



Romford Division



Dates for the Diary

Committee Meeting: Thursday 13th November, 7:30pm, via Zoom.

Next Division Meeting: Thursday 4th November

Topic: TBC

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

Speaker: TBC

Yellow Legged Hornet (YLH) Nest

Photo supplied by Garry Furnell, Asian Hornet Coordinator



OCTOBER Beekeeping Notes

Varroa treatments: Temperature-dependent varroa treatments should be done by now as they will not be very effective in the cold weather.

Feeding: Similarly, feeding should be well over, or you need to use fondant rather than syrup.

Take out the floor inserts and count your varroa mites. Make a note in your records and decide what else to do to combat the mite, if needed. Remember to record your varroa treatments and keep this record for 5 years.

Winter configuration: Opinions differ but I believe that a strong colony in a National hive does better with a brood and a super, with the super below the brood box. Do this 'box swap' this month. A smaller colony will be fine with just the brood box, as will bees in larger hive types. **Most important is to remove the queen excluder.** The queen **must** be free to move around the hive with the cluster or she will **DIE**.

Insulation: Insulate the hives at the top (i.e. over the crownboard, under the roof). Close off ventilation at the top.

Intruders: This month is when you should put on the protection against intruders, such as mice or green woodpeckers.

Pat Allen

Beginners Beekeeping Course 2026

The dates for next years 'beginners beekeeping course' are

14th, 21st and 28th April, 12th & 19th May, 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd June.

We are opening the course to 16 students next year as we already have that number on the waiting list. If you are approached for information about the course, could you please say we are potentially full but ask them to contact me via email. We may not get a full take up with the initial 16, so a waiting list is always a good idea. We will not be advertising on the website.

Linda Dulieu

Yellow Legged Hornet (YLH) Update

With a cooler evenings we would expect to see less YLH, but please still be vigilant we are not out the woods yet

As of 18th September, the Animal and Plant Health Agency's National Bee Unit (NBU) informed us that they have received further credible reports of YLH's. This means that currently there has been a total of 462 sightings in 2025.

Since the last update, a further six nests have been discovered.

Kent; Plaxtol, Tenterden. **Surrey;** Cobham, Godstone, Holmbury St Mary, Dorking. **Essex;** Frinton-on-Sea

Garry Furnell, YLH Coordinator.

Photo, YLH feeding at a Bait Station



ROMFORD HONEY SHOW

Saturday 18th October 2025, Ascension Church Hall, Collier Row Rd, Collier Row, RM5 2BA

Honey harvest done, it's now time to support our annual Romford Honey Show.

Please try to enter as many categories as you can from the schedule. We need to impress our judge, Paul Abbott, in showcasing our divisions capabilities. There's something for everyone, be it honey, bakery, candles, mead or a photograph. Classes for novices as well as seasoned exhibitors. It's a challenge that could even win a prize!

There's still time to enter. Entry forms via email or I will be at the next meeting on Thursday October 2nd to take entries and give out show labels for your exhibits. If you have any questions or are not sure what to do please come along and ask. Or alternatively you can contact me via email, angelam59@hotmail.co.uk.

Submit your entries no later than Thursday 16th October, labels will then be handed out on the day of the show.

Please ensure all exhibits arrive at the venue in good time, from 12.30 until 2pm. Judging starts at 2.30pm.

RETURN OF TROPHIES. If you have one from last year please return it, cleaned, at the October meeting. Or, when you drop off your exhibits at the hall on show day.

The **ANNUAL SUPPER** will follow at the Ascension Hall. We have the 'fun' class again this year, which will be your chance to act as judge and choose your personal winner. Don't forget to add that to your list of entries.

The evening is a great opportunity to socialise with fellow beekeepers, even bring a friend or relative. If you have not entered the show, come along, it may give you some ideas for next year. Our judge will also be attending, so if you have any questions, it's a good opportunity to speak to him, you could pick up some valuable tips! The winners will be announced, and trophies given out. The cost will be £13 which will include a main meal of your choice and a dessert, tea or coffee. Please bring any other drinks you may require for the evening. Please contact myself or Jim and Liz to reserve a place. Payment can be made via bacs or in cash at the meeting.

Let's make this a positive year for Romford Beekeepers, have a try at showing and support the supper event, the more the merrier.

Good Luck,

Angela Mander

BBKA October Talk: 'Tropilaelaps'

The next in our series of Zoom talks will be 'Tropilaelaps' with Maggie Gill on Tuesday 21st October 2025 at 7pm. A recording of this talk will be available afterwards on YouTube for those unable to watch live.

Maggie Gill has been involved in beekeeping for 20 years, producing queens and colonies on a small commercial scale and conducting research. As a senior scientist at Defra for the UK government, her focus is on how agri-environment land management affects pollinators as a part of the Future Farming and Countryside Programme. Additionally, Maggie spent 10 years working for the National Bee Unit as part of the UK governments bee health monitoring programme as both a seasonal and regional bee inspector.

Driven by her passion for bees and environmental conservation, Maggie has engaged in honey bee research, examining pollinator nutrition, as well as pests and diseases. Her collaborative efforts have spanned universities, government departments, and research institutes across Europe, North America, and Asia.

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

Meeting ID: 812 3381 9992 Passcode: 527929

Colleen Manley

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