



Romford Division



Dates for the Diary

Committee Meeting: TBC

Next Division Meeting: Thursday 2nd July, 20:00

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

Topic: Preparation for Honey Show's

Ahead of the Romford, Essex and National Honey shows, a club member will provide information and advice on how to win

Red tailed bumblebee on Allium.

Photo, Graeme Ellis



JUNE Beekeeping Notes

June is still in the swarming season so you need to be watchful and continue to do weekly inspections, to keep ahead of any swarming intentions your bees may have. Especially as the weather seems to have suddenly taken a leap forward into high summer with horribly high (in my opinion) temperatures!

I have taken a modest crop of spring honey from my bees, and the Division's teaching hives have yielded 90lbs of honey so far. I hope you have done well too. The nectar flow may slow down in June though, so don't take all the honey, and keep an eye on their stores. Populations are big now so they need a lot of food - and don't forget to keep up the water supply.

Pat Allen

Beginners' Beekeeping Course

The Beginners' Beekeeping Course is now halfway through (sounds like the Sewing Bee!). Our new students are getting their hands on the bees. Although the weather has been rather variable on our first two apiary sessions, we are hopeful for settled and fine weather for the remaining weeks.

Basic Assessment

The five beekeepers who have enrolled are now eagerly awaiting their dates for assessment!

Website

Now up and running! Romfordbeekeepers.com

You will need a login and password to access the 'Members Area'. If so, please contact a member of the committee, contact details below.

Linda Dulieu, Education Secretary

Help Needed!

At the recent Committee Meeting we discussed the matter of managing the Division's bees. I have been looking after them for some 20 years now and I need to hand over to someone else because '*anno domini*' has caught up with me!

I don't have to work alone, it's a matter of teamwork, but at the moment we do not have a full team. The jobs do not each take up much time, it is more a matter of being committed to doing the job when needed. If you would like to get more involved with helping to run the Division and its bees, please do discuss the requirements with me. There is great satisfaction in being part of the team and a proportion of the Division's honey (if there is any!) is shared between members of the Hive Management Team at the end of the season.

Pat Allen

YLH Update

There has been five further credible reports of Yellow-Legged Hornet (YLH) sightings this week.

- One sighting was reported in Shirley, Southampton on 22nd May by a member of the public. The hornet was captured and killed.
- A report was received from New Romney, Kent on 22nd May from householders. The hornet was captured and killed.
- A householder reported and captured a hornet in Charing, Ashford, Kent on 24th May in a shed. The shed will be inspected further to check for a possible embryo nest.
- Two sightings were reported in Rother, East Sussex. One hornet was captured by a beekeeper, and the other was reported by a householder but escaped alive.

We need to remain vigilant for Yellow-Legged Hornets, and ensure bait stations are in place and checked.

Garry Furnell, YLH coordinator.

Ugandan Beekeeping & Adventures With Bees Abroad, Relieving Poverty Through Bee Keeping.

Dave Bonner Project Manager May 2026

Dave told has actively worked with projects in Uganda and had many interesting experiences. The projects he manages have three objectives:

- To give people some information about the context and reality of beekeeping aboard
- To be entertaining
- To raise money for projects in Uganda

We may describe our beekeeping as challenging, chaotic, time consuming. But overall an enjoyable hobby. The Ugandan people describe it as life changing. When the Ugandan people have bees, they pollinate the crops and increase the yield as well as producing a better quality of produce. There are very competitive markets for crops in Uganda, and the farmers can get more money by the increased quantity and quality of their fruit.

David's charity looks after local children, and they have a direct link between mental and physical health of the children. They transfer their skills to the Ugandan people to empower them and improve their lifestyle.

Uganda is a very flat country and is a platform 3,000 feet above sea level, consequently they have issues with rain drowning crops. And droughts causing famine and therefore the only crop for families to produce in abundance is mangos.

David is involved in various projects which take three years to set up, then the charity moves on to another area. The aim of their work is to:

- Transfer skills
- Improve crops
- Empower women and single parent families and communities through beekeeping
- Improve crops through beekeeping
- Improve health of the community and the environment

In Uganda woman are not allowed to climb trees. Therefore, they cannot be beekeepers as the hives are all at the top of trees. By encouraging hives to be kept at floor level on a stand enables women to tend their own bees, giving them a livelihood. They teach people to have hives at ground level under the tree. The hives are put on metal stands with oil around the feet to keep ants, snakes and termites away.

