


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), RM2 5EL. Most meetings have a speaker, topics may be about bees and beekeeping, but also related topics such as flowers, herbs, wildlife, etc.
- A **Beginners' Beekeeping** course is run every year. Sometimes courses on beekeeping-related topics, such as candlemaking, insects, pollen analysis, microscopy, etc, may be held. A modest charge is made.
- Occasionally a **Garden Meeting** 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.
- **Apiary Tour**, usually on a Saturday or 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 October, 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 (modest charge).
- **Shows** we may attend include the Eastbrookend Fair. Members can sell their honey and other products, with the Division taking a commission. Candle-rolling is always enjoyed by the children.
- **Hive building/frame making** session is held each year to help new and experienced beekeepers learn how to put the kit together.
- **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



Chairman: Jim McNeill 01708 765898
jimandliz44@aol.co.uk

Secretary: Pat Allen 01708 220897
pat.allen@btconnect.com

Website: www.essexbeekeepers.com

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, Ilford, Thurrock/Grays and Brentwood.

Romford Division was founded in 1932: 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
- mentoring beginner beekeepers and helping them to set up their first hive at reasonable 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.

After the course, the Division can help a new beekeeper in three ways:

Equipment:

Advice is given to the beginner beekeeper on buying the necessary equipment to get started, i.e. what to get and where from, and what will be needed during the first year of beekeeping. [Buying new is strongly advised because secondhand equipment often turns out to be less than the bargain it seemed, it may not be a complete set, and will certainly need careful sterilisation. New frames and wax will be needed in any case as old comb should never be used.]

Bees:

The new beekeeper is started as soon as possible with a small colony of bees (a 'nucleus').

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. Beginner beekeepers are also encouraged to get together with another beginner (Bee Buddy) to help each other out.

