 45 minutes.

Evening club meetings, like Cubs and scouts, W.I etc. may suit some members better.

We had a few visits lined up for 2020 which of course we had to cancel.

Sharing our knowledge of honey bees is important, so catching youngsters' interest will I am sure pay dividends.

Adult groups can of course view the live colony in its showcase, if it's available.

Helen Kingsford

Bulk Buys Secretary

The duty of the Bulk Buys coordinator is to correspond with a few suppliers of hive products and negotiate a discount that can be passed onto Romford Division BKA members.

I collate a list of members wanting to purchase wax foundation, frames or varroa treatment at the beginning of the year and usually place an order at the end of February.

If the committee requires, I may do another varroa treatment order later in the year for autumn, but the February order usually covers the year.

Lorna Pattle

Thank you to Helen and Lorna for their hard work during their time in these posts. Please do consider whether you would be willing to take over one of these positions.

Sue Richardson

Dear Members,

Regretfully I am unable to take on the Bulk Buys commitment next year as I am hoping to sell up house and move away from the area to Cornwall.

If anyone is interested in taking on the position, I am happy to help with passing over the job as I will still be in the Brentwood area for a while.

Lorna Pattle