

THE ESSEX BEEKEEPER



A massive dose of springtime

Photo taken by Deryck Johnson

Monthly Magazine of the E.B.K.A

No.556

www.essexbeekeepers.com

**April
2011**

Registered Charity number 1031419

Printed by Streamset, 12 Rose Way, Purdeys Industrial Estate, Rochford, Essex SS4 1LY.

Essex Beekeeper's Association

The Essex Beekeepers' Association is a registered charity whose object is to further the craft of beekeeping in Essex.

President

Derek Webber

Trustees

Chairman: Richard Ridler, Rundle House, High Street, Hatfield Broad Oak, Bishop's Stortford, Herts. CM22 7HE

Email chair@ebka.org tel. 01279 718111

Secretary: Ms Pat Allen, 8 Frank's Cottages, St Mary's Lane Upminster, Essex RM14 3NU

Email pat.allen@btconnect.com tel. 01708 220897

Treasurer: Uli Gerhard,

email treasurer@ebka.org tel.

Divisional Trustees

Braintree	Mrs Pat Rowland	prowland45@hotmail.com
Chelmsford	Mrs Jean Smye	jsmye@o2.co.uk
Colchester	No appointment	-
Dengie Hundred & Maldon	Roy Carter	carterroy@talk21.com
Epping Forest	Ian Nichols	ian@iannichols.demon.co.uk
Harlow	Eric Fenner	efenner8@yahoo.co.uk
	Mike Barke	mjbarke@googlemail.com
Romford	William Stephens	billstephens@live.co.uk
Saffron Walden	Mrs. Sarah Jenkins	srhjen@aol.com
Southend	Jeremy Huband	jeremy.huband@clara.co.uk

Divisional Contacts

To contact a regional division:

Braintree: Colleen Chamberlain, 01279 876333 Chelmsford: Jean Smye, 07731 856361

Colchester: Lydia Geddes, 01206 392226 D.H. & Maldon: Jean Smye, 07731 856361

Southend: Ann Cushion, 07909-965117 Harlow: Eric Fenner, 01245 420622

Romford: Pat Allen, 01708 220897 Saffron Walden: Jane Ridler, 01279 718111

Epping Forest: Jenny Johns 0208 5292844

Essex Beekeeper's Magazine

Editor: Howard Gilbert, address: Glencairn, Eastside, Boxted, Colchester CO4 5QS

email editor@ebka.org

Advertising: Dee Inkersole, email advertising@ebka.org

tel. 01245 422627

Web site: Stuart Youngs email webmaster@ebka.org

Distribution and Mailing Secretary: Mary Heyes tel. 01702 588009

Regional Bee Inspector for EBKA

Epping Forest and Romford Divisions (excluding Brentwood):

Alan Byham alan.byham@fera.gsi.gov.uk tel. 01306 611016 or 07775 119447

All other Divisions:

Keith Morgan keith.morgan@fera.gsi.gov.uk tel. 01485 520838 or 07919 004215

Please ensure that all material for publication is received by the Editor before the 10th of the preceding month to publication.

