

THE ESSEX BEEKEEPER



Martin Buckle created these pieces from wax (see back page for a close-up of two pieces). *photo taken by Stuart Baldwin*

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Essex Beekeeper's Association

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

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

February 2011 and March 2011

- 1 Feb. *Tuesday 7.30pm* **Saffron Walden** 'Bees under the Microscope (12 only) at Saffron Walden County High School CB11 4UH
- 3 Feb. *Thursday 7.30pm* **Harlow** at Kings Church Red Willow. Bye Products of the Hive Regulations with speaker Simon White from Trading Standards.
- 4 Feb. *Friday 8.00pm* **Romford** Chadwick Hall, Main Road, Gidea Park. Trees for Bees with Speaker Colin Richardson, Arboriculturalist.
- 9 Feb. *Wednesday 7.30pm –9.30* **Braintree** Microscopy classes at Tabor College Panfield La Braintree CM7 5XP. Telephone Stuart Mirson if you need further details: 01376 340683.
- 12 Feb. *Saturday 2.00pm* **Dengie Hundred and Maldon** 'What to do about winter losses and moving on to get the best from our bees. Plus wax exchange and purchase of low cost foundation (divisional members only).
- Feb 15 *Tuesday 7.30pm* **Braintree** Course for beginner beekeepers commences For more details please telephone Colleen 01279 876 333.
- 21 Feb. *Monday 7.30pm* **Chelmsford** Link Hall Methodist Church, Rainsford Road, Chelmsford CM1 2XB. 'Start of Season' - Hopefully you will have some live bees at the end of the winter! For tips on how to get your bees into tip-top health for maximum honey production please join us for an evening about spring-time preparations for the forthcoming season.
- 24 Feb. *Thursday 7.30pm* **Colchester** at Langham Community Centre. Come and see a demonstration of the Beehaus by Omlet.
- 26 Feb. *Friday 8.00pm* **Braintree** at The Constitutional Club, Braintree—Division's Annual Dinner.
- 2 Mar. *Wednesday 7.30pm* **Colchester** "New to Beekeeping" social evening (experienced beekeepers also welcome) at The Wooden Fender (public house), Colchester Road, Ardleigh, Colchester. CO7 7PA.
- 3 Mar. *Thursday 7.30pm* **Harlow** at Kings Church Red Willow. Spring preparation.
- 4 Mar. *Friday 8.00pm* **Romford** Chadwick Hall, Main Road, Gidea Park. Swarm Control with speaker Alan Byham.
- 5 Mar. *Saturday 2.00pm* **Essex Beekeepers 131st Annual General Meeting** at Room EO6 of Writtle College Lordship Road, Chelmsford CM1 3RR.
- 9 Mar. *Wednesday 7.30pm –9.30* **Braintree** Microscopy classes at Tabor College Panfield La Braintree CM7 5XP. Telephone Stuart Mirson if you need further details: 01376 340683.
- 12 Mar. *Saturday 2.00pm* **Dengie Hundred and Maldon** 'Why we do it, How to do it, Can it go wrong? The views and experience of three beekeepers.

Cont. on page 4

February 2011 and March 2011 (cont.)

- 19 Mar. *Saturday* **BBKA Module Exams**
- 21 Mar. *Monday 7.30pm* **Chelmsford** Link Hall Methodist Church, Rainsford Road, Chelmsford CM1 2XB. TBA
- 24 Mar. *Thursday 7.30pm* **Colchester** at Langham Community Centre. A talk by Adrian Knowles, from Essex Wildlife Trust and a Senior Ecologist, EECOS. His talk will be on the diversity of solitary bees (there are approx 150 species in Essex), their life histories, role in the countryside, their conservation and what the general public can do to help.

