



Romford Division



Dates for the Diary

Committee Meeting: Thursday 20th March, 7.30 pm via Zoom.

Next Division Meeting: Thursday 3rd April

Topic: TBC

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

Speaker: TBC

As Spring approaches the familiar signs of Bee's in flight can be a welcome sight, but this is a critical time of year. Make sure you read the 'March Beekeeping Notes' to give them the best chance of survival.

A bee returning to the hive, (mouse guards were being removed)

Graeme Ellis



MARCH Beekeeping Notes

Mouseguards should be **OFF** by now! They can knock precious pollen off the bees' legs.

MARCH is a dangerous month for the bees. Flying time may be limited but they need to forage. Old bees are dying and there is new brood to look after. Let's hope the weather co-operates and we have a sunny, warm spring. You can have a **very quick** inspection if the temperature is above 14°C, and feed if really necessary but don't restrict the queen's space for laying, you want them to build up.

If you wintered with a super under the brood box, swap the boxes back into the normal configuration towards the end of the month, and put the queen excluder above the brood. If the colony is strong, give them another super above the crownboard (crownboard with a hole!). If the bees need the space they will go into the super and you can then remove the crownboard.

If you made up some frames, without wax, now is the time to put in the foundation, so that you are ready to remove old combs and for the colonies to expand.

Pat Allen

Courses, Basic Assessment Preparation Session

I plan to run a practical session in May for some members who have expressed an interest in this. There will be one session only, on either **Saturday 3rd May** or **Saturday 10th May**. The session will start at 11.00am and the charge will be £5.

These early dates will give time to arrange for the real Basic Assessment this year as well, if you wish to. You can however, simply treat this as a refresher practical, the choice is yours. Let me know if you wish to take part. pat.allen7@icloud.com

Pat Allen

Asian Hornet (Yellow Legged Hornet) Update

On Thursday 23rd January the National Bee Unit (NBU) received a report of a Yellow-Legged Hornet (YLH) discovered by a grocer in Shropshire. They were checking some shallots that had come from France. The NBU responded to the report and a bee inspector collected the hornet which was sent to FERA Science. Follow up activities will be done to raise awareness with the wholesaler and other possible UK customers.

Gary Furnell

Division Bulk Buy

Spring is nearly here and so much of beekeeping is planning ahead! With that (and discounts) in mind you should've all received an email with detail on our [National Bee Supplies](#) bulk buy. The price list is included on the back page of this newsletter

Please send your orders to: Alan Sansford at: pandaprinting@hotmail.co.uk

Please pay at the same time as ordering to:

Name: Mr A G SANSFORD

A/C No: 14822170

S/code: 09-01-26

Stating your name in the Ref Box.

Deadline date for orders: 09/03/2025

I will notify you when your order is ready to collect from:-

Julie Mugglestone, 183 Dagenham Road, Rush Green, Romford, Essex. RM7 0TL

If you have any problems, please don't hesitate to call me: 07980 208840 (please leave a message).

Alan Sansford

Auction

The committee would like to organise an auction in June or July. We need to know if there will be anything to auction, it will be held at the apiary in pinewood road. Please get in touch with someone on the committee with what you want to sell, and how much you would like for it. There will be a small contribution to a charity. All equipment needs to be clean, no old frames with wax please.

Jim McNeill

EQUIPMENT for Sale

A former Romford member who has given up beekeeping has some equipment for sale, if you are interested, please contact me and I will put you in touch. You will need to arrange collection (Cranham) and payment direct with the seller. pat.allen7@icloud.com

107 8oz hexagonal jars with gold lids unused £30

69 8oz hexagonal jars, no lids, unused £20

62 1lb white plastic lids, unused, £5

Round stainless steel double strainer, £10

Rectangular stainless steel comb cutter, £10

Pat Allen

Beware of Winter Woodpecker Damage!

Damage to hives from the green woodpecker can be severe and can cause the death of a colony if swift action is not taken to repair the damage. If you think that there may be woodpeckers around your apiary be sure to put on some form of protection for the winter. Chicken wire bent around the entire hive is a well used deterrent, or if you have run out of chicken wire, you could try cutting a black bin liner into strips and keeping in place with a brick at the top of your hive! Unfortunately due to ill health, Filippo was unable to attend to this hive and get it completely ready for winter, and the woodpecker took advantage of this and made a good job of his attack.



Once the damage was found on the softer parts of several other hives, some black gaffer tape was put over as an emergency repair. You can see from the photos (on the next page) that the woodpecker came back and got through the tape. The bees are still in residence and are now being fed to help them survive.