April and May 2011

- 1 Apr. *Friday 8.00pm* **Romford** Chadwick Hall, Main Road, Gidea Park. 'Things you were not taught on a Beginners' Course', Led by Norman McDonald.
- 7 Apr. *Thursday 7.30pm* **Harlow** at Kings Church Red Willow. A talk by Chris Chilver on queen rearing, replacing and increasing colonies.
- 9 Apr. *Saturday 2.00pm* **Dengie Hundred and Maldon** at the Blue Boar pub Silver St. Maldon. What insurance cover do we have—third party or otherwise—what and who is covered? How to look for Small Hive Beetle.
- 9 Apr. *Saturday All day* **Saffron Walden** at Great Easton Primary School CM6 2DR. Candle Making Workshops. A limit of 20 participants.
- 17 Apr. *Sunday 2.00pm* **Braintree** Apiary meeting - John Barlow with bee inspector Peter Heath . Telephone 01371 850756 for details.
- 18 Apr. *Monday 7.30pm* **Chelmsford** Link Hall Methodist Church, Rainsford Road, Chelmsford CM1 2XB. Swarm Control and Insurance. When we collect swarms what exactly does our insurance cover us for? Do you know? Speaker Derek Webber.
- 19 Apr. *Tuesday 7.30pm* **Saffron Walden** Thaxted Guildhall CM6 2LA. Preparing for the Basic Assessment 1, 'Theory—Syllabus and Techniques' with Jane Ridler.
- 21 Apr. *Thursday 7.30pm* **Epping Forest** Chingford Horticultural Society, Larkshall Rd., Chingford E4 6NH. Microscope evening, testing for Nosema with Roy Croyley.
- 27 Apr. *Wednesday 7.30pm* **Southend** at Women's Institute Hall, Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh. BBKA exams and modules—Syllabus and Techniques with Jane Ridler.
- 5 May *Thursday 7.30pm* **Harlow** at Kings Church Red Willow. A talk by Richard and Jane Ridler on Honey Extracting and Preparing for Show (*combined with marital harmony-Ed.*)
- 6 May *Friday 8.00pm* **Romford** Chadwick Hall, Main Road, Gidea Park. 'To Hive and Hive Not' (apologies to Hemingway). A presentation on the pros and cons of various types of bee hive with Speaker John O'Connell.
- 7 May *Saturday 2.30pm* **Saffron Walden** at the Apiary of Penny Learmonth Felsted CM6 3EF. Preparing for the BBKA Basic Assessment 2, 'Practical Training' with Derek Webber.
- 14 May *Saturday 2.00pm* **Dengie Hundred and Maldon** at Mundon Victory Hall, Mundon Village. 'Help!! How can I deal with OSR?'
- 14 May *Saturday 2.30pm* **Epping Forest** at Wanstead Apiary, Langley Drive. Beginners welcome to attend the opening up of the hives in our first visit of the year to the division's apiary.
- 16 May *Monday 7.30pm* **Chelmsford** Link Hall Methodist Church, Rainsford Road, Chelmsford CM1 2XB. Marking Queens and Splitting Colonies. Robert Pickford needs little introduction so come along and learn from an expert.

April and May 2011 (cont.)

- 25 May *Wednesday 7.30pm* **Southend** at Women's Institute Hall, Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh. Stuart Baldwin will be speaking on beekeeping.
- 29 May *Sunday 2.00pm* **Braintree** Apiary meeting—Dr. Hufton-Rees. Telephone for details 01245233759

County Pheromones Richard Ridler (Chairman)

April is when the new beekeeping year gets underway. You will surely be planning to improve on your last year's beekeeping and perhaps try something new. In our own apiary we are determined to start queen rearing this year and we plan to collect fresh pollen to eat at breakfast time. For inspiration and ideas there is no better way to start the year than by going to the BBKA spring conference. It has the largest annual gathering of suppliers from the UK and overseas providing a unique opportunity to view products and see what's new. There are always lots of bargains but above all there is choice and the opportunity to compare and contrast. As well as lots of shopping there are lectures and workshops. We will be using the opportunity to examine polystyrene nuc boxes which we will need for queen rearing and to decide whether they should replace our use of wooden ones. As BBKA members you pay a reduced entry charge to the conference. Full details are on the BBKA website, it's on April 15th to 17th but the big shopping day is Saturday 16th. I hope to see you there.

For Sale

Glass half pound honey jars with metal screw lid; similar to standard pound jar.

Eleven gross boxed.
Offers around £20 per gross.

Prefer to sell as one lot.
Contact John Barlow 01371 850756.

Beekeeping Tips No. 3

By Pollinator

Once the bees have started to forage early in the year, the pollen on the legs of the returning bees will tell you it's time to look at the pattern of the brood nest and to make sure that all is well. Firstly, the smoker should be lit and going well with little likelihood of it going out in the middle of an inspection. Whether it is likely to go out depends to some extent on what fuel you use in the smoker. I find that collecting old fallen dead wood, when out walking through woodland areas, provides an adequate supply of fuel once it is dried. Always carry a plastic bag in your pocket before such walks. Put a small handful of grass on top of the wood fuel (or in the lid) to prevent sparks being blown on to the bees. Sparks that fall on to the ground can be especially dangerous in dry weather. So long as one hive is flying well then all hives in that apiary should be examined.