County Pheromones Richard Ridler (Chairman EBKA)

This month I want to encourage those of you whose experience of EBKA is limited to your local division to look further. Your membership entitles you to attend meetings of all our divisions without additional charge. With nine divisions in the county there is a huge diversity of activities and events for you to enjoy and benefit from. In my experience all divisions are only too delighted to welcome guests. As a result of a visit to a soap making demonstration in Romford a couple of years ago we now make, sell and use excellent beeswax and honey soap which never fails to impress.

At a county level the annual husbandry days run by our local bee inspectors have been hugely popular. We are going to have another one this year somewhere in Braintree/Saffron Walden/Harlow area on 7th June. The county honey show held in September is another great county event. In my corner of the county some of our members even occasionally attend events of the Cambridge-shire beekeepers.

Nationally the big events are the annual BBKA conference at Stoneleigh in April and the National Honey Show in Weybridge in October. If you have not yet been to either of these I guarantee that if you do you will be impressed when you do.

Internationally Apimondia takes place every two years. This year it's in South America but in 2013 it will be in Kiev in the Ukraine. Kiev is just low cost flight away and the opportunity to visit it and meet beekeepers from central Europe is one not to be missed.

Essex Beekeepers' Association

131st Annual General Meeting to be held
on Saturday 5th March 2011
starting at 2pm

at Room E06 of Writtle College, Lordship Road, Chelmsford, CM1 3RP (opp Garden Centre)

A G E N D A

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Minutes of the 130th AGM
- 3 Report from the Chairman of the Central Executive Committee
- 4 General Treasurer's Report & Approval of the 2010 Accounts
- 5 Written reports from other members of the Central Executive Committee
- 6 Election of President
- 7 Election of County Officers *Nomination:*

Chairman	Richard Ridler
Secretary	Pat Allen
Treasurer	
- 8 Notification of the 2011 Divisional Voting Members and 2012 Presiding Officer
- 9 Election of remaining CEC post-holders
 - Advertising Secretary
 - BBKA Delegate
 - Book of Commemoration Secretary
 - Distribution Secretary (*The Essex Beekeeper*)
 - Editor (*The Essex Beekeeper*)
 - Examinations Secretary
 - FWAG Delegate
 - Membership Register Secretary
 - Minutes Secretary
 - NHS Delegate
 - Show Committee Delegate
 - Spray & Disease Committee Delegate
- 10 Confirmation of Accounts Examiner
- 11 Propositions put forward by the Central Executive Committee:
 - 11.1 That EBKA capitation be increased by 50p, with effect from 1st January 2012.
 - 11.2 That the EBKA Rule 7 be amended, to take effect at the end of this AGM, to add the following as the third paragraph:

Proxy Voting: The Trustees shall be permitted for not more than two CEC meetings per annum to exercise the right to appoint an EBKA member (excluding Associates and Juniors) as their proxy, with full voting rights. The General Secretary or CEC Chairman must be given the name of the proxy prior to a CEC meeting thus affected.
- 12 2010 Conference Report: Chairman of Saffron Walden Division
- 13 2011 Conference Preview: Chairman of Chelmsford Division
- 14 Installation of 2011 Presiding Officer
& Reading from the Book of Commemoration

Refreshments

Talk by invited speaker. (Speaker and topic tbc.)

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Chairman's Report for 2010
Richard Ridler (Chairman EBKA)

In 2010 beekeeping has continued to capture the imagination of the public and as a result our membership has grown rapidly. We have doubled in size in just two years and now have some 700 members. The profile of our membership is changing, the average age has reduced and the proportion of women is higher. Whilst the growing numbers of beekeepers is excellent news for honey bees it has made more work for all our county and divisional officers. It means more membership records to manage, more financial transactions, more envelopes to address etc. The huge effort and time put in by experienced beekeepers in all divisions to train and support beginners has been outstanding. This year some of our newer members have taken on positions of responsibility thus making it possible to spread the work essential to the success of our association further; a trend we can expect to continue. A big thank you to all those who have put in so much effort.

We have broken some records this year. The numbers attending the annual conference and the number of entries for our honey show both exceeded those in living memory.

