

Farewell from Helen and Alan Kingsford.

Please pass on our message to the club as we retire.

Our decision to retire from beekeeping has come to completion now that we have sold all our equipment.

A combination of age and 'knees' prevents us enjoying treks over uneven ground to tend the hives so it was time to stop.

We want to thank all the club members who have supported us over the 11 years of our membership.

Especially we thank the 'committee' who have put time and energy and enthusiasm into running the club.

We were happy to do our little bit too. Honey shows, conference and school visits, all of which are being carried on by other members successfully.

So we wish you all good luck with your bees.

Enjoy and good wishes.

Helen and Alan Kingsford.

Membership renewal for 2022

If you are a Registered or Partner Member, or an Associate, then subscriptions for next year are due on 1st January 2022. In very late December look out for an email message from the eR2 membership system inviting you to renew your membership. Please check your junk mail box. The message 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.

We do hope that you will continue your membership with the Division. If you are not intending to renew please email to let the Membership Secretary know.

Note that this notice does **not** apply to those who are booked on the Beginners Course. They are already members for 2022.

Sue Richardson



Romford Division Contacts:

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Divisional Voting Member/Trustee: **Jim McNeill**

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Membership Secretary: **Pat Allen**

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Websites:

www.ebka.org

romfordbeekeepers.org



EBKA Charity Number: 1031419

December 2021

Romford Division

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Committee Meeting: Tuesday 18th January 2022, 7.30pm, via Zoom.

January meeting: Thursday 6th January 2022, 8pm. **Annual General Meeting.**

Venue: Chadwick Hall (behind St Michael's Church), Main Road, Gidea Park, RM2 5EL.

ROMFORD DIVISION HONEY SHOW 2021

WINNERS LIST

Congratulations to the following beekeepers who won a trophy at this years show.



Light honey - E. Stefoni

Medium honey - A. Mander

Dark honey - M. Glover

Set honey - E. Stefoni

Clear for sale - J. McNeill

Gift honey - M. Glover

Novice clear - M. Glover

Beekeeper max 5yrs clear - M. Glover

Frame for extraction - F. Negri

Dry mead - G. Furnell

Angela Mander

Sweet mead - J. McNeill

Beeswax - J. McNeill

Candles - J. McNeill

Fudge - J. McNeill

Honey cake - D. Doyland

Honey loaf - S. Richardson

Bakery - S. Richardson

Photograph - A. Mander

Edith Stevens trophy-Best Honey in show - M. Glover

W.G Chant Trophy-Best Exhibit in Show - F. Negri



QUESTION EVENING - 4.11.21

Norman spoke about his hives on a farm but now the farm is for sale, so he has to find another place for his bees. He said he found lead shot outside his hive as there is shooting nearby. He pointed out that it would be wise to take care when choosing a field that may be very muddy.

Jim suggested that he investigate a suitable place but not go on a farm with animals and not too near public footpaths. Horses can be skittish so if coming out of a hedge do not alarm horses.

Pat suggested not to have hives near a farm with horses and cows and recommended to find out what crops are growing nearby as you do not want your hives near a wheat field as bees will have to fly a long way due to them not liking wheat. It is important to check on access time to ensure the times are suitable for yourself.

Jim answered the question of how you manage when farmers spray. He said the farmer should tell you but Norman said you must ask. Jim advised shutting the bees in the hive if farmer is spraying. They are supposed to spray early before bees are awake, but you need to check. This could cause difficulty as Norman's farmer rents a field so that the farmer who owns the land does not know when it is being sprayed.

A question was asked as to is it advisable to put polystyrene underneath the hive roof to keep heat inside. The answer is yes, it's a good idea but you need to cover the polystyrene with aluminium foil to prevent the bees chewing it.

Keep the hive from damp by making sure you do not put it anywhere that gets wet. It is a good practice to put the hive on a paving slab to prevent wet. Hives must be ventilated, bees cluster and keep warm

Pat explained they do not want ventilation on top as they need a certain amount of moisture in the hive, but we do not want it to drip back cold moisture. If the moisture rises warm and it drips down the hive side the bees will use it.

Norman makes his stands 18 inches high and if damp he puts an empty super or brood box on the stand and the hive on top of that to prevent damp JUST FOR WINTER. He said you can get mist on the ground but it does not reach his hives as they are so high on top of brood box or super

Uncapping questions:

Granulated honey in frames; how do you get honey out?

Filippo answered put in muslin cloth and squeeze out (that's how they do heather honey)

Put cloth in a warming cabinet and let it drip

Norman put sealed comb on top of crown board so that in the end it would only be wax and Norman sells the wax.

Pat puts cappings back in the feeder and it comes out smooth and dry.

Jim saw on YouTube a lady uncapping honey but made it very complicated, messy and hit and miss filling the jars!!

Jim showed us how he does his uncapping and showed his home-made uncapping equipment.

A solar extractor to extract the honey from wax which is very efficient.

JILLY SPEAKMAN-BELL

Committee Matters

Havering Apiary - A second appeal has been submitted to the rates Valuation Office to ask that they change the description of the container currently listed as a "store and premises" to a container. They declined to change it at our first appeal. Changing the description will significantly reduce the rates paid. Terry and Sue have taken some new photos of the container and apiary. These have been submitted along with the original invoice for the container, which states it is a container! Paul Wiltshire helped Sue to submit the new appeal as it was of course a different process than before. Paul has now been added to our online Government account as administrator so that two people have access. We are awaiting a new licence to be drawn up for The Chase apiary, and once we have received this and read it, we hope to be able to meet with the ranger and finalise matters.

Sue Richardson



Here is Rose McCarthy's beautiful gold work, which earned her 1st prize in its class in the National Honey Show in October.

DECEMBER Beekeeping Notes

There is little to do with the hives and bees this month, except to give them some oxalic treatment. This is best done some time in the month from early December to early January, when brood is at its least or absent altogether. If you indicated to Julie Mugglestone an interest in doing this, you will be contacted to arrange it, as this will be a group exercise.

Check the hives are upright and not under attack from woodpeckers. Otherwise have a good Christmas break and plan to take advantage of the January sales of bee equipment.

Pat Allen