

## Courses:

**Beginners:** The course is over and several students will be starting beekeeping straight away. Others are waiting until next spring, which is a good idea as they have time to learn more and make sure everything is in place ready for their new bees. About half a dozen have taken places in Divisional Apiaries and they should be able to 'buddy-up' and help each other out, as well as being mentored by experienced beekeepers. Good luck to all our new beekeepers.

**Taster Session:** There will be a Taster Session on **Sunday 8th August**. This is short notice unfortunately but it has not been easy to find a suitable date. Information is on the Romford Beekeepers website.

*Pat Allen*

## Committee Matters

We hope that many of our members will be joining our first monthly meeting back in Chadwick Hall for over a year on Thursday 5th August! We plan that this meeting will combine a "real" meeting with a Zoom meeting, technology willing. Thus, allowing those members not wishing to be there in person to hear Paul Wiltshire's talk on Winter Preparation. We hope to have Zoom and in person meetings running together for the September meeting too.

Division Apiaries: the licences for all our apiaries are out of date. There are slow ongoing negotiations with Havering Council for a new licence for Havering Apiary, and we await the outcome of the appeal for the rates revaluation. We will be meeting with Barking and Dagenham Council to update the license for The Chase Apiary in September.

Well done to Graeme Ellis and Mark Wood for passing their Basic Assessment. The Division has reimbursed their fees. We hope more members will consider taking BBKA modules next year.

The Essex Honey Show will not be taking place again this year, but our honey show will be going ahead. Please enter as many classes as you can, even if you have no honey, there are Other classes to enter.

*Sue Richardson*

## Romford Division Contacts:

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## Websites:

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

[romfordbeekeepers.org](http://romfordbeekeepers.org)



EBKA Charity Number: 1031419

August 2021

# Romford Division

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

**Committee Meeting: **NOTE!** Tuesday 14th September 2021,**  
7.30pm, via Zoom.

**September Meeting: Chadwick Hall/Zoom (TBC)**

**Topic:** Glands, pheromones and their influence on how and why the colony behaves as it does.

**Speaker:** Margaret Thomas



Photo by Sue Richardson: Students on the 2021 Beginners Course getting hands-on with the bees in the Teaching Apiary on a lovely sunny evening in June.

## ROMFORD HONEY SHOW

Saturday 16th October 2021

It's back...hopefully.

After last years unfortunate cancellation, the honey show for this year is once again taking place at the Ascension Church, Collier Row. The schedule will be included in the September newsletter and we need to impress the judges with plenty of exhibits.

*Angela Mander*

## BEES FOR DEVELOPMENT – Janet Lowore - 1 July 2021

Bees for Development was formed in 1993. It is based in Monmouth and operates in Africa, Central and South East Asia, Eastern Europe and Central and South America. They have teams working in Ethiopia, Uganda and Ghana. The object of their work is to create more biodiversity and to result in less poverty.

The issues they are tackling are trying to prevent students dropping out of school, due to being unable to afford books and exam fees because families are trying to survive on extremely little money. Many of the young people are under employed. In parts of Uganda 50% of young people are under employed.

Biodiversity problems include Ghana's cashew production being vastly reduced due to lack of pollination. Deforestation is resulting in landslides in Uganda.

Keeping bees is not expensive to start with without continuous expenses. It does not require a lot of land and it does not need to have cultivated land and is not labour intensive. Also has enormous pollination benefits.

Through pollination bees create a rise in crop yield and encourage retaining forests, which mean farmers are not so reliant on mono-crops.

Bees for Development Journal is sent to 2,000 people, and each one is read by several people. It provides helpful advice and contacts. It is distributed to 130 countries.

Monmouth has an annual bee festival in its 4<sup>th</sup> year. This year it is taking place on 1<sup>st</sup> August. It is a family occasion and has activities for adults and children; environmental group displays as well as countless other interesting activities. The festival has now given Monmouth status as a Bee Town.

I have been to there as my cousin lives right in the centre of Monmouth, and it is well worth a visit, although it gets really busy.

### JILLY SPEAKMAN-BELL

**Footnote**– If anyone is interested in making a donation to **BfD** that they can get info from the link <https://beesfordevelopment.org/>

### Apiguard Bulk Buy Order

The committee has decided to change the varroa treatment from MAQS to Apiguard.

The cost of treatment is £4.00per hive . Please can you place your order by Monday 9th August by email to me - [julie.muggleston@gmail.com](mailto:julie.muggleston@gmail.com). Please pay by BACS transfer, bank details are in the email which you have already been sent. Please ensure that you give your surname as reference.

**Julie Muggleston**

## AUGUST Beekeeping Notes

I not know what August will bring us, the weather seems to have 'gone haywire' this year. However, as I write near the end of July there is a significant nectar flow which I hope will continue into August.

August is a good month to do a thorough disease inspection. For this you will need to shake the bees off each frame and inspect the sealed brood and the larvae very carefully. Look up on the web or in your books to remind yourself what healthy brood looks like and, if anything does not look right, contact the Bee Inspector, or your mentor, or our Disease Liaison Officers (Paul Wiltshire, Jim McNeill).

Apart from making sure the bees have space to store nectar and honey, established colonies should not need weekly inspections. However, if you are planning to combine colonies for winter, then August is a good month to do this. Remember that both colonies must be healthy, and there should be only one queen! You may need to spend a few days moving one of the hives near to the other before actually uniting them. Read up the procedure before you start so you are confident you know what you are doing.

Plan to take off the honey at or by the end of the month. Do not take all the honey, and leave them any super frames that have pollen in them. Pollen will not spin out and it will go mouldy in stored combs over winter. Give the bees the wet supers back, over the crownboard, to clean up, then remove them and store them.

Plan the varroa treatments to use after removing the honey crop. There will be a bulk buy of Apiguard (see elsewhere in this newsletter), so get your order in quickly if that's what you want to use.

You will need to assess how much to feed the bees for winter stores if you are removing their honey, though feeding may be left till next month if the nectar flow continues through August. They need enough to bring their stores up to about 25kgs for winter. A standard brood comb can hold 2.5kg, Langstroth brood about 4kg, Commercial in between.

Remember – the floor insert must be in when feeding and with most varroa treatments, but otherwise take it out.

**Pat Allen**