In March we lost Ted Hooper perhaps the most widely and best respected Essex beekeeper of all time. Awarded an MBE for his contribution to beekeeping he leaves a legacy in his publications and in the memories of the very many beekeepers to whom he passed his knowledge and experience. At Christmas another of our much venerated members, Les Gilbert, died; like Ted Les was a member of EBKA.

One of the joys of beekeeping is that change in the natural world is slow. However our craft remains threatened by pests, diseases, sprays and the ongoing reduction in diversity of forage. The need for an organisation to further the craft of beekeeping is as great as it was 130 years ago when EBKA was founded.

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In Memoriam—Les Gilbert
By Geoff Mills Hon. Life Member, EBKA

It was my privilege to have known Les for many years; he died on Christmas day in his 98th year. He was Chairman of the Show Committee for well over a decade. Apart from his commitment to the Show Committee he looked after the maintenance required for all the equipment used at the annual show and additionally maintained the storage shed at the Great Leighs Showground. He always played an important part in setting up the show marquee and helped the Essex Beekeepers' Association to win the "Best marquee at the Show" award on more than one occasion.

Les was an innovator and well known for production of a device that he called the Gilbert louvre. This device was used in place of the normal entrance block for the beehive. It could be swung open, or closed, using the bearings at both ends; additionally it could be used to prevent robbing by wasps by adjustment of a slide to cover one to six holes in the metal entrance strip. He made many of these for local beekeepers and others throughout the UK. It was particularly useful when closing hives for transportation to distant sites to pollinate crops.

Another novel device was a tilting board that could be used under a settling tank when bottling the last few jars of honey ... a simple idea and very effective. He produced a number of ideas for collecting swarms.

Les was the maker of the decorative porch used at the entrance to the Essex Beekeepers' show marquee. He also made the supports for the rope barrier used to keep the public at a distance from the exhibits. Les had exhibits each year at the show and often showed cut comb and sections as well as honey in jars. He also exhibited mead. For each of these he often won trophies (one year he had won so many that he stored them in the loft space at home and the next year when it was time to take them to the show he forgot he had done so and reported them stolen; only to remember afterwards where they were!)

Each year, during the three days of the Essex Show, he would be in the marquee helping out by demonstrating handling of honeybees and talking to the public about what the bees were doing in the observation hive. I know he enjoyed doing these things and missed them much in recent years when he could not take part. I'm sure he had a wonderful life and enjoyed his hobby. His garden meetings for beekeepers were always something to look forward to.

Summary of a talk by Keith Morgan RBI By Stuart Baldwin

PREPARING FOR WINTER AND GETTING THROUGH TO SPRING

Summary of a talk given by our Regional Bee Inspector - Keith Morgan* at Chelmsford on 18th October 2010. * keith.morgan@fera.gsi.gov.uk

Initially there was a strong recommendation that all beekeepers should register with BeeBase. This is a superb information resource and is the website of the National Bee Unit which is run by beekeepers for beekeepers. It comes under the Food and Environment Research Agency. (FERA)

For new and experienced beekeepers it is particularly useful as a source of advice on disease and pest management and control. Free publications are available on bee diseases and pests.

To register you can either phone the NBU on 01904 462510 or log on to their website: www.nationalbeeunit.com and complete a simple one-page form. It is a secure site to which you will have future access via a user-name and password. Once you have registered, BeeBase will let the Regional Bee Inspector know of your existence and you may then be contacted to see if you would like a free advisory visit by a local Bee Inspector.

VARROA

This is currently seen as the main problem in the UK both for bees and beekeepers so much of the talk was concentrated on this.

At the end of July (or August at the latest) colonies should be treated using "Apiguard" or "Apivar" - the sustained release plastic strips. If using Apiguard, an eke should be used. The bees need to be able to access it easily and it should be placed in a corner above the brood box but NOT directly above the brood cluster. Apiguard can also be used in March.

