

THE ESSEX BEEKEEPER



"Worker honey bee (apis mellifera): gently gathering late summer nectar"

Kent Honey Show 2011: First prize winning photograph taken by Paul F Abbott

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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.

October and November 2011

- 1 Oct. *Saturday 9.00am-4.30pm* **EBKA Annual Conference** at Barleylands Centre Bille-ricay Essex CM11 2UD.
- 6 Oct. *Thursday 7.30pm* **Harlow** at Kings Church Red Willow. Winter Protection & 2012 Program with Geoff Mills and David Tyler.
- 7 Oct. *Friday 8.00pm* **Romford** Chadwick Hall, Main Road, Gidea Park. 'To bee or not to bee', a talk by Tony Gunton.
- 8 Oct. *Saturday 2.00pm* **Dengie Hundred and Maldon** Mundon Victory Hall. 'Well it works for me'. An exchange of ideas on most beekeeping subjects.
- 15 Oct. *Saturday 2.30pm* **Romford** at St Mary's Church. Honey Show, judged by Geoff Mills. Entries must be submitted between 1.00 and 2.00pm.
Saturday 5.30pm **Romford** Annual Supper.
- 17 Oct. *Monday 7.30pm* **Chelmsford** Link Hall Methodist Church, Rainsford Road, Chelmsford CM1 2XB. Richard Ridler Chair of the CEC will talk about the work of EBKA and BBKA..
- 20 Oct. *Thursday 7.30pm* **Epping Forest** at Chingford Horticultural Hall Larkshall Rd, London E4 6NH. Beekeepers question time with Oonagh Gabriel.
- 23 Oct. *Sunday 2.00pm* **Saffron Walden** at the home of Jane and Richard Ridler Hatfield Broad Oak CM22 7HE. 'Making and Selling Honey and Beeswax Soap— Demonstration'
- 26 Oct. *Wednesday 7.30pm* **Southend** at Women's Institute Hall, Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh. Film night: 'The Monk and the Honeybee', a film about Brother Adam and the Buckfast 'superbee'.
- 27 Oct. *Thursday 7.30pm* **Colchester** at Langham Community Centre. A Bee Inspector will give a talk.
- 27-29 Oct. **National Honey Show** held at St George's College Weybridge, Surrey KT15 2QS
- 28 Oct.. *Friday 8.00pm* **Braintree** at the Constitutional Club CM7 1TY . To be confirmed.
- 3 Nov. *Thursday 7.30pm* **Harlow** at Kings Church Red Willow. Processing beeswax and products of the hive.
- 4 Nov. *Friday 8.00pm* **Romford** Chadwick Hall, Main Road, Gidea Park. Beekeeping quiz with Quizmaster Jim McNeill.
- 11 Nov. *Friday 7.00pm* **Chelmsford** Divisional Fish and Chip Supper. Please contact Ian Grant on 01277 652855 for tickets.
- 12 Nov. *Saturday 2.00pm* **Dengie Hundred and Maldon** Mundon Victory Hall. My Partner is a beekeeper. A light-hearted afternoon (we hope). What do our partners really think about ... ? Plus mince pies and seasonal treats with a little tippie.

- 17 Nov. *Thursday 7.30pm* **Epping Forest** at Chingford Horticultural Hall Larkshall Rd, London E4 6NH. Presentation by Stuart Baldwin on 'Bees and their Products in Art and Artifact'.
- 17 Nov. *Thursday 7.00pm* **Colchester** at Balkerne Restaurant Colchester Institute Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3LL Annual Dinner. For menu and booking please contact Lydia Geddes: 01206 392226, lydia.geddes@btinternet.com.
- 25 Nov. *Friday 8.00pm* **Braintree** at the Constitutional Club CM7 1TY. To be confirmed.
- 30 Nov. *Wednesday 7.30pm* **Southend** at Women's Institute Hall, Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh. Eileen Marrable is giving a talk on Nosema, followed by a session looking for evidence of the spores in dead bees.

