


## Activities & Benefits of Membership

- **Monthly Meetings** are usually held on the first Friday in the month, at 8pm, in Chadwick Hall, Main Road, Gidea Park (behind St Michael's Church). Most meetings have a speaker, topics may be about bees and beekeeping, but also related topics such as flowers, herbs, wildlife, etc.
- **Educational Courses** are run every year. A Beginners' Beekeeping course and Queen Rearing are the usual ones. Sometimes courses on beekeeping-related topics, such as candlemaking, insects, pollen analysis, microscopy, etc, may be held. A modest charge is made.
- **Bring&Buy** held in April at the Havering Out Apiary, Pinewood Road. An auction of secondhand equipment is held.
- **Garden Meetings** in summer, in one of the Out Apiaries, or in a member's garden if there are hives there. There may be a speaker, or a demonstration. The August meeting includes a barbecue.
- **Apiary Tour**, usually on a Sunday in May. This disease inspection tour is led by the Bee Inspector and includes the Division's Out Apiaries and members' apiaries if they wish.
- **Honey Show** held in November, just before the National Honey Show. Entries are free and there are classes for honey (including novice class), wax, mead, confectionery and photography. The entries winning first prize in some of the honey classes are automatically entered into the National Honey Show.
- **Harvest Supper** is held following the Honey Show.
- **Town Shows** we usually attend include Planet Havering, Havering Show and the Dagenham Town Show. Members can sell their honey and other products, with the Division taking a commission. Candle-rolling is always enjoyed by the children.
- **Wax Foundation & Frame Making** held on the afternoon of the Bring&Buy, in the hut at the Havering Out Apiary.
- **Bulk Buys:** the Division usually makes some bulk purchases, such as honey jars, for members to buy at reduced prices.




# Welcome to Romford Division of Essex Beekeepers' Association



*How to get started in Beekeeping...*

*...with help from Romford Division*



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Registered Charity Number 1031419

## Who are we?

Romford Division is one of nine divisions of Essex Beekeepers' Association. We are a group of beekeepers living in the London Borough of Havering, Dagenham, and Brentwood.

Romford Division was founded in 1949: the EBKA was founded in 1880 and became a charity in 1993.



## What are our aims?

Our aims are to promote the art of beekeeping, by:

- running an interesting and informative programme of meetings and events for members
- giving support to member beekeepers, including practical help and advice
- organising education courses such as:
  - for beginner/potential beekeepers
  - for more experienced beekeepers, to improve their yields and management techniques
  - queen rearing, to improve colony quality within the Division and to help beginners
  - on bee-related topics, such as candlemaking, for beekeepers and the general public
- our 'Beginner Beekeeper Scheme', which includes a 'mentor', and new equipment on loan for a year at a small initial cost
- educating the public at Shows and other events about bees and beekeeping
- working with schools, within the curriculum, to extend knowledge of bees and beekeeping



## Beginner Beekeepers

*Beginner beekeepers are welcomed and encouraged.*

### Getting started

Beginners are encouraged to attend a course to get a grounding in the theory and practice of beekeeping before acquiring bees of their own.

The Division can help a new beekeeper in three ways:

### *Mentor:*

A new beekeeper will have a 'mentor' who is an experienced beekeeper. The mentor will assist the new beekeeper with colony inspections, answer queries, etc, and generally help the new beekeeper to become confident in handling the bees and managing the year's work.

### *Equipment:*

The new beekeeper can use the Division's 'Beginner Beekeeper Scheme'. The beginner pays a modest deposit initially, for which sum the beginner gets on loan everything necessary to begin beekeeping with one colony.

When the beginner has been beekeeping for a season, if he/she wishes to continue then the balance of the cost of the starter pack is paid and all the equipment becomes the property of the beekeeper.

Should the beginner decide not to continue, then the equipment is returned to the Division. The initial deposit is non-returnable and covers the cost of items which the Division must replace as new.

### *Bees:*

The new beekeeper is started with a small colony of bees (a 'nucleus'). This colony can be built up to a full colony within one season and the beekeeper should be rewarded by harvesting his or her first crop of honey. Once the balance of the starter pack has been paid the colony becomes the property of the new beekeeper.