In late December e.g. at or about Christmas time, a fresh, weak solution of oxalic acid in syrup (e.g. 45g/litre of syrup) should be used. A maximum of 50ml per hive is recommended by trickling some 5ml per seam between adjacent frames in the brood box. It should not be used when brood is likely to be present nor in supers. The appropriate solution, and equipment e.g. syringes and needles can be bought from major bee equipment suppliers. Any solution of oxalic acid left over should be discarded, as if kept, it could become too concentrated thereby becoming lethal to bees.

At the same time as giving the bees their oxalic acid, it is recommended that the bees be given their own Christmas present in the form of fondant. This comes from suppliers in flat plastic-covered packets. Open up one flat side with a knife or hive tool so that the fondant is exposed and place this open side down directly above the cluster and then cover it with hessian sacking followed by an eke, crown board and roof. The fondant should be checked every three weeks and replaced where necessary. This should be kept up through to the end of April or when supers go on. . The bees don't store this but use it as food directly. Stressed bees are vulnerable to disease and fondant feeding reduces bee stress. If stocks are split in the spring to form three-frame

nuclei then fondant can also be used in the summer to prevent nucleus starvation.

It was also mentioned that Heather and Ivy honeys are very bad wintering foods. This is due to the bees being confined to the hive and unable to make foraging trips for the water needed to dilute these prior to assimilation.

NOSEMA

The major point here is that prevention is much better than cure. The two species of this Microsporidian spore-producing fungus both affect the gut lining and the gut itself - the ventriculus. Dysentery often results and is particularly bad when bees are confined to the hive for long periods e.g. over-winter or during bad weather spells in the spring, the bees are unable to go on cleansing flights, resulting in defecation in the hive with consequent rapid spread of the disease. The spores produced by Nosema can remain viable for up to a year. Combs should therefore not be transferred from one hive to another. Diagnosis initially is by examining crushed specimens under a x 400 magnification light microscope.

Fungi thrive in damp conditions so it is essential that hives have good ventilation system. E.g. ensure that roof vents are not closed with propolis.

The treatment currently is by the use of Fumidil 'B' - as a preventative. This is an antibiotic powder that is effective against both species of Nosema. It is recommended that the powder is dissolved in syrup and included in the autumn feed. It acts on the reproductive stage of the parasite by inhibiting spore reproduction and spores attacking the epithelial lining of the gut. Fumidil B does not affect the spores themselves or the resting stages of Nosema and therefore has to be used in bee food for three to four weeks to clear the infection. Reinfection from spores left on comb can be minimised by replacing some comb with fresh comb early in the spring. The remaining old comb should be decontaminated with formalin vapour or glacial acetic acid vapour.

By a quirk of nature, Fumidil B is produced by the fermentation of the fungus *Aspergillus fumigatus* which itself is the causative agent for Stone Brood.

With all treatments the manufacturers websites provide details additional to those given in the FERA free publications and on BeeBase.

WASPS

One effective way of dealing with these is to put out wine bottles containing a cheap lager from the end of June onwards. Wasp larvae secrete a sugar solution and from June/July the wasps are looking for sweetness. In the spring the wasps are the friends of the gardener in that being carnivorous they capture many garden pests as larval food. Queen wasps should never be killed as they are part of our biodiversity.

MOUSE GUARDS

Where necessary these should be in place by mid-October.

WOODPECKERS

These will always go for the handle slots so it is important to have a wire netting screen completely round the hive and over the top.

The talk was greatly appreciated by a large audience comprising mainly new beekeepers.

The New Year 2011 By Pollinator

This is the first of a series of monthly tips to assist newcomers and to remind old hands that the beekeeping year really started last August/September when you fed your bees down for the Winter with a thick syrup (4 kg to 2.50 l water).