For inspections of the brood chamber it is wise not to smoke at the entrance as this drives the bee upwards in the hive whereas you want them below the top of the top bars of the frames. So just crack open the crownboard, at one corner, and puff in a little smoke before gently twisting the crownboard horizontally a few seconds later. Twisting it avoids making vibrations and noise that are likely to give the bees more warning that you are coming! None should fly up as you stand the crownboard vertically against the hive stand, bees and all. Before you stand up the crown board inspect it to make sure the queen is not on it. If she is there then you can offer her up to the entrance by sloping the crown board, upwards, to the entrance so that she can walk into the hive or alternatively hold the board so that she is on that part of the board nearest to the top bars of the frames, and a few centimetres above them. With your other hand just thump the board edge next to the hand you're using to hold the board. The queen and bees around her will fall on to the top bars. Her ladyship will quickly go down into the dark.

Stand behind the hive or to one side depending on whether you have your frames the warm way (parallel to the entrance block) or the cold way. You are thus able to lift out each frame vertically. Start slowly with the second frame from the edge of the brood chamber nearest to you, as this one is easier than the first frame, which latter is usually attached to the hive wall by more propolis or wax. Examine carefully to ensure the queen is not on that frame before you stand it vertically near the hive entrance. If there is brood on that frame it must be examined. You now have a space within which you can lift out the next frame without rolling the bees on each other as you lift. In other words move this frame 10 mm or so towards you before lifting ... a process repeated for each subsequent frame until you reach your last frame against the hive far wall. Tilt the bottom of the frame away from you and face into the sun or best light so that you can clearly see into any cell by looking down and beyond the top bar. Be careful not to deceive yourself by reflections on the cell wall that you have an egg or young larvae in the cell, when in fact there is nothing in the cell. Eggs are roughly 2 mm long and at the bottom of the cell. Any on the sidewall of the cell spells trouble.

Next turn the frame so that you can inspect the side of the frame that was previously nearest to you. It is important to do the two sides of the frame in that order as the first side you inspected has just emerged into daylight and since queens like the dark it gives you the opportunity to spot her quickly on that side before she makes a move to the other side via the bottom bar, which is now the darker side. When turning the frame do keep the foundation in the vertical plane as you turn it over. If you are not familiar with this move ask someone to show you. This prevents any sagging of the foundation, which is quite warm and soft. Remember that you do not need to find the queen if eggs are there.

Remember that the brood nest is in reality a small sphere about the shape of a football. In the early part of the season five or so frames will divide it. Each roughly circular patch of brood will have eggs around the periphery followed by increasingly larger larvae as hatched eggs are found as you eye moves towards the centre of the patch. In the centre you will observe patches of sealed larvae.

As you work across the frames of the brood nest the circles of brood will increase in size with a similar smooth pattern, and then decrease as you reach the far frames of the brood nest. The main difference being that some of the sealed larvae nearest to the centre will have hatched. You will possibly see bees about to emerge after 21 days from the time the egg was laid. At this stage if there is nothing untoward that has been observed you need to go no further.

Close up the frames and replace the first frame, which has been standing near the hive entrance throughout your examination. Replace the crownboard by placing it initially so that its corners are halfway between the corners of the brood chamber and then rotating it alternately back and forth, in small amounts, until it arrives in its correct position. This minimises the chance of squashing bees. A bit of smoke at this time helps to keep the bees down before you finally twist the crownboard back into position. Squashing bees is unnecessary and results in spreading disease if it's there, as well as releasing sting pheromone. Care and steady handling results in quiet bees for the whole season.

It has been my observation that beginners tend not to use enough smoke in order to keep the bees below the top bars when doing inspections. As you gain experience you will learn how to use the minimum of smoke to control your bees and to smoke just before you lift out the frame.

Finally, if anything seems not to be correct, for example dead larvae or larvae lying in unnatural positions, then do call in your mentor or one of the ministry disease officers.