The beekeepers don't have access to protective clothes like we use, they make their own bee suits out of old maize sacks and malaria netting costing about £2 per suit. Some of the farmers do their inspections at night using a red light which the bees can't see, this means they are calmer. Often, they will do their inspections in their underwear because the bees will not get stuck in clothes and panic, they will just walk on the skin and fly away without stinging the beekeeper.

When the beekeepers process the honey they strain it through a muslin. They would not like our honey as they like dark honey with bits in it. The charity teach the beekeepers to filter the honey by heating in a Bain Marie then filtering through muslin. Instead of honey jars they bottle the honey into washed out plastic water bottles. As well as the honey and wax, the propolis is a very valuable commodity used in medicine.

When the charity workers go to Uganda they take as much as they can which is 100kg luggage. They have taken an extractor, bags, medicines for the clinic, crutches and books purchased from our charity shops, as well as training equipment, a microscope, and knickers for the girls. If girls are wearing knickers, they are 30% less likely to be sexually assaulted.

Dave said that he nearly went to prison for drugs smuggling in February 2017 as they had a suitcase full of drugs for a hospital, they were stopping other people at the airport and he was caught up in it. The drugs were successfully delivered to Soroti Baptist Hospital in March 2017.

Jilly Speakman-Bell

Committee Matters

At our recent Committee meeting we discussed health and safety considerations for the division and at previous meetings we talked about lone beekeepers. Members are encouraged to carry out simple safety checks before visiting the apiary alone and to follow good practice wherever possible.

This can include letting someone know where you will be, checking equipment and colony conditions beforehand, and ensuring you have access to a phone and any necessary medication.

I would like to share a personal experience. Last year I received two stings to the face and experienced a much stronger reaction than I had previously encountered. Following treatment at A & E with antihistamines and steroids, I was referred to the specialist allergy service at St Thomas Hospital for assessment.

Fortunately, after investigation, venom immunotherapy was not considered necessary in my case, although I have been advised to carry antihistamines when beekeeping.

The experience was a useful reminder that reactions to bee stings can vary and that it is important for all beekeepers to be aware of any changes in their response to stings and to seek medical advice where appropriate. Safe beekeeping remains an important priority for the association, and we thank members for their continued support and cooperation.

Honey Jars

Don't forget to pick up your bulk buy jars on the 14th June, 12:00 - 14:00, 102A Billericay Road, Essex CM12 9SL

A reminder we have our social evening will be held on **Thursday 4th June at 8.00pm at St Nicholas church.**

Tea and coffee and cakes will be available, and everyone is warmly invited to come along for an evening with fellow beekeepers. If you would like to bring a glass of beer or wine that is perfectly fine, and nibbles to share would also be most welcome.

Colleen Manley

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Websites:

<https://ebka.org>

<https://romfordbeekeepers.org>

	Romford BBKA	Programme of events	2026
Date	Month	Title	Description
04/06/2026	June	Summer Social	Summer social the opportunity to meet the members for a chat with bring your own drinks and food to share .
02/07/2026	July	Preparation for Honey Show's	Well ahead of the season of Honey shows Romford , Essex and the National a club member will provide information and advice on how to win
06/08/2026	August	Preparation for Winter	As we approach autumn and consider feeding, treating and when to remove queen excluders. A club member will deliver a talk and hold a Q and A session
03/09/2026	September	The Flight of Bees	"Teams" presentation by Former RAF pilot and beekeeper Keith Barton
05/09/2026	September	Essex Honey Show	First show of the season the more entries the better for Romford Division
01/10/2026	October	Karl Colyner " a visit to Mike Palmer a bee farmer"	Teams Talk with Karl sharing his experience of visiting an American bee farmer
10/10/26	October	Romford Honey show	Opportunity for member to show off their skills and compete across a range of categories
05/11/2026	November	TBC	
03/12/2026	December	Christmas Social	All invites to the end of year social bring your own drinks and snacks with a raffle and fun quiz