

## JUNE JUBILEE MEETING THURSDAY 2ND JUNE

### CALLING ALL MEMBERS!

Nobody has replied to our notice in the April newsletter about our June meeting which falls on the Queen's Jubilee Bank Holiday weekend! Maybe you are all busy organising your own street parties.

We realise that some of you may be going away or maybe have plans with friends and family, **so please could you let us know as soon as possible** whether you are planning to come to the meeting on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, at the teaching apiary at Thames Chase.

We plan to start the get together late to mid afternoon, time TBC. We were planning to have some light refreshments, **but we do need numbers for this!** Weather permitting we hope to hold the gathering outside in the grass area between the old barn and the education room, at the back of the visitor centre. Please bring your own drinks. It should be possible to open a hive or two for anyone interested in having a look at the teaching apiary bees (clean suits required), and it will be good to have a chat and social get together.

**Please let us know asap and by Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May at the latest, whether you will be coming along so that we can make arrangements.**

Thank you.

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EBKA Charity Number: 1031419

May 2022

# Romford Division

## Dates for the Diary

**Committee Meeting:** July, date to be fixed at the next meeting.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday 2nd June

**Topic:** Social Meeting with Teaching Hives to be viewed

**Venue:** Afternoon Approximate time 3.00pm start (TBC)

Thames Chase, Pike Lane, Upminster, RM14 3NS

A frame of young brood and Pollen

**Photo Pat Allen.**



### Websites:

<https://ebka.org>

<https://romfordbeekeepers.org>

## GADGETS FOR BEE KEEPING – 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022

**Filippo** showed us a modified floor – an invention for ease of moving hives. You put the wooden moving invention under the hive in the morning that you want to move it; there is an entrance/exit and just an entrance. You close the dual opening (entrance/exit) and leave the entrance one open so the bees can go in but cannot come out of the hive. When you get to the show or apiary you open it to allow bees to go in and out as they wish. When you are getting ready to go home close off the entrance/exit leaving just the one entrance open so that the bees go back into the hive, ready to take home.



Filippo's other invention, for getting chunk honey, won him a first prize in the gadget category and first prize in the jar category in a show and achieved a Blue Ribbon. Three frames need to be removed and replaced with the honey jars affixed to a wooden frame. Bees will put wax in the jars and you fill with honey.



## GADGETS FOR BEEKEEPING CONTINUED

**Jim McNeill** showed a homemade uncapping tray from Sue Richardson. Instead of buying an uncapping tray Sue uses a washing up bowl. She puts a piece of wood with feet on to fit over the bowl. The wood has a hole in it to stand the end of the frame to stop it slipping. You then proceed to remove the wax capping's as you would in a commercially bought uncapping tray.

Jim made a floor with an entrance underneath that enables you to not use a mouse guard. It was an invention from another beekeeper. Jim uses black mesh sheets put straight on to the floor without space around the edges, but sometimes the bees put propolis on the trays so now Jim cuts the mesh in a bit to prevent this.

**Paul Wiltshire** showed a device for melting old frames. It comprises a handmade wooden base with a metal bottom insert tray and spout. You put a whole brood box or super on top, keeping the frames in that you want to melt. It is connected to a wallpaper steamer. All the rubbish falls into an eke below; you put an eke on top to give some space. It cleans the frames and brood box without having to cut the wax out. Once hot it takes about 15 mins to clear 10 frames. The only way steam comes out is in a small place and the metal top fits tightly.

**Nick Messenger** showed us a solar wax extractor he'd built using various pieces of insulation board from skips, the edges were painted with Unibond, then taped. He placed some more pieces of insulation board at a slanting angle in the bottom of the box, and at the end is an ice cream tub to collect the dripping wax. On top of that he places a large baking tray and puts the bee frames on it, he seals it with a piece of glass on top, and the wax will be heated by the sun and drip down into the ice cream tub. The size of his box enables eight super or four brood frames in at one time to clean. He warned that the glass can get extremely hot when its opened. The wax in the ice cream tub is then ready to be filtered.

**Pat Allen's** Drone frame. Pat showed how she makes up an ordinary brood frame with a sheet of super foundation at the top. The bees then fill the gap beneath with drone cells, which attracts varroa more than worker cells, and the drone comb can then be sacrificed to reduce varroa.

## MAY Beekeeping Notes

**The bees are well into swarming preparations!** Weekly inspections are essential. Get those new frames made up and ready to use. Add supers ahead of the bees' need for them, to give them breathing space and space for the nectar.

This month make one of your inspections a **disease inspection**. If you see anything you are not happy with, contact your mentor or one of our Disease Liaison Officers, Jim and Paul. If you suspect your bees have *Nosema*, get a sample of 30 bees (WITHOUT the queen!!!), freeze them, and I will test them for you. Make sure you are registered on **BeeBase** so you will get any disease alerts going around.

**Pat Allen**

## Courses

**Beginners Course:** There are 26 students booked on the course and the first theory session has been held.

**Comb Changing Session:** One of the teaching colonies was given a 'Bailey Comb Change' to demonstrate this very beneficial technique for a healthy bee colony.

**Basic Assessment Preparation Session:** This is scheduled for 7th May, starting at 10.30am. There are a good number of bookings for this but there is still space if anyone else is interested.

**Pat Allen**

## Romford Division Contacts:

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## GADGETS FOR BEEKEEPING CONTINUED

**Peter Coyle** showed us his invention of a hardboard top overlapping both sides of the super with a gap in the middle enough to get one frame out at a time, and enabling you to rest your tools on it whilst working.

Peter also showed us a variety of handles that fitted over a super like a portable gripping handle for carrying. It making it much easier to pick up. Plus, some other small handles for picking up individual frames. Although he said those particular handles do not save a lot of time.

Peter buys plastic containers with lids, and he uses an 8mm drill to make holes in the side of the container. He puts his sugar syrup feed into the box only half filling it so the bees can perch on the side of the holes to feed on the syrup.



**Jilly Speakman-Bell**