You should have covered your hives with netting before the frosts started in order to deter woodpeckers and the netting can be wire netting or perhaps the netting you used to prevent birds taking your summer fruit. It is also a deterrent to blue tits that will tap on the hive entrance to entice out a bee, only to take it for food. If that's been happening you see the exoskeletons on the ground and on top of the snow.

After the heavy Winter frosts the bees will come out of their Winter cluster to take cleansing flights as soon as the temperatures climbs up to 10°C. Before then there is little hope of knowing whether your colony is alive unless you put your ear on the woodwork of the brood chamber and giving the hive side a hard knock with the knuckles. A sudden buzz or roar will tell you the cluster of bees is still alive.

Also it is the time to think about putting pollen patties or pollen substitute patties on the colonies. If you have not collected pollen in previous years from your colonies then you can opt for soya flour instead. Many beekeepers prefer to use the no fat soya but I've used the full soya with no detected detrimental effects. In my next monthly tip I will give instructions on how to make these patties and how to use them in the hive. And what to expect. Enjoy your beekeeping.

Beekeeping tips no. 1 by Pollinator



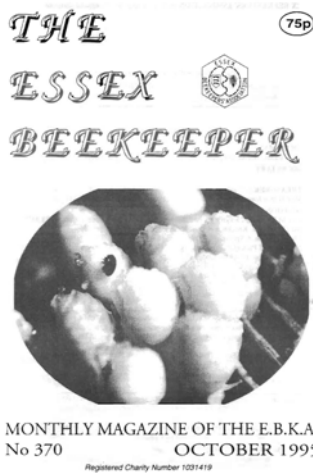
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From the Archives—October 1995 Beekeeping Then and Now

.....1945

When I returned to Essex from the Far East in 1945 my desire was to get my roots into the rural soil and there remain. Amongst the various hobbies and interests, beekeeping attracted me.



My tutor was one of a family of beekeepers. Indeed, most cottages had a hive in their vegetable gardens, not least because each hive had a sugar ration! Skeppist methods were employed, using movable-comb hives for the best colonies and boxes of various shapes for the numerous swarms and casts. I still have my original hive -a 'cottager' hive, made by Taylors of Welwyn. It is a small hive with room for 10 deep combs and a rack of sections above. In fact my tutor only worked for sections, he had no extractor.

In Autumn he packed his 2-3 best swarms in his soundest hives for winter; fed with candy, carefully prepared with tartaric acid, etc. All the swarms in the odd boxes were killed off with sulphur candles, made by wrapping a short stick with rag and dipping it in molten sulphur. A shallow pit was dug, the candle inserted in the bottom and lit. The box containing the bees was placed over the pit and the sulphur dioxide killed them. The pit was then filled in and the honey obtained by crushing the combs and hanging them in a cheesecloth to drip. Next Spring the first swarms were anxiously awaited. They were hived and provided the stocks for the following year and the first crop of honey.

1945 was a wonderful honey year, the honey flow lasted into September. Many farmers then had a rotation which included a clover ley, the second cut of which gave seed and nectar. In 1945 there was a third cut! But 45/46 was a really hard winter. We skated and we built an igloo which stayed till early March. The bees, warm and well supplied, came through well. I moved the bees to Dunmow and learned more scientific beekeeping from Saffron Walden Division! Sometimes I wonder whether the swarming habits of my bees are inherited from the selection, by skeppist methods, fifty years ago ... ?

Lewis Castleden, Dunmow, Essex

.....1995

Last time I wrote I mentioned the fact that my wife and I maintain 4 apiaries

round the southern part of the County. I also said that on one fine Sunday morning in the middle of March, the temperature had risen to 70 degrees Fahrenheit and I had been able to have a quick inspection of many of my hives. It's now April 20 and we have been able to inspect every colony. We have changed all the floors, crown boards and brood chambers; everything in sight has been internally blow-lamped whilst the exteriors have had a dose of green Cuprinol with a splash of black creosote added (I do this just to give my hives a bit of colour).

