



## Committee Matters.

Havering Apiary - we have now received a refund from Havering Council for £512.78 for the rates from April 2017 to March 2021, for 4 years, as the new reduced valuation has been accepted. The current year's rates for 2021-2022 have also been reduced from £276.48 to £130.56. A total savings of £658.70. Unfortunately, the valuation officer has not replied to my phone call asking for her reasons for not changing the description of the new container from "store and premises" to a container. Terry and I will be meeting at the apiary to take some new photos of the container and surrounding apiary, and we will have to submit another appeal with supporting evidence to try to get the description changed. If successful this would reduce the rates bills again considerably.

The Chase - we have been unable to arrange a meeting with the ranger to discuss a new licence for the apiary, as he has not replied to my email and phone call suggesting dates. This will be followed up.

**Sue Richardson**

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

**Committee Meeting:** Tuesday 9th November 2021, 7.30pm, via Zoom.

### Meeting: Thursday 2nd December

Our **December** Meeting is our Christmas Social. This year to avoid too much mingling, we will not be having a full buffet, instead we are asking that you bring a small amount of food for yourselves and to share with other people on your table.

This way we are hoping to keep everyone happy and safe.



Sue Richardson won 1st prize at Romford's Honey Show with her 8-layered (yes, 8 layers!) honey cake. A member said, "I had a slice and it was by far the best cake I have ever tasted." Congratulations, Sue.

## Romford Division Contacts:

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## Websites:

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

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

## October Meeting

Richard is the chairman of Bees Abroad and he spoke about their work in Uganda. Nearly all the people involved are beekeepers. They are UK based and only do beekeeping projects. They work through local delivery partners, with volunteer-based partnership managers and UK based support team. They are working on 36 projects in 8 countries, all in Africa. 90% income and all the charity money is spent in the country. All their workers in the UK are volunteers. They use all locally sourced equipment so it is available to all the people and open to everyone. There are many tribes. Richard explained how beekeepers form groups to help each other survive as there are very few resources and few or no government support services. A group request via the website, the local partner does an assessment visit and if ok, agrees the project.

He talked about one project of 30 households divided into 2 groups. They have initially 3 top bar hives each and then 2 more, initial and support training, protective clothing etc. They get regular field support for 3 - 4 years to fully establish. They use WhatsApp groups for support. Richard described how beekeeping differs from the UK. Bees are smaller and more defensive. Colonies are smaller. The climate has wet and dry seasons but no cold so no need for lots of stores. Top bar hives are more suitable as simpler to use and better heat dissipation so healthier for the bees. There is no swarming and uniting, colonies are split to avoid absconding. Everything is geared towards lower capital and maintenance costs so that the beekeepers make enough money to spend on education and better lives for their families. It costs approximately £300 to finance a beekeeper.

If members would like to make a donation, please contact Bees Abroad.

**Dawn Doyland**

## ROMFORD HONEY SHOW

Saturday 16th October 2021

With most of us reporting low honey yields this year it was wonderful to see so many exhibits. Well done to all those who entered.

Our judge this year was Claire O'Brien who managed to work her way through jars of honey, frames for extraction, beeswax blocks, candles and photographs meticulously. Then there was the wonderful array of mead, cakes and fudge all to be tasted. Quite a task. Claire stayed on for the supper and was available for members to ask advice regarding honey show entries.

The supper this year was a good social evening, a chance to get out and talk bees after the confines of recent restrictions. Julie Mugglestone, with the help of Filippo, cooked up some delicious hot curries with all the accompaniments. This was followed by some wonderful homemade desserts.

If you missed out this year, make sure next year's show gets booked into your diary early!

**Angela Mander**  
Show Secretary



## November Beekeeping Notes

Your bees should be all set for winter by now. Just make sure you have closed off the ventilation at the top and put some insulation over the crownboard under the roof. Take out the varroa insert and make sure the hive is on a paving slab, not on grass or earth. Woodpecker guards need to be in place now. If you don't have narrow entrances (less than 9mm high), then put on some kind of mouseguard. Now is the time to clean up the equipment you have used during the season, also sort out the super combs and discard any that have pollen in them (unless you can keep them in a freezer) because the pollen will go mouldy over winter

**Pat Allen**