



Romford Division



Dates for the Diary

Committee Meeting: Thursday 10th July 19:30

Next Division Meeting: Thursday 3rd July

Topic: Queen Rearing

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

Speaker: Ted Gradosielski

I have a number of oil seed rape (OSR) fields within a stones throw of my apiary. I remember Jim saying at a meeting, 'if you have it near you, get it off quick'. So I did. I took it off 7 supers days ago and now look, Rock Solid! Good job i took them off when I did.

Norman mentioned to me that when he first started beekeeping, nobody warned him of the issue with Rape seed nectar. He spun his first lot of honey and the spinner took the honey and wax and all he was left with was the empty frames.

Roger Honey



JUNE Beekeeping Notes

It is still the swarming season, and **what** a swarming season it is turning out to be!! Keep up the weekly inspections to keep ahead of any swarming intentions your bees may have. At least the weather has been kind and should mean that our new queens can get out there and get mated.

The honey crop looks to be very good, but don't forget a 'June gap' may be coming up. We don't always have a June gap but we are likely to have one this year if we don't get any rain, as everything will dry up. So, if you take the spring honey off, make sure you leave the bees a good supply. There are a lot of mouths to feed at this time of year.

Pat Allen

Courses

The Beginners Course is going well, aided by good weather, though not helped by the insistence on swarming by most of the bees. It has been a bit 'stop - start' too, for the students, due to the number of bank holidays in May. However we seem to have lots of honey, so no complaints.

Pat Allen

The Beginner's bee course, from the next session, Tuesday 3rd June, we have a continuous run until our final evening on the 24th June. We already have one keen student who now has his hive set up (with bees!) in one of our divisional apiaries! Good luck to James on his new bee journey (see photo below)

Hopefully, we will have new beekeepers joining us at the end of their course.

Linda Dullieu

Taster Sessions

We have 12 people booked onto the Beekeeping Taster Session, perhaps they'll be back for the beginners course next year?

Garry Furnell



Courses

Photos from the Beginners Course: Jim (left), Antonio (right), Pat's Group (bottom)



Asian Hornet (Yellow Legged Hornet) Update

DEFRA update yellow-legged Asian hornets (YLH) 22.5.25

One further credible report of YLH. This means that currently there has been a total of 20 sightings in 2025.

A householder in Canterbury, Kent reported a sighting of YLH in their garden on 20th May. The hornet was collecting pond water. The local bee inspector visited the same afternoon, collected the sample and sent it to Fera Science Ltd for further analysis.

Gary Furnell

Reminder, Are your Contact details up to date?

If you change your email address, or telephone, and especially if you move house, don't forget to let me know your new contact details. We don't want to lose contact with you. I have had several instances reported to me recently from the BBKA of *BBKA News* being returned to them because the address was incorrect. You have paid for this magazine so make sure you get it! I have also had some email messages bouncing back, and again, you will be losing out on things you have paid for and missing information if I can't reach you.

Let's hope this reaches you!

Pat Allen, Membership Secretary, pat.allen7@icloud.com

**The Yellow Legged Hornet, Gary Furnell. 1st May 2025**

The Asian Hornet is now called the yellow legged hornet as they have legs with yellow tips and have an orange face with brownish red eyes.

The hornet has been sighted in the UK and poses a threat to our public health, and particularly, to our bees and wasps as they feed on them. Scientists are concerned about the devastating effect they will have on our biodiversity. In Kent it has killed thousands of our bees. One Kent beekeeper has only five hives left out of twenty because of the yellow legged hornet. An old nest in a tree was found in Hornchurch in November last year. With our warm, mild weather and easterly wind the hornet could possibly come to this area again.

Apparently, the yellow legged hornet was accidentally introduced into Europe via China. Hmm! That sounds familiar. I've heard of things 'accidentally' escaping from China somewhere before!!

A photograph of the yellow legged hornet has to be captured on a phone app or the inspectors will not come out to investigate, thus, only investigating positive sightings as there is a lot of misreporting of the hornet. One bee inspector said he went to the Isle of Wight and found a dead hornet. It transpired that it had been packed up with someone's camping equipment from the year before when they went holidaying in France.