County Pheromones Richard Ridler (Chairman)

As our season comes to an end I imagine you will be wondering what you can do to continue and develop your beekeeping interests during the winter period. We need our newer members to play their part in leading our association. We particularly need to make sure we are providing what our newer members (those who joined in the last three years and who outnumber the rest of us) need and want. Several of our newer members have already taken up the challenge, for example some have become trustees and contribute strongly to the CEC. But we need more. We need more members on the honey show committee, all divisional committees need new blood etc etc. Think about it now; talk to your divisional committee members; help us make the EBKA an even better association.

Beekeeping Success

Paul Abbott had success at the Kent Honey Show at Maidstone. His Rayleigh honey, beeswax, & photographs all won first prizes, He won first prize for 6 Jars of one type of Honey, one comb of honey for extraction, and for his mounted colour print photograph. He was also awarded two second prizes, a very highly commended, highly commended and a commended. For such success he was awarded the Kent Agricultural Society's Trophy as "the Beekeeper with the highest points in the main classes at the Kent County Beekeeping Exhibition & Honey Show This trophy has been awarded annually since 1948.

Well done Paul!

**A Conversation with Willie H Smith (part 2)
Which appeared in the Scottish Beekeeper February 2011 (courtesy of
EBees)**

The first part of this article appeared in the July issue-Ed.

Willie Robson writes:

This tape was made by my father because he didn't think that Willie Smith was given enough credit for what he had achieved. Willie Smith was a despatch rider in the first war in France. Thereafter he became a chauffeur for Mr. Ballantyne, a mill owner in Innerleithen.

Mr Ballantyne encouraged Willie to keep bees during the daytime when he wasn't needed as a driver. I would imagine he would have cottage hives and as he wished to be a progressive beekeeper he designed a new hive which was the British Standard dimensions to the American pattern. The hive was very cheap to make being four pieces of wood only. He went for top bee space as this prevented the box above coming into contact with the lugs of the frames below allowing the box to be tipped up and inspections made for queen cells thus the frames in the bottom box were not dislodged by the upward force and no bees were crushed. This would be a problem with metal ends which were used at that time but would diminish with the introduction of Hoffman frames. The only drawback of the Smith hive is the poor handholds and a deep box weighs 70 lb when filled. His hives were made of close grained white pine and painted with white lead paint as in the American tradition. We still have one at home.

In the spring Willie put on a brood chamber of frames from which the heather honey had been scraped. Peebles is a late area and this provided a huge boost for the bees. Readers may know of the American tradition to provide pollen patties in the spring. Willie's method amounted to the same thing. Thereafter the queen had three boxes to work in and I suspect the bottom box would be largely brood free providing ventilation and some considerable control of swarming. If they did build cells he would find the queen and make an artificial swarm. It wouldn't be easy to find the queen in three boxes although their wings would be clipped and the queen marked. At a certain date the queen would be put down into the bottom two boxes. This is known as contraction.

Sometimes the queens built cells in July out of frustration due to unsettled weather. This provided him with huge problems as he needed to keep the bees together. It meant going through every hive and shaking the bees off the combs and removing the cells until the bees lost interest in swarming. By this time the hives were very powerful and Willie only had a net veil and bare hands. This is unimaginably difficult work. On one occasion ROB Manley and AW Gale of Marlborough visited Willie during the summer and my father got them off the train. When they arrived at the apiary they were attacked by bees and Willie could not be found. Needless to say he had retreated into the bushes. In days gone by when protective gear was rudimentary in the extreme it was very common for beekeepers to retreat into the undergrowth to get rid of followers.

On that day the bees were not out of hand, just extremely peppery. This caused a good deal of amusement. I remember being at a demonstration at Kelso where the bees belonged to Alec Cossar, another exceptional beekeeper. On that day Willie Smith was speaking and a bee flew into his mouth and stung him on the tongue. He barely interrupted his speech. People were more than impressed.

