

The Essex Beekeeper



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Essex Beekeepers' Association
www.ebka.org

Furthering the Craft of Beekeeping in Essex
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Ted Hooper Memorial Lecture

Chronic bee paralysis: An emerging disease of honey bees Professor Giles Budge, Newcastle University

Saturday 27 November at 2.30 pm on Zoom

More details will be available nearer the time.

Chronic bee paralysis is a serious disease of the honey bee that can manifest with symptoms in individual adult honey bees as well as whole colonies. Giles Budge will provide the historical context of chronic bee paralysis, introduce the causative virus and explain the symptoms before describing recent research that highlights the increase in cases across England and Wales.

The Speaker



Professor Giles Budge obtained his degree in Molecular Biology and Genetics from the University of East Anglia and his PhD in Molecular Plant Pathology from the University of Reading. He previously worked for Horticulture Research International, ADAS, Central Science Laboratory and Fera before moving to Newcastle University in 2018 to set-up a pathology laboratory specialising in crop and bee health.

Giles is an applied scientist with expertise in apiculture, pathology and diagnostics. He worked as the research coordinator for the National Bee Unit for 12 years, where he was responsible for developing an internationally recognised programme of applied research. Most notably he led a project funded under the Insect Pollinators Initiative on European foulbrood and a transatlantic partnering award. His research interests include combining experimental biology, molecular detection and modelling to improve our collective understanding of disease epidemiology. Giles has provided expert evidence to inform government policy reviews surrounding pollinator health and is a Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society.

Most recently Giles has been working on the repeated invasions of the yellow-legged hornet, helping to optimise government disease surveillance schemes, and investigating the emerging honey bee disease chronic bee paralysis.

Divisional Meetings

Members are more than welcome to attend another Division's meetings.

Please contact the Division and talk to the relevant co-ordinator to ensure that there will be room in the hall or apiary since space might be limited because divisions might prefer to allow members to "socially distance", and also to check that the meeting is going ahead.

October 2021

6th: Saffron Walden Hive Insulation

7:30 pm by Zoom

7th: Romford - **Bees Abroad with Richard Ridler**. 8:00 pm Chadwick Hall, Gidea Park RM2 5EL

18th M&D 7:30 for 8:00 pm

The OAKhouse, High Street, Maldon CM9 5PR

19th: Chelmsford **Bumble Bees** 19:30 – 21:00

Margaretting Village Hall, Wantz Rd, CM4 0EP

John Taylor will give an overview of the work of BumbleBee Conservation Trust with particular reference to the various outreach and conservation programmes. He will also update us on his project in the Thames Estuary and Essex Coast involving the shrill carder bee. John will also explain the possible conflict between preserving bumblebee habitats and using hives of honey bees to pollinate crops.

24th: Braintree **Honey Show & Talk on Mead Making**

2:00pm White Notley Village Hall

27th: Saffron Walden - **Show & Tell, Bring & Buy**

Time tbc

27th: Southend

Zoom meeting, 7:30 - 9:30 pm

28th: Colchester 7:30 - Langham Community Centre, CO4 5PA

November 2021

4th: Romford Beekeeper Forum

Discussion of problems encountered in the past year. 8;00 pm Venue as above

15th: M&D 7:30 for 8:00 pm Venue as above

16th: Chelmsford Making and Drinking Mead with Philippo Negri 7:30 Venue as above

17th ; Saffron Walden Rational Varroa Control, . 7:30 pm

25th: Colchester as above

26th: Braintree Top Bar and Warre Hives with Peter Aldridge White Notley Village Hall

24th: Southend 7:30 Zoom Meeting.



I hope you have managed to get out and about a bit in your division this summer as we emerge cautiously from lockdown. I think all societies, not only beekeeping ones, are suffering from post-covid inertia/concern and for many reasons. However, EBKA has a purpose, and our bees work on, despite human population woes (and poor weather this season!). Our committees have provided a wide range of different support and entertainment and continue to make every effort, but it hasn't been easy. They deserve our support. Patience is needed,

but also loyalty to attend as many of the events that they offer, if we can. So well done to the Divisional committees!

I also hope you have had a better year for honey production than we've had. Almost no sunshine at all in August! However, on the bright side, the cold and wet weather in April and May meant the survival rate of queen wasps was low, so we have had very few wasp colonies to deal with. Unfortunately, the same was true for the queen bumbles around here, but I have seen better populations in other places.