Hive Construction
1) Hives of modern materials –Ply and Polystyrene
By Richard Alabone (Mr. Beesy)

Manufacturers have tried many ways to make use of modern materials for hives. Plywood is a good example. Having made them for myself out of 9mm ply, I know that there are advantages and disadvantages. I recently bought a cheap hive made out of poor 18mm ply, which is very heavy, 35 lbs in fact. I assembled it carefully according to the instructions but found that in one box the frames wouldn't fit: so a chisel had to be used. Although the makers strongly recommend sealing cut edges, and painting the whole thing, water and frost will wreak havoc. Some cut edges of ply are hidden and no amount of paint will protect them, whereas the visible cut edges are so full of voids, that it is extremely difficult to protect them. Alright, one can't expect a cheap hive to last long, I reckon perhaps 12 years at the best.

But it's a different story if you are talking about a foam polystyrene hive. It will be cheap, about the same as a ply hive, and will last 30 years. They have been available in Langstroth for years, and are now beginning to appear in National sizes. Of course the main thing, is that the bees are kept warmer and drier, and will keep themselves cooler in summer. The parts are moulded in high density foam, and because they are moulded they cannot be the wrong size, which has been a problem with some wooden hives.

I feel I cannot sing their praises high enough, as I have had one for 10 years and know how much better bees keep in warm and dry hives. Further than that, plastic hives are all the norm in many parts of Europe and for good reasons, but here in the UK we have lagged behind because very few people like Langstroth hives. We decided 100 years ago to go our own way, as did most of Europe. Here, nobody has invested in tooling-up for polystyrene, that's until very recently, while the large manufacturers try to keep the status quo.

You can buy Langstroth hives modified for National, even a 14 x 12 nuc box from Park Beekeeping, but a couple of small firms are selling a nice six frame National nuc box with feeder, in which small colonies will happily over winter. I have just seen some and they were fine. As far as full size National hives are concerned, one firm has tried to get tooling made in China, but is unlikely to get any available for this year, although we do have Modern Beekeeping in Devon who are starting to import National hives made in Finland, and they are brilliant! No, I have no financial interest in this.

Thousands of hives of this type have been proven in Germany and Scandinavia so that I can confidently say they are brilliant. A National version will be available sometime this month, but I have recently bought some Langstroth equipment for my existing hive from them. The only problem with high density polystyrene is that it is not as hard as wood and can be damaged with a hive tool, but these particular hives have a hard plastic strip where you would use a hive tool, which is where you separate boxes, and also the lug rebate and frame runners.

Wooden hives have to be protected from woodpeckers and these are no different, but there are so many advantages.

Accuracy and flatness are perfect, they have an open mesh floor as standard, there should be no problem of damage by the use of a hive tool, and the boxes interlock preventing misalignment, which also holds the boxes apart while using smoke to chase away bees before the box is lowered. Use of a blow torch is clearly not on, but chemical cleaning and sterilising is OK, even for foul brood. Other points are that, a J type hive tool should be used, and the hive comes along with a strap to stop the wind blowing the roof away. The strap is useful for migratory beekeeping, with a propolis grid on the super and the upturned roof on top. The website of Modern Beekeeping is well written and a mine of information about all aspects of plastic hives. Google: Modern Beekeeping, or go to Chelmsfordbees and click Top Links.

One thing that took my eye is a queen trap anti-swarm system: it's probably not a new idea, but little is in beekeeping. They say that a second entrance above the queen excluder, to be used in the swarming season, apparently avoids too much nectar in the brood box and prevents the queen flying out with a swarm, which returns within a few minutes. This system has worked on 1500 hives over 12 years, in Finland, so it may well catch on here. Incidentally, they averaged 102 pounds per hive on their 1500 colonies last year, using this system.

And it's not only the hives that are about to undergo a revolution. Have you heard of plastic foundation? If so, you will probably have heard that it is useless, as the bees don't draw comb on it. When I received my poly Langstroth hive many years ago it had plastic frames with "pre-waxed" plastic foundation moulded into the frame. A good idea if it worked, but it didn't, so I had to revert to wooden frames and wax foundation. But I have just bought 20 Langstroth plastic shallows from Modern Beekeeping for that hive, because on their website they show you how to wax them, and how bees then draw out perfect comb, which of course is unbreakable in the extractor, and produces perfectly flat brood comb in brood frames. I can't wait to try them out on the rape.