His mode of attire was a heavy tweed suit and waistcoat, collar and tie and a light net veil on the brim of his hat. He was a very big strong man and worked 120 hives single handed. I cannot think that he moved many about especially as he worked double brood chambers and very often two brood chambers on top as supers. In Peebleshire at that time the bell heather came nearly to the valley bottom with the ling on the tops. Permanent sites therefore made a great deal of sense. Since then Peebleshire has suffered from afforestation on a massive scale. It would be difficult to run that honey farm in that area nowadays.

When the supers of heather honey were brought home he scraped the honey from the frames into muslin bags and pressed it. His target was 5 cwt. a day. Thereafter the jars of heather honey were put into warm water baths and sold as clear heather honey with air bells.

The grocer in Innerleithen dressed the complete shop window with his honey. This was often photographed.

His honey house was on the banks of the River Leithen and as I remember was hexagonal in shape. My father persuaded him to give a talk at a conference in Northumberland and he had to sit through a lecture given by somebody who did not know what he was talking about. This made him extremely annoyed and as he had a heart condition my father got him pushed away round the corner before he could confront the chap. Willie was extremely intolerant of people who didn't know their job.

My father was brought up in a beekeeping family. His grandfather had 60 skeps but he was trained as an agricultural botanist. He joined the Edinburgh College to teach beekeeping in 1949 and as they had only kept cottage hives he needed to learn about progressive management. Thus he and Willie Smith became great friends.

Willie's bees would be selected from the local strain and yet ROB Manley wrote to my father saying he had never encountered such powerful colonies. This spoke volumes for Willie Smith's ability and the plentiful flora in that locality at that time. I remember them talking about queens going into their fifth year before they were replaced.

George Hood (East Lothian beekeeper) got some of his bees when Willie retired and the rest were taken over by George Lunn who was an apiarist at the college.

George Hood retained an apiary in Peebleshire and the bees are still there. I heard recently that some of Willie's hives had been burned by gamekeepers because they had become neglected which is sad.

I also heard very recently that Brother Adam's hives have been burned although no hives last for ever.

Beekeeping tips No. 9—Preparation for Winter by Pollinator

Having completed the feeding of your honeybees by the end of September it is time to think about Winter protection for your hives. The hazards likely to be encountered are (a) hive roofs blown off (b) hives blown over or knocked over by cattle or flood water (c) woodpeckers and, if the weather is still mild, (d) wasps (e) ageing hive stands.

High winds can blow off shallow roofs quite easily, and you don't need a tornado to do it, whereas deep roofs, 15 cm or more, usually stay on. In any event a brick or two on the hive roof will help stop this.

It is prudent to not store supers above the brood chamber crown board throughout Winter months as gusts of wind can blow them off and even blow the hives over. A number of beekeepers put wet supers back on the hives and over the hole used for Porter escapes and are tempted to leave them there. It is best to store them separately in the apiary or bring them home in the case of an out apiary once they are dry.

Woodpeckers, usually the green ones, make holes in the hive woodwork during periods of frost when their normal food (ants and chafer grubs) in the ground is inaccessible because of hard frost. Sometimes these holes are large enough to allow later access for rats and other vermin and further damage then occurs. In most cases the bees seem to survive the woodpecker attacks but do succumb to vermin.

If your apiary is on the edge of woodland and under trees it is prudent to cut off boughs that may later blow against the hives. Any fencing supports should also be examined in order to make sure cattle or other animals cannot get near enough to rub themselves against the hives.

Protection against woodpeckers can be achieved by making a cage of wire netting to place over the hive so that it is completely covered. A couple of bricks on the roof will stop the netting touching the roof and thereby prevent the woodpecker making a hole through the roof. Alternatively, sheets of plastic can be pinned around the hive. Do not leave it to flap against the hive as this could disturb the bees.

Woodpeckers have been known to make holes in the wooden floor from underneath. However, it is a small risk that could be avoided by standing the hive on a metal sheet, or over wintering on a mesh floor; or just putting a mesh floor underneath the wooden floor.