Continued on next page

Beware of Winter Woodpecker Damage! *Continued*



Another possible hive protection is the green netting that is used to surround scaffolding to stop the dust and dirt escaping. This can be stapled around the hive and is easier to handle and to store than chicken wire.



Filippo Negri, Sue Richardson

An interesting experience that we can all learn from, we're grateful for the detail being shared with members, it clearly demonstrates that hives need to be checked over the winter months... I'm just off to check mine at Hainault!

If you have any interesting photos or experiences you'd like to share, the committee is always grateful for your submissions, please contact: graemeellis@hotmail.co.uk I can take rough detail/photos and work it into a story if need be.

Graeme Ellis

Let Alone Gardening, Tony Gunton 6th February 2025

'Let alone gardening' is letting nature do its own work. Creating healthy soil will result in healthy plants. We need to maintain a natural stability, halting factors that disturb the balance of the soil, i.e. poisonous sprays etc. Every time you intervene with your garden it interferes with wildlife. If you are trying to create a wildflower meadow you need to keep an eye on the wild plants to make sure some do not take completely overtake destroying other varieties. You want to create a mixture of wildlife in your garden, diversity depends on a mosaic of habitat.

Wild meadows are actually created by humans. The cutting of hay, grazing or doing both which allows wildflowers to grow to create the nutrients that have been taken out of the earth and supporting biodiversity to improve the quality of the soil. It also is very important for pollinators.

The countryside and our gardens are awash with nutrients, the nitrogen from cars goes into the earth and has a direct effect of the plants, sometimes it will make some species of plants grow faster.

Natural native plants are preferable for our gardens. Double headed roses have flower heads that are too tight for the insects to get to the nectar. Also, native plants are usually better equipped for our climate, and are more resilient to our pests. These plants would have evolved naturally in the area protecting the natural balance of our environment.

Tony gave us a good insight into 'let alone gardening' with many photographs of his own garden, showing how well the plants were thriving.

Jilly Speakman-Bell

EBKA AGM:

A reminder for all members, the EBKA AGM is being held via zoom on Thursday 4th March at 07:30. The 2024 AGM minutes and 2025 Agenda were emailed to everyone on the 4th February from Vanessa Wilkinson. (EBKA News)

The meeting will be held virtually on zoom, with a link sent nearer the time.

Colleen Manley

Committee Matters

Vacant Posts - EBKA AGM on Thursday 27th March, 7.30 pm via Zoom

A number of CEC post holders have come to the end of their tenure and these include the General Secretary, Membership Secretary, National Honey Show Delegate and BBKA Delegate. The Editor role is also still vacant. If any member within the Romford Division would like to put their name forward for any of the roles, the CEC would be very grateful.

Programme Secretary Needed! We still need a volunteer to fill the post of programme secretary.

Members - if there are any topics you would like covered in our monthly meetings, please let a member of the committee know. Suggestions for topics or speakers are always welcome.

Sue Richardson and Colleen Manley

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Websites:

<https://ebka.org>

<https://romfordbeekeepers.org>



Romford Beekeepers

The Romford division of the Essex Beekeepers' Association



2025

Straight Sided Frames

Size	Code	Book Price (10)	Discount Price
Super SN1	59.13.81	£21.75	£17.50
Brood DN1	59.13.93	£21.75	£17.50
Super SN2	59.13.83	£23.95	£19.30
Brood DN2	59.13.95	£23.95	£19.30

Hoffman Frames

Size	Code	Book Price (10)	Discount Price
Super SN4	59.13.14	£26.25	£21.25
Brood DN4	59.13.26	£26.25	£21.25
14 x 12 N4	59.13.08	£32.50	£26.25
Super SN5	59.13.16	£28.95	£23.30
Brood DN5	59.13.28	£28.95	£23.30
14 x 12 N5	59.22.39	£35.50	£28.50

Manley Frames

Size	Code	Book Price (10)	Discount Price
Super SN7	59.13.75	£28.95	£23.30

Sterilised Wax Foundation (Wired)

Size	Code	Book Price (10)	Discount Price
BS Shallow	59.17.67	£12.25	£10.00
BS Deep	59.17.80	£18.95	£15.30
BS 14 x 12	59.17.64	£30.95	£25.00
Commercial Shallow	59.17.90	£17.25	£14.00
Commercial Deep	59.17.98	£25.95	£20.90
Langstroth Shallow	59.17.75	£16.25	£13.20
Langstroth Deep	59.17.73	£23.75	£19.20

Other Discounts

MUST BE ORDERED AT THE SAME TIME

10% Off other Book items

5% Off Hive Kits