You can buy plastic foundation from a major supplier, which is supposed to be "beeswax coated" but the comment is that "conditions for comb building must be near perfect", which means that it is no better than the frames I discarded years ago. Modern Beekeeping tell us that a Langstroth needs 35gms of wax applied with a decorators roller, not too little –not too much, and show the resultant drawn comb in a video. Brilliant!

So, modern materials will probably alter our beekeeping for the better, sooner or later. An Essex supplier of beekeeping equipment (not me) is planning to produce plastic foundation frames, in National sizes: we shall have to wait and see.

Hive Construction
2) Hives of modern materials—The Beehaus
Comments by Sally Hepher on a presentation by Omlet

A good turnout of Colchester division members (and one guest from Braintree) gathered to see a presentation by one of the founders of the Omlet company of their Beehaus. This brightly coloured hive has featured in numerous press articles on beekeeping since its launch a couple of years ago, and I was curious to know how it works.

Omlet was started by a group of design graduates, and their aim in creating the Beehaus was to make something that was physically easy to use, and visually appealing. Key factors they identified for ease of use were that the hive should be high off the ground, to reduce the need to stoop during inspections, and that the supers should be easy to lift. The hive therefore comes with a metal stand that raises it near to waist height, and the supers are half the width of traditional supers, so holding fewer frames, which makes them lighter. The layout of the hive is based on the Dartington Long Hive, with an internal divider allowing the beekeeper to split the long brood box into two, with separate entrances at each end. By moving the divider slightly to one side the bees can be given access to three of the narrow supers, and by stacking these three on three you can have the equivalent of three conventional size supers but only stacked two high, again reducing the need to lift heavy boxes at shoulder height.

Apart from that it works like a conventional beehive, with queen excluders, covering boards, a roof, and entrance blocks. I have no experience of using a Dartington Long Hive, so the editor should probably ask for an evaluation of that system from somebody who has! The long brood box can be used as two entirely separate colonies, with entrances one at each end, or one end can be used as an adjunct to the main colony for swarm control. The brood frames are 14 inch by 12 inch.

The basic hive costs £465, and comes with frames and foundation for ten brood and ten super frames, and four supers. You would need to buy extra frames and supers fairly early on keeping bees in this hive to have enough space up top for a colony that was going well, and you would need to buy extra brood frames for swarm control, but you do start with the equivalent of two brood boxes. The plastic is U.V. stabilised and should last twenty years, and while it can't be cleaned with a blowtorch, Omlet have agreed with the bee health authorities that cleaning with bleach is an acceptable alternative. It would melt if touched with the nozzle of a hot smoker, and Omlet promote the use of liquid smoke to avoid this risk. Woodpeckers don't seem to go for the hive, possibly because they can't hold on to it, and the bees don't seem keen on laying down propolis, which is in any case easy to scrape off because the plastic has no grain. The booklet that comes with it is good, containing a lot of information in a jargon-free style intended to appeal to beginners, and urges them to join their local Beekeepers' Association and enrol on a beekeeping course, which is very sensible advice!

The suggested method of honey extraction is to scrape the comb and let it drip overnight, so although the booklet talks encouragingly about how in a good year you might get 50kg of honey or more, that quantity might come as rather a shock...

A disadvantage I can see is that the two entrances are opposite each other so reducing flexibility in apiary layout. Also I myself like things made out of wood, because if broken they can generally be mended, unlike moulded plastic. Whether or not you like the look of the Beehaus is entirely a matter of personal taste.

To find out more about Omlet and the Beehaus go to www.omlet.co.uk

p.s. Thanks to our visitor from Braintree for coming. We are always happy to welcome members from other divisions at Colchester division meetings.