Flooding of apiaries can occur but the likelihood of it affecting the hives is minimised if they are on stands 40 cm (16") high. Damage is more likely in the Summer with flash flooding and it has been known for brood chambers to be flooded and the queen survived by the fact that there was a space of roughly 5 cm below the queen excluder that contained air. It is surprising, perhaps, that bees seem to tolerate such adverse conditions.

Wasps are a problem from the end of July until the end of November and they try to get into the hives through the entrance block if you are a beekeeper who keeps the entrance blocks in the year around. With the entrance block in position the access for bees and wasps is via a long slot or a short slot ... the choice being made by rotating the entrance block through 90°. Alternatively, you may be using a Gilbert Louvre (See other article on this). Even so, this entrance may need to be reduced further by the insertion of a small piece of plastic foam (rubber foam) so that a smaller entrance can be properly defended. The overall consideration is to match the entrance to the strength of the colony. A nucleus requires just room enough for one or two bees at a time to enter. It takes something like four honeybees to keep a common wasp out. Wasp traps should be kept adjacent to the hives until the first frosts.

Ageing hive stands can become unstable if the legs rot and it is advisable to check these before the winter gales.

National Honey Show **Jim McNeill**

National Honey Show – St Georges College, Weybridge, Surrey
27th to 29th October 2011

A bit of history

In 1874 Thomas Cowan and Charles Abbot founded the British Beekeepers Association and in the same year, Abbot (who clearly had a lot of spare time on his hands) was a key person in the development of a honey show at the 'Crystal Palace' in London. Honey shows became regular events there. The Crystal Palace was an amazing building made from cast iron and glass, more than a third of a mile long, over 100 feet high and had a footprint of almost 100,000 square feet. It was originally built in Hyde Park to house the Great Exhibition of 1851. This was one of the first World Fairs, promoting culture and industry. After the exhibition, the whole building was dismantled and moved to Sydenham Hill in south London where it remained until 1936 when it was destroyed by fire.

The National Honey Show we know today began in 1923 when Kent and Surrey BKA's, who had held two joint shows at Crystal Palace in 1921 and 1922, decided to make the show a national event. Unfortunately the 1936 fire destroyed all the show equipment. The organisers had to start from scratch as someone forgot to check the insurance policy and there was no cover! As the show grew, more space was required and in recent times it has moved to a variety of locations in and around London. Every year the show benches are packed with the very best examples of our craft and a walk around them is an instant education. Want to know what chunk honey should look like? Want to see how perfect a block of wax can be? This is the place. Competition is tough. Entries come mainly from UK but many classes are open to the world and the world's best ship in their honey and wax. Anyone who wins an open class can be sure that their

work is of the very highest standard.

This year the show will be bigger than ever. The trade stands will all be together in a brightly lit hall and there will be a proper lecture theatre with tiered seating. A full programme of workshops and lectures with world class speakers will run during the show and there will be a wide selection of equipment and books to buy.

If you would like to read more about the National Honey Show and its history have a look at the website www.honeyshow.co.uk.

Jim McNeill adds:

Why not support your county at the National Honey Show this year. There are 243 classes, so you must be able to find a few that you could enter, whether it's honey, cooking, wax, sowing, photography, mead, inventions, story writing, designing a label, model making. Also there is a competition class for schools—does your local school want to enter this class?

I know you are all getting honey ready for the county show so why not put some aside for the biggest show of them all THE NATIONAL HONEY SHOW. There are about 25 different judges, so if you don't win at county shows you can still win here—so don't be put off.

I will take your entries up and bring them back for you. They need to be packed fairly tightly as there are a few speed humps and pot holes on the journey. Please do not put two jars in a biscuit tin because the rattle will get on my nerves—try and think off me!

I will collect any prize money if you cannot get to the show. But I would urge you to visit the event as it is a good day out—there are big money prizes, (a prize card can help with your sales); there are lectures and workshops going on every day (check the show schedule to see what's on). If you need a copy of the show schedule (available in August) please contact Sandra Rickwood: E-mailsrhoneyshow@googlemail.com Or tel. 020 33 55 8716.