I knew that I had lost one of the hives in my back yard -it had gone into the autumn in a very weak condition and I should have amalgamated it with an adjacent colony but I was annoyed with myself over the condition of another hive that was located in one of the local Secondary Schools.

Many years ago, I was approached and asked if I would like to keep some hives in the school farmyard; the drawback was that the school already had some empty WBCs and the master responsible for Environmental Studies wanted these re-used. He thought it would be a waste of an asset if they were either chopped up for firewood (my suggestion) or stored in the farm shed. Using a piece of ingenuity, I found that a Modified Commercial brood chamber fitted perfectly inside the WBC lift so, quite simply, I removed all the WBC boxes and installed some of my Modified Commercials. Although I had fitted the usual sliding front door from the old WBC, during the winter a mouse managed to get inside. If you've never experienced trouble with mice, my advice is to make sure you fit proper mouse guards. The mess was something else and of course. I have lost a perfectly good colony.

Many years ago, Ted Hooper taught me how to make a Modified Commercial hive. Today all our beekeeping is centred around MCs and I have absolutely no regrets whatsoever. We have experimented with Nationals, WBCs et al and have also used the ordinary Commercial hive (i.e. bottom beespace) but have always found that the top bee space Commercial Hive best suited my style of beekeeping. Thanks for the advice, Ted.

When I drove over to the Divisional Out Apiary in the mid-March, you can imagine my surprise when I found the adjacent field in full bloom -rape, of course! Obviously the farmer had made a mistake! And every bee in the apiary knew about it! It will not come as a surprise if the crop is ploughed back in and re-sown, hopefully with spring rape! As I drove away, I noted that there were several fields of OSR that would soon be in bloom and several acres of field beans were within easy flying distance. Given some good weather, this apiary might produce decent quantities of honey this season.

Less than a mile away are the creeks of the Essex coastline and these have been known to give a late season crop of sea aster and/or sea lavender. We've found this to be a very light honey that crystallises relatively quickly.

Years ago, at the end of each season, we would place all extracted supers back on the hives so that my girls could clean out each and every frame. We were then able to store all frames "dry". As the number of colonies increased, this process has become a very much more time-consuming operation and we have

now taken to storing our supers "wet". In other words. we don't put the extracted frames back onto the hives. Right or wrong? I don't know, Perhaps the CBI would like to comment. Anyhow, we stack all our supers in old WBCs -a crown board on the bottom, then a super covered by a sheet of newspaper, then a good tablespoonful of PDB crystals, then another super, sheet of newspaper, more PDB and so on -eight Modified Commercial supers per WBC. Last of all is another crown board. I don't run sticky tape around each join although I have heard that some beekeepers actually do this. So far, I have never had a problem with wax moth outside the hive, As I mentioned earlier, wax moth does attack inside our hives where bees can't get at them. Another place where we have found wax moth is right at the entrance, The girls have thrown hive debris out of the front door and it has landed in between the brood chamber floor and the hive stand with the result that the wax moth has been able to lay an egg, The advantage in storing one's supers "wet" is that in the springtime the bees get straight up into them. Last September, those colonies which were very strong, I left on a queen excluder and one super. On re-visiting these hives this springtime, I noticed that they are still very strong colonies and, as at mid-April. they each have half-a-super of OSR honey, Can't be bad.

Essex Man

**The BBKA Exams and Assessments Explained
Part III The Basic Assessment
Jane Ridler, Examinations/Education Secretary**

The Basic Assessment of the BBKA is akin to the driving test, in that its achievement indicates a necessary competence rather than expertise and is a springboard from which to start to become a really efficient and knowledgeable beekeeper. Becoming an expert will probably take you the rest of your life!