Father's Handwritten Notes on his Life and Beekeeping Collated by John Gilbert

Les Gilbert, who died on Christmas Day 2010 aged 97, left some handwritten notes on his life and beekeeping. His son John has given permission for these to be reprinted in the Essex Beekeeper over the next few months.—Editor

I was born at New Cottages, Hardwick, Nr Bury St Edmunds in 1913, the son of a shepherd. Two years later the family moved to Stowupand, nr Stowmarket where I was to get my first knowledge of beekeeping. Before I tell you about my beekeeping experiences I would like to tell you a few things my Father told me about his childhood.

Father was born at Little Glenham, Suffolk in 1883. When he went to school his mother paid a halfpenny a day for his education, as money was not very plentiful he left school at the age of 10. One day his mother took him to Bury St Edmunds to buy him a new suit. They saw a new suit in a shop window and it cost his Mother two shillings, which is ten pence today. When Father was 14 years old he went to live with a shepherd in Norfolk to learn the trade. He worked for Lord Grafton on the estate. Lord Grafton was a very rich farmer. Father became a good shepherd he also learnt how to slaughter sheep and pigs which had to be taken up to the big house and were hung in the cellar. At the end of every month all the meat left over was given to all the employees on the estate and therefore everyone had plenty of meat, dripping and home made brawn. Also all the children of the workers on the estate were given a new outfit of clothes each year paid for by Lord Grafton.

Every year after harvest all the workers on the Estate were invited to a party which was held in the barn on the estate. One of the highlights of the evening was someone to sing a song and hold a young pig in their arms. The pigs were very hard to hold, always shrieking. On this occasion Father was holding the pig trying to sing 'two little girls in blue' without success. My mother was sitting in

the front row with me as a baby in the pram. Father took the milk bottle from the pram and gave it to the pig, the pig was no more trouble, the song was competed with no more shrieking!

It was 1919 at six years of age that I got my first taste of beekeeping. I lived with my brothers and sisters at Hall Farm, Stowupland nr Stowmarket. My Father was farm bailiff at that time although as a boy he was trained as a shepherd. We lived in a very large old farm house and had all the pleasure that nature provided. In those days very few cars on the road, no chemicals on the land or in the air; there were lots of birds and butterflies, some we never see today. Apart from my days at school every thing I learnt was about nature.

There was no milkman to deliver milk to the door. To get our milk it would be the job of either myself or one of my brothers to take a 2 pint milk can to school and leave the can at the farm house on the way to school and collect it in the afternoon on our way home. The price of milk was a half penny skimmed milk and one penny full creamed. There were no cars on the road. I never saw a motor car in four years I was at Stowupland school. The first ride I had on a motorised vehicle was a ten ton lorry when we moved house from Great Bricet to Bocking. I did not ride in a motor car until I was 14 years old.

It was sometime in the month of May that my brother came running home out of breath shouting – “Father there is a swarm of bees hanging in the hedge bottom of the meadow”. My Father did have some knowledge of bees because his mother had kept them in skeps when his family lived at Woodbridge in Suffolk. My Father was not keeping bees at that time; therefore he had no veil or skep to gather the swarm so he sent mother into the house to find some net curtain to put over his head whilst he rushed into the shed to find a suitable box to hive the swarm. Everything ready all the family followed Father down the meadow to watch him capture the swarm. It was a sight I shall never forget – this lovely big swarm hanging over the ditch on an Elder bush in a lovely position to shake into the box. The bees were placed at the bottom of the garden until the following weekend.

In those days it was the habit of the head of the family to go to the local pub on a Saturday night to meet the local lads. On this particular night Father made friends with the signal man at the railway station who was a local beekeeper. After hearing Father had a swarm in a box and no hive for the swarm the signal man offered to supply a hive and come and put the bees into the hive. The next weekend when the signal man arrived the bees had filled the box with comb and honey therefore I gained more experience as I watched the comb being cut from the box and tied into the new frames with strips of calico (old sheets cut into strips) and placed into the brood box. Of course it was a WBC telescopic hive as the commercial hives were not heard of in 1919. The hive consisted of one brood box, queen excluder and super, fitted with drone base foundation. Every one used drone foundation in supers and always had 1lb section on the top, sections were easy to get filled as the weather in those days was fairly reliable.