Essex has a section of it's own. It would be nice to see it full. We all know Essex honey is the best (!) and so competing with honey from other parts of the world should ensure we let others realise that Essex honey is best.

When the M25 car park is running it's an easy venue to find, with unlimited free parking. There is a good restaurant which is not too expensive, All the major appliance manufactures are there so you can see all the bits and pieces your bees would like and which would make your life easier. You might even like to buy some fancy jars to help with your sales.

Jim McNeill, National honey show delegate

Ps. if you have any problems just ring me on 01708 765898.

For Sale—WBC lifts.

Treated and repainted with 2 coats of white barn paint. £10 each
Telephone Deryck Johnson 01799 527773. (Saffron Walden).

From British Bee Journal 1 June 1881, with the Prize Schedule

Taken from <http://www.archive.org/details/britishbeejourna8182lond>

ADVERTISEMENTS TO THE BRITISH BEE JOURNAL. [June 1, 1881.

CALEDONIAN APIARIAN SOCIETY.

INSTITUTED 28th OCTOBER, 1874.

Hon. President . . . THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF ROSEBURY.

THE Society will hold its EIGHTH ANNUAL SHOW of BEES, HIVES, and HONEY, at STIRLING, in connexion with the HIGHLAND and AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF SCOTLAND'S SHOW, on the 26th, 27th, 28th, and 29th of July.

The following is the PRIZE SCHEDULE:—

B E E S.

NOTE.—No article, on any condition, will be allowed to be removed from the Class during the Show, but a separate space will be allotted for the exhibition and sale of Bee-keepers' Appliances.

- 1 For the best Hive for observation purposes, all Combs to be visible on both sides, stocked with Bees and their Queen . . . Highland and Agricultural Society's Silver Medal. Silver Medal. Bronze Medal.
 *2 For the best Stock of Cyprian, Ligurian, or any other Foreign Bees . . . Silver Medal.† Bronze Medal.

* The Bees to be exhibited living with their Queen in Observatory Hives. All combs to be visible on both sides.

† This Prize is given by the British Bee-keepers' Association.

H I V E S.

All Hives to be fitted with Guides ready for use.

- 3 For the best Bar-frame Hive on the Moveable Comb principle, with Cover and Stand complete, stocked with Bees and their Queen, showing Super arrangements in full operation, or Duplicate Hive . . . Silver Medal. Bronze Medal. Certificate.

NOTE.—Exhibitors in Classes 4, 6, and 8, must prefix a Note stating the points these Exhibits possess.

- 4 For the best Moveable Comb Hive. This Hive must be exhibited in duplicate, firstly for Summer use, with facilities for harvesting Honey; secondly, with arrangements for Wintering. Silver Medal. Bronze Medal. Certificate.

- 5 For the best and most perfect Bar-frame Hive, with Super, or set of Sectional Supers, and Cover complete . . . Silver Medal. Bronze Medal. Small Bronze Medal.

- *6 For the best Frame Hive for general use—the work of an Amateur or Cottager. Silver Medal. Bronze Medal. Certificate.

- *7 For the Four best New Inventions or Improvements in Hives . . . Silver Medal. Bronze Medal. Certificate.

Carpenters and Hive-dealers are not allowed to compete in this Class.

* Duplicate Hives may be exhibited for the purposes of explanation, without any Entrance Fee being charged. In Class 7, the Judges shall exercise their discretion as to whether a less number than Four are of sufficient merit to warrant a Prize.

- 8 For the best Straw Hive of any description 5/0 2/6

COMB FOUNDATION.

- 9 For the best sample of Comb Foundation made of pure bees' wax, to consist of 5 lbs. thick (Worker Cells) for Stock Hive, and 5 lbs. thin, for Supers, manufactured in the United Kingdom, with price per pound attached at which the Exhibitor is willing to supply any quantity ... Silver Medal. 5/0 2/6
- 10 For the best two Samples of Wax, in cakes of not less than 1 lb. each ... 7/6 5/0 2/6

HONEY.