There are many novice beekeepers in Essex after the huge increase of interest in the craft in recent years and the large number of beginners' courses set up in the Divisions during 2008 -10. If you attended a course in 2008 or 09 you are no longer a beginner and should be considering getting the basic qualification. As I said in my article last April, it isn't a trivial venture, but neither is it awe-inspiring. The assessor is pre-programmed to help you and whilst failure isn't impossible, it is statistically very unlikely. One of the main points of actually applying for the test is to focus the mind, do some preparation and research the gaps in your knowledge. Many divisions are providing sessions to prepare applicants this season, so do make use of them.

You'll need to have experience not only of nurturing your first colony through its first year, but also management of the bees as they consider swarming the next year and also some of the practical and legal requirements of honey production which may have eluded you in the first season. Probably at least 2 years of beekeeping is advised to breeze through the whole thing comfortably,

although the syllabus requirement is 'to have managed at least one colony for a minimum of 12 months.' (The full syllabus and details are available from the BBKA website www.britishbee.org.uk). Practical knowledge of frame making and a colony manipulation during an inspection will be tested on the day. The assessor will be watching (and discussing with you what you're doing at the hive – open, control, identify are key words. You'll also be asked questions on the biology of the bee, the natural life cycle of the colony and its management, e.g. artificial swarming, queenlessness or collecting a swarm as well as honey processing and hygiene. There's an important section on bee diseases, poisons and pests. The first thing you'll have to do is light up a smoker so that's well worth practising whilst nervous.

To apply for the Basic Assessment, you can download the form from the BBKA website or ask your Divisional Exam/Assessment Co-ordinator for one. Your application needs to be ratified by a well-qualified beekeeper (probably your trainer for your beginners' course, but discuss this with the coordinator). The Divisional coordinators are: - Braintree – Pat Rowland; Chelmsford – Jean Smye; Colchester – Derek Webber; Epping Forest – Ken Barker; Harlow – Mike Barke; Maldon & Dengie Hundred – Jean Smye; Romford – Eileen Marrable; Saffron Walden – Jane Ridler; Southend – Mary Heyes. Your completed form plus £15 cheque payable to BBKA will be forwarded by them to me and I will offer you one of the 4/5 dates for assessment this season, probably on a Saturday or Sunday. I'll also deal with admin for BBKA. You'll be invited to an apiary, hopefully not too far away from home and with types of hive that you're familiar with if possible (allowance is made if this can't be the case) and you won't be assessed by anyone who has trained you. The whole process is about an hour in length. The certificates are awarded at the end of the season at the EBKA Annual Conference and there is a special prize, The Miss Avey Award, £25, for the best Essex candidate each season.

Reminder for those wishing to enter for a Module Exam this year

The closing date for entries (direct to BBKA) is 10th February 2011. Please let me know if you are applying and wish to attend for examination in Hatfield Broad Oak. Coordinators please also let me know if you have enough candidates to set up a centre locally.



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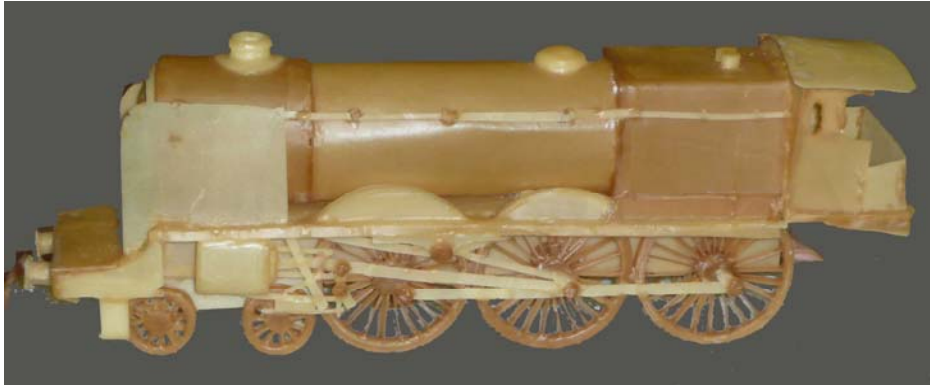
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**Martin Buckle
created these
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*photos taken by
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