Here are the key points of the September CEC meeting. I am very pleased to report that attendance at the CEC meetings is gratifyingly high. This time, out of 19, there were only a couple of apologies, and two members, who had earlier engagements, still made the effort to arrive later. Perhaps it's Zoom! Zoom certainly lends itself well to administrative meetings – better than our beekeeping ones! We spent some time discussing these problems at divisional level; maintaining enthusiasm and recruiting new committee members. Some divisions are certainly more affected than others.

The capitation for 2022 was confirmed at £36.50 for registered members, £20 for partners and £36.50 for schools, thus absorbing the BBKA increase, as promised.

You will have seen, through eR2 [and on p3 of this magazine], that Professor Giles Budge's **Ted Hooper Lecture on chronic bee paralysis is scheduled for Saturday November 27th at 2.30pm**. Alas, again on Zoom, but at least we can be certain that it can go ahead. As you know Giles Budge is heading up the next EARS Research project, which the beekeeping associations of the

Eastern region help finance; so there'll be an opportunity to ask him about that too – 'how certain beekeeping practices interact with Varroa biology to increase the damage caused by the mites'.

Also, the **National Honey Show** has been advertised through eR2 and is on **21st to 23rd October**. Jim McNeill will, as usual, be happy to take any Essex exhibits on Tuesday 19th. *[Ed: Closing date for entries is Oct 4th]*

We have hopes that summer 2022 might be the time to be able to hold the Ted Hooper Memorial Lecture at the **Wax Chandlers' Hall** in the City of London, especially as Anthony Bickmore, from Harlow Division, is the Master of the Worshipful Company of Wax Chandlers for the year. If you think you might be interested in visiting this fascinating hall for the lecture, please let your Divisional Secretary know asap. It would obviously involve being in the metropolis and probably travelling by public transport, so it's just a feasibility study at this stage and you won't be committed to it. Thank you.

Please remember to reply to the Bee Health questionnaire, sent out recently by Dave Garratt, our Bee Health Secretary. *[Ed: see also p10]*

Last but by no means least, thank you to those who responded to the request for Essex Beekeeper articles. So many more reports from Essex members in the September issue!

Regards

Jane

Chair, CEC

Working with Children



In November 2018 the Chelmsford Division of EBKA was 100 years old and as part of the celebrations it was decided to contact all local schools offering the opportunity to hear about bees and bee keeping. As Education Officer, and a teacher, I was very involved and reported on this project by writing an article which

was published in BBKA News May 2020. The work in school, and with groups such as scouts and guides has carried on.

I call my sessions “Be Good 2 Bees” as I encourage children not to be frightened but to enjoy the pollinators and to understand how essential they are to the environment and, in particular, our food supply. Referring to my friend Winnie the Pooh, I talk about honey, how it is made, how it is harvested by the beekeeper and, of course, how good it tastes!

If appropriate, I read a story called “Mr Buzz the Bee Man” making sure I include the names of the teachers and the class!!



I use plenty of activity, letting the children or maybe a teacher, put on my bee suit, handle wax comb and I have even lit my smoker when possible. I take a box with a frame of foundation, a frame of drawn comb and a frame of sealed honey so that the children can see how the bees draw out the comb and seal in the honey. The BBKA produced a “Schools Visitor Pack” which in my view is of variable use, but the children do enjoy the “bee glasses” and the model

showing the stages on honey bee development. But the main point of the presentation is pollination and how this affects flowers, fruit and vegetables.



Finally I encourage the school to visit the Chelmsford Oaklands Museum, where we have an observation hive, by passing on a leaflet giving details. This leaflet also has a description of the “waggle dance”, which I also show as a video taken at Oaklands and have even involved the children and their teachers in a waggle dance game devised by Friends of the Earth, which is great fun, but at the same time instructive.

Despite the current pandemic I have already visited one primary school and a pre-school and have a booking for a scout and

a guide group this month. I can call on a couple of CBKA colleagues, Margaret Cameron and Mary Brockbank, to help out if needed, both again are experienced in working with young children, which means that we don't have to disappoint any group.



For the future, I would encourage other members to join us when we visit schools as it is always good to have a well organised team and I would like to develop our association with the Oaklands Museum, perhaps to be on hand when schools pay a visit.