Quality to be taken into consideration.

- 11 For the best Two Supers, above 20 lbs. each ... 20/0 10/0 5/0
- 12 For the best Super above 20 lbs. ... 15/0 10/0 5/0
- 13 For the best Super above 10 lbs. and under 20 lbs. ... 10/0 5/0 2/6
- 14 For the best Exhibition of Super Honey from one Apiary ... 15/0 10/0 5/0
- 15 For the best Super of Honey, not being Sectional Supers. The Super to be of wood, straw, or of wood in combination with glass or straw ... 7/6 — —
- 16 For the best Glass Super of Honey ... 12/6 7/6 5/0
- 17 For the best Twenty-four 2-lb. Sections of Comb Honey ... 10/0 5/0 —
- 18 For the best Twenty-four 1-lb. Sections of Comb Honey ... 10/0 5/0 —
- 19 For the best Twelve 2-lb. Sections of Comb Honey ... 10/0 5/0 —
- 20 For the best Twelve 1-lb. Sections of Comb Honey ... 10/0 5/0 —
- 21 For the best Exhibition of Run or Extracted Honey, in twenty-four 2-lb. glass jars ... 7/6 5/0 —
- 22 For the best Exhibition of Run or Extracted Honey, in twenty-four 1-lb. glass jars ... 7/6 5/0 —

COMESTIBLES.

- 23 For the best Liqueur or Wine made from Honey, with recipe attached (not less than two quarts); age of Wine to be given ... Silver Medal. Bronze Medal. Certificate.
- 24 For the best Mead or Beer made from Honey, with recipe attached (not less than two quarts) Small Silver Medal. Small Bronze Medal. Certificate.
- 25 For the best Cakes made with Honey, with recipe attached (not less than 2 lbs.) Silver Medal. Bronze Medal. Certificate.

The Samples to which 1st Prize is awarded, in Classes 23, 24, and 25, shall become the property of the Society, to be used at the Judges' Dinner.

**The Bee Inspector visits again
Howard Gilbert**

In the March 2011 issue of Essex Beekeeper I explained that I had been chosen to take part in the Random Apiary Survey (RAS). This survey, according to FERA,

'has been designed to detect the presence of Pests and Diseases (P&D) in a representative sample of UK apiaries. The number of apiaries that need to be in the survey to make sure that it is sufficiently thorough for our purposes has been agreed with Fera's statisticians, and will allow the detection of even very low P&D incidence with a high level of confidence (99% probability of detecting a single infected colony in every 1,000 colonies sampled). During the course of the survey, apiaries will be selected on a random basis from BeeBase, the NBU's managed online database for UK beekeepers, with stratification to ensure adequate regional coverage and to take account of apiary size. During the second year, sampling will also seek to include a ran-

full range of pests and diseases affecting honey bees, with the exception of Varroa. This will be noted as part of the general apiary inspection to be completed in parallel and reported as part of the survey. A survey of this magnitude has not been attempted anywhere else in the world, so data handling and timely presentation of results will be a challenge. However, Fera hope to publish the full results upon completion of the analysis in Summer 2011.'

My bees were tested in September 2010 and partial results are now available to me. The results are secure and can only be viewed by me. However, I am prepared to share these results. The results of the Pathogen Screening shows that the sample of bees are clear of nosema ceranae, deformed wing virus, chronic bee paralysis, slow paralysis virus and Israeli acute paralysis virus. Results still pending are the for Nosema apis, acarine, Kashmir bee virus, black queen cell bee virus, sacbrood virus, acute bee paralysis and apis iridescence virus. So far so good. I will keep you informed of the remaining results when they become available.