Also the farmers grew many more flowering crops such as red and white clover, mustard, samfire, trefoil, turnips, beans, lucerne. Mustard was a good late crop

for pollen. These crops were grown for sheep feed as most big farmers kept 250 or more sheep to graze the crops and at the same time manure the land as artificial manure was very rarely used. There were wild flowers everywhere as no crop sprays were used on the crops. All the weeds were chopped out with the hoe or pulled up by hand such as wild mustard or docks. The farm workers' wives and children did this for pocket money. The bees got stronger as the weeks went by. One sunny day I experienced my first sting as I tried to pay with the bees as they entered the hive they did not like being pushed with a stick, no body had told me that bees had a sting. After the first year the number of hives got up to 6. From then on Father was never without bees in the garden. He had bees until he was ninety years old, he died at 97.

To be continued next month

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Does any other Division have the problem that DH&M Division are experiencing? Our membership has trebled in the past two years, and there is a need to find apiary sites for our new Beginners.

As we looked around our area, we found that Out-of Division Beekeepers are putting hives in our area to take advantage of specialised crops, without letting DH&M Division know.

If we don't know that out-of-area hives are present in DH&M Division's area, we cannot notify the owners of spray warnings or advise of any disease present.

It would at least be good manners and common courtesy to contact our secretary or one of our members, that this is intended. I hope that all Essex Beekeepers will take note.

Nanette Field Chairperson, *Dengie Hundred Maldon & District*

A Date for your Diary

County Conference 2011

Headed by Chelmsford Division

1st October 2011

Venue: **Barleylands, Billericay**

Great Lectures, Great Food

Meet up with old friends and make new ones

Whatever you do, don't miss it

Watch this space!



Deryck Johnson comments on his photo: I filled a Miller feeder with cappings to be licked dry. This is the piece of modern art I was rewarded with. Coral ... or perhaps alien landscape?



Box House Beekeeping Supplies

01206 299658/07768 634038 sales@box-bees.co.uk
Box House, Gandish Road, East Bergholt CO7 6TP



Essex Beekeepers' Association

Managing Bee Health

A one-day event for the continuing professional development of beekeepers.
Suitable for all levels & experience.

Tuesday 7th June 2011 - 10 00am to 4.30 pm.

Hatfield Broad Oak Village Hall CM22 7HN (near Stansted Airport) & nearby apiary.

Led by Eastern Regional Bee Inspector Keith Morgan & Local Seasonal Bee Inspector Peter Heath.

This relaxed and friendly day will be a mixture of Presentations, Useful Tips & Hints together with Discussion, Opportunities and a practical session to include:-

A Chance to see how to spot disease ,to get involved hands on, doing a disease inspection ,and making the beekeeper aware of normality.

Important:

You will need to bring a packed lunch
And clean Beekeeping Protective Clothing
Tea and Coffee will be provided

Booking Essential- Please contact
Eileen Marrable 01708 229441
emarrable@ntlworld.com

PETER DALBY—PEBADALE APIARIES

Agent for EH Thorne and Northern Bee Books

Also Apitherapy Supplies and advice

Large stocks held; any item to order; competitive prices

37, Cecil Road, Cheshunt, Hertfordshire. EN8 8TN

Tel/fax: 01992 622645

Open Mon—Sat (any reasonable time) Telephone before calling. CLOSED SUNDAY.

www.thorne.co.uk



THORNE

For all your
Beekeeping needs...



E.H. THORNE (Beehives) LTD.

BEEHIVE BUSINESS PARK, RAND, NR. WRAGBY, MARKET RASEN, Lincs. LN8 5NJ

TEL: 01673 858555

FAX: 01673 857004

sales@thorne.co.uk

www.thorne.co.uk



Deryck Johnson comments on the photo above: *Not very picturesque but more interesting. I use old broken milk crates as hive stands. Last year I had just one colony on a solid floor, I forget the reason why, and unbeknown to me an incoming swarm set up home underneath. It wasn't until I came to replace with a mesh floor that I found another colony living happily underneath.*



On the one hand we have a holy cast; and on the other we have bountiful swarms just waiting to be collected into two or ... three or ... four nucs!
Photos taken by Deryck Johnson