Ian Grant, Chelmsford BKA

Essex Bee Health Questionnaire

Hi everyone, I hope you're all sorted and prepared for winter. When I wrote this we were basking in near 30 degrees, early September and the internet vibe was about re-supering for a last flow! Personally, I finished my treatments and let the bees have the last flow before topping up with feed.

My name's Dave Garratt and I started in the role of EBKA bee health secretary/officer earlier this year. I have a background in pest control specialising in insects so have a good understanding of this area but am only in my third year of bee keeping. I am a member of Chelmsford division despite living in Suffolk now and have two apiaries one in each county. I am as active as possible in the club and working in Essex makes this easier, I'm always available for a chat and if I can't help I can usually point you in the right direction. As you may have seen in last month's ezine I recently passed my basic which has improved my confidence and laid the foundations for what will hopefully be a lifelong hobby.

So, our thoughts are now moving to preparations for next year. As part of this if you haven't already done so please fill in the questionnaire which was emailed to all members last month. It's short and simple and you just hit submit at the end and it comes straight to me and the bee health team. I'm going to outline below its background and how the info will be used so everyone can understand it better.

You can download the questionnaire [here](#)

The idea is to collect information about disease and pests which have impacted our hives for the last few years. This information will then be used to write an Essex risk assessment, a health map if you like. From this we can ascertain what the actual risk to our bees is. I think we all accept that varroa causes more colony losses than foul brood diseases despite foul brood being considered as far more serious. Once we know what the actual threats are in Essex we can tailor our training to reflect this.

Obviously this doesn't take the place of the detailed training now on offer but if, for example, it shows a big problem with woodpeckers we know we need to cover this subject accurately and in detail. Having an evidence based framework from across the whole of Essex to plan what training and information to focus on and promote can only improve things.

Longer term I hope to make it a yearly thing so we all get into the habit of expecting to do the return at about this time. This may start to highlight patterns and make pest and disease management easier in the future. There is a section about unmanaged hives which is really looking at possible locations of higher future risks of foul brood and the like. The more bee keepers that are members of EBKA, the more info we have and the better hive management will be in the county. In my opinion a hive and bee keeper with no contact could be the best beek in Essex or could be a breeding ground for mass disease outbreak. We owe it to each other and our bees to promote our divisions and standards to all bee keepers. "But what of wild bees I hear you cry, we can't control all colonies". No, we can't but that's not a reason to not improve all the colonies we can.

In the same way, not controlling the drones a queen breeds with is no reason not to work towards improving our queens wherever possible but that's for another day.....

Keep 'em happy and healthy

Dave Garratt
EBKA bee health secretary/officer

Articles appearing in The Essex Beekeeper are not necessarily the views of either Essex Beekeepers' Association or its Editor.

To ensure inclusion within the diary of county-wide events would divisions provide the editor with details of local meetings by the 4th of the previous month.

Many thanks, Dee Inkersole: editor@ebka.org

Stop the importation of honey bees into GB from the EU via Northern Ireland

Earlier this year the following petition was raised by beekeeping organisations:

“The UK Government should ensure that people cannot circumvent restrictions on the movement of bees from the EU to GB by moving them via NI. Unrestricted movement of bees could allow Small Hive Beetle to arrive and devastate British beekeeping.

If Small Hive Beetle was to be imported into GB with the bees, the risks to the bee population would be very great. The beetle can multiply to huge numbers quickly; eating brood, honey, pollen, destroying combs causing fermentation of the honey. If uncontrolled they ultimately destroy the colony. Within two years of its discovery in the USA at least 20,000 colonies were destroyed costing millions of dollars. The economic impact on UK beekeeping and the pollination service could be devastating.”

The Government made the following response in April 2021:

“We recognise the serious threat posed by the Small Hive Beetle. EU areas affected by this pest are not permitted to export to the UK. Strict controls apply to imports into the UK from other areas. The Government recognises that some beekeepers are concerned about the new trading arrangements and the risks of exotic pests entering Great Britain, in particular the Small Hive Beetle.

Small Hive Beetle would present a serious threat to our honey bees if it were to arrive in the UK. This invasive pest has only been detected in one part of Europe, namely southern Italy, and exports of bees from the affected region into either Great Britain or Northern Ireland are not permitted.