An important benefit of being registered with Beebase is that I receive notification when a notifiable diseases have been confirmed within 5km of my apiaries. I had received such a notification on 13 July and another notification on 12 August that European foulbrood had been confirmed within 5km of my apiary. This meant that two other apiaries had European foulbrood present. I checked my colonies after the July and August notifications and as far as I could see foulbrood was not present. On 31 August I received a call from Sandra Gray, a seasonal bee inspector for Suffolk, asking if she could inspect my colonies to see if they were suffering from Foulbrood. She explained that Peter Heath is the Inspector for my area but she was assisting him as I live near the Suffolk border. My initial reaction was that I could check myself for such diseases and my anti-paternalist nature kicked in. Also, my bees had been inspected last year and now they wanted to inspect them again! But very quickly I realised that it is much better to have an expert check my bees for Foulbrood so arranged for her to visit the next day.

My bees were inspected yesterday, 1 September, and my colonies are free from Foulbrood. Sandra Gray was very helpful answering my questions and was very supportive and considerate in her approach.

Based on my experiences, I would recommend all beekeepers to register their apiaries on Beebase. Also, there is now a facility for each beekeeper, once registered, to record their own inspections of their colonies. A very useful function.

To register your apiary go to

<https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/beebase/index.cfm>

Colony Inspections and Foulbrood Disease in Essex FERA results

	2011	2010	2009	2008
County Colonies Inspected	850	1203	1529	1131
Colonies Inspected which were dead	51	106	128	114
No. of colonies destroyed after diagnosis of AFB	0	0	0	0
No. of colonies diagnosed positive for EFB †	12	5	15	24
No. of colonies destroyed after diagnosis of EFB ‡	8	3	2	9
No. of colonies treated with antibiotic after diagnosis of EFB ‡	2	1	4	9
No. of colonies treated with shook swarm after diagnosis of EFB ‡ 0	1	1	7	6
No. of colonies sampled but laboratory diagnosis negative	0	0	0	0
Percent of inspected colonies which had AFB	0	0	0	0
Percent of inspected colonies which had EFB	1.41	0.42	0.98	2.12

Colony Inspections and Foulbrood Disease in Essex

Info taken <https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/beebase/public/BeeDiseases/colonyReport.cfm?year=2008>

Please note that the figure for colony loss (number of colonies inspected found dead) early in the year must be considered in context. Inspectors will initially visit apiaries with known disease issues or reported colony loss. The data is therefore skewed towards higher proportions of losses early in the year.

† - This figure may include colonies diagnosed but not yet treated.

‡ - This figure may include contact colonies which have a negative diagnosis but which are treated on request of the beekeeper.



**Box House
Beekeeping
Supplies**

Located in East Bergholt - For the local supply of hives, frames and foundation, tools and other equipment for keeping bees.

[Box House, Gandish Road, East Bergholt, Suffolk CO7 6TP](http://www.box-bees.co.uk)

(Open by arrangement - please email or telephone Paul White to discuss your requirements)
www.box-bees.co.uk email: sales@box-bees.co.uk or telephone 01206 299658 or 07768

634038

Joke
Sent in by Stuart Baldwin

A bloke starts his new job at the zoo and is given three tasks. First is to clear the exotic fish pool of weeds. As he does this a huge fish jumps out and bites him. To show who is boss, he beats it to death with a spade. Realising his employer won't be best pleased he disposes of the fish by feeding it to the lions, as lions will eat anything.

Moving on to the second job of clearing out the Chimp house, he is attacked by the chimps who pelt him with coconuts. He swipes at two chimps with a spade killing them both. What can he do? Feed them to the lions, he says to himself, because lions eat anything. He hurls the corpses into the lion enclosure.

He then moves on to the last job which is to collect honey from the South American Bees. As soon as he starts he is attacked by the bees. He grabs the spade and smashes the bees to a pulp. By now he knows what to do and shovels them into the lions' cage because lions eat anything.

Later that day a new lion arrives at the zoo. He wanders up to a resident lion and asks "What's the food like here?"

The lions say: "Absolutely brilliant.

Today we had Fish and Chimps with Mushy Bees."

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