



# Romford Division

## Committee Matters.

Havering Apiary Rates Valuation Appeal: we have received a reply to the valuation appeal from the Valuation Office. The original large shed, classed as a store and premises, had a rateable value of £97.50 m2, this burnt down in April 2010; the new metal container has just under half of the floor area and is a container not a shed. The valuation office website gives a value of £20.00 m2 for a container. We have asked for the rateable value to be reduced to half the floor area and the building description to be changed to that of a container from March 2018, and for a zero valuation to be given from April 2010 to March 2018, when there was no building on site. The valuation office is only able to backdate the zero valuation to 2017, and have allowed a zero rating for April 2017 - March 2018. They have agreed to reduce the floor area of the container, but not to the building description being changed from store and premises to a container, despite photos being submitted. Although their decision has reduced the actual rates payable by about 50%, we do not accept their decision and plan to appeal.

I rang and spoke to the valuation office, asking for the reasons for their decision, I was advised that the case officer would get back to me to clarify her criteria of a description of a store/premises versus a container. We are waiting for a reply before submitting another appeal. We will be due a rates refund on the years 2017 to date from Havering, whatever the final outcome.

The Chase Apiary: Committee members will be meeting with the ranger at The Chase to discuss a new licence for the apiary there.

Romford Division will again be running a beginner's course next year, first session 26th April, format to revert to usual. This year's course was very full due to the cancellation of last year's course. We also plan to run two taster courses next year, probably one in May and one in August.

*Sue Richardson*

### Romford Division Contacts:

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Membership Secretary: **Pat Allen**

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### Websites:

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

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

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

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

**November Meeting:** Thursday 4th November 8pm  
Chadwick Hall, Gidea Park, RM2

**Topic:** Beekeeping Forum

As this year has been so difficult, we thought it would be a good idea to have a Beekeeper Forum and invite members to discuss any problems they encountered or ask any questions they may have. It would be helpful if these could be emailed in advance of the meeting so the panel have time to prepare, but if not possible can be asked on the day.

### OCTOBER Beekeeping Notes

You should have finished feeding and treating by now, or very nearly. **Reminder:** have you recorded your varroa treatment? This is a legal requirement, and you need to keep the records for five years.

Ivy should be flowering this month and will be the last forage for your bees (some areas may have Himalayan Balsam). Let's hope decent weather allows them to get out and collect the nectar.

Leave out the floor insert for the winter and **remove the queen excluder!** The queen must be able to move around the hive with the cluster.

If you have brood box and super, then swap the boxes to put the super under the brood box. This will be warmer for the bees. If you have mesh floors, put some insulation at the top of the hive, under the roof and close the holes in the crownboard. Protection against woodpeckers and mice should be in place by the end of October.

*Pat Allen*



This is a beautiful European Hornet on ivy but keep a watch for Asian hornets hawking at your hives and report any sighting. Photo by Pat Allen

## GLANDS, PHEROMONES & THEIR INFLUENCE ON HOW AND WHY THE COLONY BEHAVES AS IT DOES -

*Margaret Thomas* - 2<sup>nd</sup> September

Margaret gave an interesting talk about the importance of glands and pheromones. She explained the age-related tasks a honey bee carries out on certain days of their life.

Workers use touch, vibration/sound, smell and vision to communicate.

The worker bee duties are feeding herself, the brood and the queen. Cleaning the hive. Making wax as well as building and repairing comb. Receiving, storing and processing nectar. Guarding, foraging and assisting hive ventilation.

The worker's pheromone producing glands are:

*Nasonov gland* used to recruit worker bees, welcoming bees who have lost their hive or are from a swarm.

*Arnhart gland* is in the honey bee's foot and is distributed in the hive by the bee walking through the hive.

*Sting chamber* the drone does not have a sting, female and worker bees do have a sting. The sting is in the sting chamber attached to a venom sac. The bee empties the poison into the venom sac.

*Kin recognition* the bee can tell who is their full sister or maternal half sister even if they have been reared completely alone.

*Comb pheromone* may help to increase the amount of nectar and honey stored. Worker cells have a different smell from drone cells. This enables workers to ascertain how much drone comb to produce.

*Brood pheromone* instructs the worker bee what to feed the larva. Each worker gets a different diet each day during its larval stage. The food given to the larva makes the difference between worker larva or queen larva. It also determines whether the ovary develops or not.

*Mandibular gland* the queen's mandibular gland is extremely important to the hive. It is emitted by the queen and is one of the most important pheromones in the hive. It affects behaviour in the hive, swarming, upkeep of the hive, mating behaviour and the inability of ovary production in worker bees.

Queens pheromones:

*Koschevnikov* this produces an alarm when the bee stings. It contains 40 different compounds.

*Tergite* has a release effect on the worker honey bee

*Foot print* they have a variety of foot print chemicals

*Dufour's egg discriminator pheromone* a queen signal. It is used as a defence in workers or the reproduction of queens.

Margaret had several drawings which were very descriptive especially the bee dance drawing.

**JILLY SPEAKMAN-BELL**

## ROMFORD HONEY SHOW

Saturday 16th October 2021

It's time to celebrate your bees achievements

Whether you are a seasoned exhibitor or a complete novice there are categories to suit all. Take a look at the schedule and decide on some classes to enter. Novices, please ask advice from fellow members about how to prepare honey for showing. Even if you have no honey you can enter bakery classes, or submit a photograph, make candles or mead. All members are welcome to enter the show. We need as many entries as possible to keep our excellent judges busy.

VENUE: The Ascension Church, Collier Row Road, Collier Row, RM5 2BA.

I will be taking entries at the October meeting where labels will be given out for your exhibits. Or you can send your entry in advance via email, [angelam59@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:angelam59@hotmail.co.uk) and labels will be handed out on the day of the show.

Please ensure all exhibits arrive at the venue in good time, anytime from 12 noon. Judging will start at 2.30pm.

RETURN OF TROPHIES. If you have one from the last honey show please return it cleaned at the October meeting or to the church when bringing exhibits.

THE ANNUAL SUPPER will follow at 6pm in the Ascension Hall.

With the difficult year of restrictions we have all had, this is a great opportunity to venture out, socialise and no doubt tell others of your own beekeeping year! The winners of the show will be announced and trophies given out. There will be a hot buffet and some of Julie's wonderful homemade cakes for dessert all for £10. Bring your own drinks and glasses. To purchase a ticket or reserve a place contact Sue Richardson at [susanmrichardson7@gmail.com](mailto:susanmrichardson7@gmail.com)

Let's make this a positive year for Romford beekeepers, have a try at showing and or support the supper event, the more the merrier.

Good luck

**Angela Mander**

## Bulk Buy: Mid-winter Varroa Treatment

The Committee has agreed to offer **oxalic acid trickle treatment** to members for a mid-winter treatment. Members who are interested in taking up this offer should let **Julie Mugglestone** know how many hives the treatment is needed for. Please also state where your hives are (this information will be needed for the treatment groups). There will be no charge for this treatment.

The plan is to make up enough solution to treat the total number of hives as indicated by members who are interested in taking advantage of this offer. Members will be grouped (geographically according to where their hives are), with a group leader, and all the hives within a group will be treated on an agreed day (if possible). Note that all hives within Divisional Apiaries will be treated. Some members may be in more than one group if they have hives in different places.

If you wish to take up this offer, please let Julie know, **by latest 29th October 2021**, for each location where you have bees, the number of hives at that location.

[julie.mugglestone@gmail.com](mailto:julie.mugglestone@gmail.com)