Imports of honey bees into Northern Ireland and any other part of the UK are only accepted from approved countries and are subject to rules relating to notification and health certification to ensure that imports are free of key pests and diseases. Movements of honey bee queens, packages and colonies from Northern Ireland to Great Britain remain permitted. There is, and will remain, unfettered access for Northern Ireland goods, including honey bees, to the rest of the UK market. We continue to work with colleagues in the Devolved Administrations as part of our monitoring of the new trading arrangements. We recognise the important role played by beekeepers and bee farmers in sustaining honey bee health. We appreciate the level of interest in this issue,

and we continue to listen to beekeepers and associations as part of our ongoing work to maintain suitable trading arrangements and effective biosecurity for the UK beekeeping sector.”

The petition needs 100,000 signatures before it can be considered for debate in Parliament. At the time of writing, it had only attracted 16,813 signatures nationally

Please encourage as many people as possible to sign this petition.

[Please, click to Sign this petition](#)

From the Government website the votes in Essex are as follows:

Rochford and Southend	19
Southend West	21
Castlepoint	16
S Basildon and E Thurrock	15
Thurrock	10
Hornchurch and Upminster	10
Brentwood and Ongar	17
Basildon and Billericay	14
Rayleigh and Wickford	42
Maldon	33
Saffron Walden	89
Chelmsford	9
Witham	17
Harwich & N Essex	32
Colchester	27
Braintree	13
Harlow	10
Epping Forest	4
Romford	6

If each member would sign this petition, something that takes very little time, we could make a big difference to the totals - an even bigger difference might be made if we were to ask friends and relatives who enjoy our honey to sign it too.

Petition to Ban Pesticides

A new petition was launched this month by Prof Dave Goulson, Professor of Biology at the University of Sussex, specialising in the ecology and conservation of insects, particularly bumblebees.

It reads:

Ban the use of pesticides in urban areas & end their sale for use in gardens. There is simply no need to spray poisons in our streets, parks & gardens for cosmetic purposes, where they harm bees & other wildlife & pose a risk to human health. Safe alternatives are available, where necessary.

Wild bees & other wildlife are in decline, a potential catastrophe for us all. Pesticides also threaten human health, many of them being carcinogens &/or neurotoxins. As outlined in “Silent Earth” (2021), one way to help combat bee decline is to encourage them in urban areas. Our 22 million gardens, plus parks, road verges & other green spaces could form a network of wildlife friendly habitats. This will only work if, like France, we stop spraying pesticides in gardens and public urban spaces.

Please, [Sign this petition](#)



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National Honey Show

90th National Honey Show: 21st to 23rd October 2021

Sandown Park Racecourse, Esher, Surrey, KT10 9AJ



We can't wait to bring you a live show and see you face to face. We have to be realistic though. There will almost certainly be some social distancing requirements during the show (we will work with the Jockey Club at Sandown Park to minimise the impact on you) but things may not be quite as you remember them from our last live show in 2019.

For example this year, in order to reduce queues, you will need to re- new your membership or buy your admission tickets in advance through our website shop. There will not be the usual opportunity to buy tickets on the door. If that's a problem let us know well in advance so we can help you. We have always tried to be 'the friendly show'.

Bob Maurer

chair@honeyshow.co.uk

The full Schedule and Entry Form are available on the NHS website:

www.honeyshow.co.uk/.

Note that although most entries close on 4th October a small number of classes close earlier on 6th September so read the Schedule carefully.

90th National Honey Show, 21st—23rd October, Sandown Park Racecourse, Esher, Surrey, KT10 9AJ

From the BBKA



BBKA Web Shop

Over the past few years the Education & Husbandry Committee have commissioned many BBKA News Special Issues to help new and experienced beekeepers improve their beekeeping knowledge and husbandry skills. They are also useful for members revising for exams. These are available for sale on the BBKA web shop but we thought it would be helpful to produce a summary of all the Special Issues:

[BBKA Resources.](#)

There are also a number of laminated, double sided, wipe clean sheets to take to the apiary:

[BBKA Laminates.](#)

All of these resources are available on the web shop:

www.bbka.org.uk/Listing/Category/bbka-shop

We keep the cost as low as possible but if associations wanted to buy larger quantities there is a further saving for orders of ten or more copies. If anyone is going to attend the National Honey Show 21-23 October and wants to collect a bulk order from the BBKA stand then you can make further savings on carriage costs, here is the bulk order pricelist:

[BulkOrders](#)

If you have any queries please email bbka@bbka.org.uk or telephone the office to speak to Erica who looks after the shop:
02476 696679 ext. 2006.

With thanks to W Sussex BKA via eBees

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