



Romford Division



Dates for the Diary

Committee Meeting: 22/01/2026 7.30 via Zoom

Next Division Meeting: Thursday 15th January, 20:00.

St Nicholas Church, Woodcote Avenue, Elm Park RM12 4PY

Topic: AGM - No Speaker

Jim McNeill Judging at the Romford Honey Show.

Photo Angela Mander



DECEMBER Beekeeping Notes

This is probably the least busy month for us beekeepers - at least in terms of our beekeeping. I expect you'll be busy with Christmas preparations though!

If you are considering an oxalic acid varroa treatment this is best done between Christmas and New Year as this will be when there is very little or no sealed brood in the hive, and this is what you want because the oxalic acid does not affect the varroa within the capped brood cells. This is also an opportunity to give the bees some fondant if you feel they need it, but do not keep the hives open more than a minute or so. And don't forget to record the treatment in your records.

Otherwise, just ensure hives are weatherproof and woodpecker proof, with insulation at the top. You can start planning for 2026 and get ready for the suppliers' sales in January.

Pat Allen

Yellow Legged Hornet (YLH) Update

Update for the week ending 21st November.

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 544 sightings in 2025.

Since the last update, two more nests have been discovered in Ewhurst, East Sussex and Swyre, Dorset. These nests have been destroyed and will be removed.

Making a total of 161 confirmed nests found in 2025.

There is concern for the amount of time and effort being put in by bee inspectors, there is a feeling that it is unsustainable if the increase continues.

Garry Furnell, YLH Coordinator.

Romford Division Christmas Social 🎄🎁

Join us together for a festive get together, Thursday 4th December.

Chadwick Hall, Chadwick Hall, (behind St Michael's Church), Gidea Park, RM2 5EL.

Please Bring:

*A plate of food to share 🍽️ *Your own drinks and glasses 🍷 *A secret Santa gift (value £5-£7.50 🎁)

We look forward to celebrating with you!

Colleen Manley

Message from Roger Honey, Romford Trustee to the CEC

Braintree Division are hosting the 2026 conference. The venue is Layer Marney Tower and the date 15th November 2026.

March 23rd has been set for the Essex Beekeepers AGM. This year the event will not take place on Zoom but on the equivalent product on Microsoft which is Team. The CEC uses this product which seems easy to use and apparently you don't need to have Microsoft on your tablet or phone to access it.

Early notice of the 2027 annual conference is given as 6th November 2027 and the venue is Felstead School. Officers' day is to be set as 1st Saturday in March 2026. Ted Hooper lecture will take place in June but date not set yet.

The EBKA has to submit an annual report to the Charity Commission each year part of which highlights all the work our Charity does. It is thought that a lot of work undertaken by members around education, giving lectures and demonstrations to schools and colleges goes unreported. Can I ask any member that has been involved in any such activity to let me have the details please so I can pass the information on.

My email address is rogerhhoney@hotmail.co.uk

Roger Honey

Romford Division Honey Show 2025. Winners list.

Congratulations to the following beekeepers who won a trophy at this year's show.

Light honey - Sue Richardson
 Medium honey - Colleen Manley
 Dark honey - Alan Sansford
 Set honey - Roger Honey
 Clear honey for sale - Angela Mander
 Set honey for sale - Roger Honey
 Three different honeys - Angela Mander
 Gift honey - Angela Mander
 Beekeeper max 5 yrs clear honey - Colleen Manley
 Cut comb - Roger Honey
 Frame for extraction - Roger Honey
 Dry mead - Paul Hewson
 Sweet mead - Filippo Negri
 Beeswax - Angela Mander
 Candles - Roger Honey
 Honey fudge - Angela Mander
 Honey cake - Pat Allen
 Honey loaf - Sue Richardson
 Honey bakery - Pat Allen
 Photograph - Sue Richardson
 Edith Stevens trophy - Best honey in show - Angela Mander
 W.G. Chant trophy - Best exhibit in show - Roger Honey

Angela Mander

Teaching Apiary work party

Some photos from the recent work party “cleaning and clearing” that took place. It was quite the work out!

John Whittard



November Talk from PAN UK

At our recent meeting, we were delighted to welcome Nick Moles from PAN UK (Pesticides Action Network UK), who delivered an eye-opening talk on the impact of pesticide on pollinators and the wider environment.

The session highlighted the challenges honeybees and other pollinating insects face due to pesticide use in agriculture, public space, and even domestic gardens. PAN UK explained how certain chemicals affect bee behaviour, reproduction, and colony health, and shared current research into reducing these risks.

Members particularly appreciated learning about practical steps that individuals and community groups can take from promoting pesticides free planting to supporting local councils in adopting more sustainable land management policies.

The talk gave us plenty to think about as beekeepers. We are grateful to PAN UK for their expertise and for the important work they continue to do.

Colleen Manley

Update to the BBKA Website**BBKA Website (<https://www.bbka.org.uk/>)**

A new BBKA website will go live next week. The updated site is designed to offer improved navigation and engaging content for the general public seeking information on honey bees, beekeeping, the Yellow-legged Asian Hornet and honey.

We've also streamlined how you access member-only information. The dedicated 'Beekeepers' area on the old website has now been retired, and all member exclusive resources have been relocated to our learning platform. This change ensures that materials are securely available to members only, as the new website itself does not support restricted access.

BBKA Learning Online (Member Hub) (<https://learning.bbka.org.uk/>)

The learning platform will be renamed 'BBKA Member Hub' to coincide with the launch of the new redesigned website.

Registered, Partner, School, Junior and Honorary Members can access the 'Member Hub' using their membership number and postcode and it will remain the main platform for beekeeping resources and training materials.

If members experience problems logging into the Member Hub or need additional help, they should email bbka@bbka.org.uk or call 024 7669 6679.

Colleen Manley

BBKA December Talk

The next in our series of Zoom talks will be 'Pass GH First Time' with John Hendrie on Tuesday 16th December 2025 at 7pm.

John is a former BBKA Trustee, President and Exam Board member, Secretary and Moderator. He has kept and managed honey bees for more than 50 years becoming a Master Beekeeper in 1986. He has been heavily involved in beekeeping education ever since running courses and lecturing widely on bees and beekeeping. John is currently a Trustee of the Scottish Beekeepers' Association.

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

Meeting ID: 812 3381 9992 Passcode: 527929

A recording of this talk will be available on BBKA Learning Online for those unable to watch live together with recordings of all previous talks.

Jane Medwell, BBKA Trustee

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL for 2026

Membership runs out on 31st December 2025, unless you are already booked on to a Course for 2026. I shall be sending out renewal invitations on 2nd January. Please note the following:

1 That these come from the Membership system, eR2, not directly from me, and may go into your junk box.

2 That subs have gone up for most categories. Registered membership is £38.50 for 2026 and Partner membership is £21.50.

However, Associates will pay less - £9.50.

Pat Allen

Committee Matters

Join the Team -Treasurer Needed

Our Romford Division Beekeepers is seeking a new Treasurer to help keep the club running smoothly

Basic bookkeeping, preparing simple financial reports and handover support will be provided. If you are interested in contributing to the running of our division please do not hesitate to contact a committee member.

Committee meetings are held once a month via Zoom, and any member is welcome to attend to see what goes on.

Colleen Manley

Romford Division Contacts:

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<https://ebka.org>

<https://romfordbeekeepers.org>