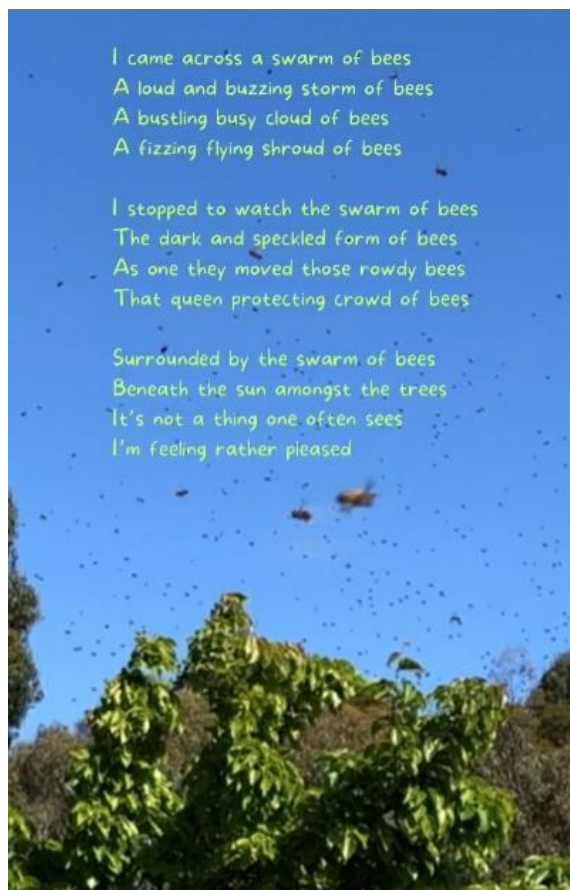
Monitoring is carried out using a "bait station" where one can keep an eye on the activity of the insect every day. Ideally it should be cited in your garden. Gary was interested to hear from anyone in the bee group who is willing to be involved in a monitoring bait station. To become a monitoring station site you would have to download the app called "What Three Words". This is a facility whereby a place can be located within 3 square metres, so that the exact location can be identified. The person is given a code number so the inspector can identify exactly where the monitoring station is, but he will not know the name of the person or any personal details. Thereby, using the code number the person's identity is completely unknown. The only person who will know the details will be Gary who keeps a secure register of everyone and their codes. Therefore, complying with data protection requirements. If anyone is interested in taking part in this monitoring activity, please contact Gary Furnell. garry.gf89@gmail.com

Jilly Speakman-Bell

A Swarm Arrived

Romford Member Debbie Emery had two large swarms arrive at exactly the same time on the 12th April, taking up residence in two of her empty hives. She recounted that it was an amazing sight to watch, Debbie sent us some stills from a video she took and a related poem by Jackie Hosking

Graeme Ellis



I came across a swarm of bees
A loud and buzzing storm of bees
A bustling busy cloud of bees
A fizzing flying shroud of bees

I stopped to watch the swarm of bees
The dark and speckled form of bees
As one they moved those rowdy bees
That queen protecting crowd of bees

Surrounded by the swarm of bees
Beneath the sun amongst the trees
It's not a thing one often sees
I'm feeling rather pleased

BBKA June Talk: 'Small Scale Queen Rearing'

The next in our series of Zoom talks will be 'Small Scale Queen Rearing' with Jane Medwell on Tuesday 17th June 2025 at 7pm. A recording of this talk will be available on YouTube for those unable to watch live.

Jane Medwell learnt beekeeping from her mother in the 1970s and then learnt it all over again in the 1990s when she set up her own apiaries. She is a Master Beekeeper, BBKA Examiner, trainer and Exam Secretary for Warwickshire BKA. She is also a BBKA Trustee and Chair of the Education & Husbandry Committee.

Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81233819992?pwd=DYMZxTImJpRCLJjYjvblxgybQQdSZ.1>

Meeting ID: 812 3381 9992 Passcode: 527929

Finally, a reminder that details for our monthly Zoom talks, including recordings of all previous talks, are available on BBKA Learning Online: <https://learning.bbka.org.uk/course/index.php?categoryid=56>

Jane Medwell, BBKA Trustee

Ted Hooper Lecture 2025: "Pollinator health for the 21st century"

Date: June the 28th at 2.15. A light lunch will be available from 1pm onwards

Speaker: Professor Yannick Wurm

Venue: Margaretting Village Hall, CM4 0EP

Please email Linda Yeats Chair@ebka.org if you plan to attend, with your name(s) and details of any dietary requirements and if you require a reserved parking space for mobility reasons.

Colleen Manley

Auction, SAVE THE DATE!

We are holding an auction on July the 19th at Romford Rugby club. If you have too many frames or one to many hives blocking your garden shed, then you can sell these and many more items at the auction or bag yourself a bargain. More information to follow.

Colleen Manley



EBKA CEC News

EBKA has a new secretary in Michelle Page who is part of the Chelmsford division and she replaces Vanessa Wilkinson at the end of her 4 year spell. The other new person to join the Central Executive Committee (CEC) is Ryan Collins from Colchester division. He has volunteered to take on the role of editor of the Essex Beekeeper magazine. This is very good news for the publication that has been absent for some years. Ryan will be in touch with divisions over the coming months with his ideas for the future.

Roger Honey

Committee Matters

Programme Secretary Needed

Dawn Doyland stepped down from this post in January. So we are looking for someone new to take up the role. Anyone who is interested please contact Julie Mugglestone / Garry Furnell.

If anyone has a subject or speaker they would like to hear about please let us know? All suggestions will be greatly received.

Colleen Manley

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<https://romfordbeekeepers.org>