



Romford Division



Dates for the Diary

Committee Meeting: 19/03/2026 7:30 via Zoom

Next Division Meeting: Thursday 5th March, 20:00

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

Topic: Beekeeping, Clive de Bruyn

Clive is a well known and respected authority on beekeeping, and the author of several books! Be sure to arrive early for a seat.

**A reminder that the venue has now changed, we no longer hold our meetings at Chadwick Hall.
The new venue is:**

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

Sterilising frames

A quick check on spare equipment condition and I found some super frames I'd left in October with good intentions! Do you have any frames that need dealing with? While not an exciting job, cleaning equipment and thinking ahead for the Spring beekeeping season is all important

Into the tea urn with soda crystals they go, a good scrape before drying out in the greenhouse.

The hard part is being ruthless, some are fit only for the incinerator!

Graeme Ellis



FEBRUARY Beekeeping Notes

It's still too cold to open the bees but observe the entrances on warmer days and hope to see early fresh pollen going in. This is a good sign that there is brood in the hive. Dead bodies may be thrown out, which is also good.

Go through your stored supers and discard frames with mouldy pollen in them and those attacked by wax moth. Give your bees only good quality frames. You can melt down the old wax and use it for something else.

At the end of the month, remove the mouse guards and woodpecker guards, you don't want that lovely fresh pollen knocked off the bees' legs just as they have reached home! And don't forget your records for 2026.

Pat Allen

Membership Renewal for 2026

Thank you to all our members who have completed the renewal process. By the time you get this newsletter you should have received your receipt/insurance certificate.

If you have not yet renewed then I should warn you that **you only have until February 15th to renew**, otherwise your membership is terminated. This means you will no longer have any BBKA Personal & Product Liability Insurance, nor any Bee Diseases Insurance, and you will not receive any further communication from the Division or BBKA.

If you wish to renew and need another renewal invitation, email me: pat.allen7@icloud.com

If you do not intend to renew it would be helpful if you would let me know.

Pat Allen

Romford Division AGM

The Minutes of the recent Romford Division AGM have been circulated by email (25/01/2026)

We would like to note that the AGM was attended by 18 members, out of a total membership of over 100. As the AGM is an important opportunity for members to hear updates, ask questions, and to have a say in the running of the Division, we encourage as many members as possible to attend in the future.

Thank you to those who were able to attend, and I hope to see more of you at future meetings.

Colleen Manley

Meeting Format

After our Main speaker at the monthly Division meeting, time will be set aside to hold an advice surgery for newer beekeepers.

This informal session will give newer members the opportunity to ask questions, seek advice, and discuss any concerns they may have, particularly as we approach the spring season.

More experienced members are also welcome to stay and contribute. We hope you are able to attend what should be a helpful and practical session

Colleen Manley

Basic Assessment

You might find this unusual coming from your Education Secretary – but I am sharing that I will be applying for my Basic Assessment this year.

And my mission? Will any of you out there, who have been keeping bees for a number of years consider joining me?

I've just recently attended a 'Train the Trainer's' day with Essex Beekeepers – and found it a very rewarding experience. We discussed the Basic Assessment – and the following points are worth considering;

- You only need to have been keeping bees for about 2 – 3 years.
- We are 'encouraged' to take this assessment much like we take a driving test, by no means an expert but, hopefully proficient and confident in the basics.
- You will need the Basic Assessment if you wish to be put on the Romford Swarm collection register.
- You will need this certificate as a requirement for keeping bees on certain types of private land e.g. allotments.

The trainers' feedback from their experience with candidate's state that many are nervous, but the job of the assessor is to put you at your ease and try and set up a 'positive' atmosphere.

The syllabus for the Basic Assessment is on the BBKA website, but I will email you some information regarding 'Hints and Tips' kindly provided by Diane Brooker the EBKA Exams Secretary.

The cost of the Assessment is £35.00, but looking back to the September 2025 Romford Newsletter, I note that Pat Allen stated the following:

"Those that pass the Basic with Distinction will be awarded £50.00 from the Miss Avey Award, and all those who pass ANY exam, Romford Division will reimburse their exam fee". So you won't be out of pocket!

I will need to contact Diane to get the application forms, but please be aware of cut-off dates for 2026 – Applications close on 30th April and the final date for an assessment will be 31st August.

For more information, please email me on Lindybees.education@gmail.com

It will be great if we could get more of our members signed up this year!

Linda Dulieu

BBKA February Talk

The next in our series of Zoom talks will be 'Honey Bees and Wild Bees: how they live together' with Cathy Horsley on Tuesday 17th February 2026, 7pm.

Dr Cathy Horsley is a Wilder Communities Officer at Devon Wildlife Trust, giving support to communities to act for nature across the county. She is trained as an ecologist, with a specialism in pollinators, and previously worked at the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, Dartmoor National Park, and in various museums. Her PhD is on Himalayan balsam and its impact on native plant pollination.

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

Meeting ID: 812 3381 9992 Passcode: 527929

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

Colleen Manley

Member Information from Committee

We will be holding an auction in our April division meeting. further details and information will be sent out nearer the time.

If you use Facebook, the [BBKA facebook page](#) is well worth a look. It's packed with useful, up to date beekeeping information, seasonal tips, and news from across the association. A great resource for both new and experienced beekeepers.

Currently we are in the process of renewing our agreement with Havering Council. It's in the early stages of the process. We will be holding a face to face meeting to discuss the fees of the licences.

Colleen Manley

BJ Sheriff Discount

A discount code for Romford members offering 10% off plus Free Carriage (Mainland UK only) has been circulated by email 27/01/2026. The discount can be claimed in two ways:

Order Online: Visit [BJ Sherriff](#) : Romford & District Beekeepers: rdbk6 at checkout.

Order by Phone: Call us at 01872 863304 if you need guidance, especially for sizing.

The offer has also been extended to association members up to February 28th.

Colleen Manley

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