



Romford Division



Dates for the Diary

Committee Meeting: Wednesday 13th July 2022, 7.30pm, via Zoom.

Next Meeting: Thursday 4th August, 20:00

Topic: Honey Show Preparation

Venue: Chadwick Hall, Main Road, Gidea Park, RM2 5EL

Speaker: Claire O'Brien

Welcome to your new look Newsletter, as they are no longer printed and distributed as hard copies we've decided to change to an A4 format, which is easier for you to print and read.

Graeme Ellis

JULY Beekeeping Notes

The bees should be settling down this month – let's hope so as they have kept us very busy so far this year. They should have done with swarming and be taking advantage of the main nectar flow and building up for winter. Don't forget they need space for the nectar and honey. You should be able to reduce the frequency of inspections from now on.

It's time to plan for winter. How many colonies do you want to overwinter? Now is the time to assess your queens and colonies, and cull unwanted queens and unite (healthy) colonies. You want good, strong, healthy colonies that will sail through winter. Check what equipment you have and make sure you have enough for next spring. You know the rule – for every hive with bees in it, you need to have a spare hive ready for when they need splitting.

Pat Allen

Courses

Beginners Course: This course has just finished and most of the students have enjoyed it. The bees have certainly been challenging (not in a stinging way though) as they have not been following the rules in the books. The weather was very kind to us, and we got some honey too!

Beekeeping Taster Sessions: The first one is fully booked and will have been held by the time you read this probably, and we have another session on 14th August. Not many bookings so far for this later session, so pass the word around.

Pat Allen

Important Date for your Diary!

Romford Honey Show
Saturday 15th October 2022.
Ascension Church Hall
Collier Row, RM5 2BA

Angela Mander

Member Contribution

Following a request for your Beekeeping related photos and stories, Debbie Emery sent in a piece on the perils of Swarm capture. Having fallen from a ladder myself in 2021 while collecting Bees I know all too well how close I came to injury, Debbie's story serves as a useful reminder to us all. I've since invested in a rather fancy "Henchman" Ladder which is the envy of every man who see's it! A valuable investment in my opinion.

If you have photos or a story that you'd like to include in the newsletter please send them to:

graemeellis@hotmail.co.uk, you can also send me photos via WhatsApp on 07814 814844

Graeme Ellis

Don't try to retrieve a swarm too high up when your ladder isn't supported properly! Below is a photo of my broken foot and shattered heel. I've been on crutches since 26th April, using a wheeled walker indoors and a mobility scooter at the allotment. I've had to play a minor support role with the girls so far this year and lost another swarm because of this. However, the colonies are building up well. We now have 8! Keeping up with the required equipment can be a financial challenge that we hadn't prepared for, but we manage. Our first honey batch from the Allotment went down a storm with fellow plot holders and our families.

Debbie Emery, (Honey photo from Kim Watkins)



Where to get bees?

Be very careful where you get your bees. Here are some reliable sources.

David Rudland: 381 Godstone Road, Whyteleafe, Surrey CR3 0BF
07798 915480 enquire@east Surrey bees.co.uk (Expensive but excellent)

Ted Gradosielski (Ted Grad): Nazeing, Essex
01992 890986 / 07966 310004 teds.honeybees@gmail.com (Reasonable price and lovely bees)

There are good reports of Paynes bees too – see advertisement in BBKA News. They are based in West Sussex.

It may be too late to order for this year, but order early for next spring (i.e. before winter).

Pat Allen

Jubilee afternoon tea at Thames Chase, 2nd June 2022

Twenty-four people attended the afternoon tea including the Guest of Honour, a members friendly black dog. It was a beautiful day, the sun shone the whole time and there was not a cloud in the Blue sky.

We had a delicious, plentiful spread. Amazing cakes made by Julie and Liz Davies. Julie's centrepiece was worthy of winning the Great British Bake Off! For those who drank alcohol there was Prosecco to toast the Queen.

Thank you to Sue for arranging the sandwiches, quiches and nibbles, Julie and Liz for the cakes, and all those involved in the logistics for the afternoon.

We all had a great time, superb food and happy, jovial conversation. A good time was had by all, we left with full tummies and smiling faces!

Jilly Speakman-Bell.

The photos below were supplied by, Jilly Speakman-Bell, Susan Richardson.









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<https://romfordbeekeepers.org>