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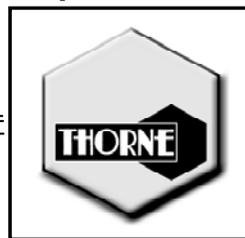
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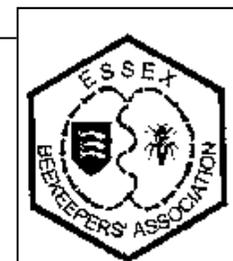
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# THE ESSEX beekeeper



MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF THE E.B.K.A

**NO:525**

EBKA website [www.ebka.org](http://www.ebka.org)

**SEPTEMBER  
2008**

*Registered Charity number 1031419*



## The National Honey Show 2008- Report by Terry Watson, Romford Division.

The 77th National Honey Show is from 30th October until 1st November at St. George's College, Weybridge, Surrey. KT15 2QS.

The Show Schedule will be out shortly and it is well worth entering for the prestige of a prize card from The National Honey Show. There is also prize money to be had, most classes pay, first prize £6, second £4. and third £2. The biggest prize class 1, for 24 jars of honey, first prize, £50.

Jim McNeill has offered to take entries for ant member of EBKA to the show and collect entries and winnings after the show, *all you have to do is get them to Jim. His telephone number is 01708 765898.*

*Entries must be registered with the National Honey show by Friday 26th September.*

(Please support both the Honey Shows. The National Honey Show costs the County quite a substantial sum of money and it would be great if ESSEX won prizes there...Ed.)

### EBKA Display Boards

Two sets of display boards are available For Divisions to borrow for Shows, etc.

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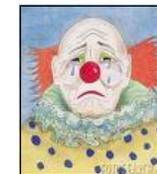
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competitive prices.*

## EDITORIAL

A big thank you to the beekeepers who have helped me this month, with photos and copy, it is very much appreciated. In future we will be trying something different, to ease the load. Howard Gilbert from Colchester division, will be entering the articles etc. starting with the October edition and I will still be collating the articles for him. Sorry this is all there is room for this month. hoping to see you all at the shows.. Ann Tillbrook

### NB>.2 errors in the Essex Show Schedule, as follows:-

- 1). Class 25 missed out. = **Raisin & Honey Scones.**
- 2). Amount of honey in honey butter filling missed. = **1 tablespoon (15ml) Honey.**



### AUGUST SATURDAY 30th SAFFRON WALDEN BEE SAFARI

This will be a short visit around three neighbouring apiaries in the vicinity of Saffron Walden.

Starting at Craig Hiron's in Clavering, at 2pm. Please see August edition of Walden Bee News for details or ring Ridler's on 01279 718111.

### HELP WANTED, PLEASE for THE ESSEX HONEY SHOW

Setting up on Thursday 11th September, about 11am.

At least 4 members from each division on both days -

**Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th September  
@  
Barleylands**

To man the various activities for half a day. All helpers will be issued with free entry tickets, but need to arrive before 9am. A light lunch will be available.

#### SHOW ENTRIES:

**Lets top last years total of over 200 entries. All entries very welcome.**

**Gardens for the marquee entrance last year, were from Romford and Southend.....How about the other divisions adding to the display?**

Please apply to Essex Show member or your Division.

**SEPTEMBER 2008**

**BRAINTREE** Sun.14th.3pm.Maurice Bacon's Apiary. "Autumn Feeding"  
Tel: 01376 583812

**CHELMSFORD** Mon.7.30.-9pm.Trinity Hall, Methodist Church,  
Rainsford Road, Chelmsford.

**COLCHESTER** Hosts for the Essex Beekeepers Annual Conference.  
20th September ... see notice on page.7.

**DH & MALDON** Sat.13th. Divisional BBQ - 42, Mill Road Burnham  
RSVP. Nan Tel: 01632 773297

**EPPING FOREST** Sat.13th. Epping Forest division Annual Honey Show  
Centenary Hall St.John's church ,High Road, Buckhurst Hill.  
All Welcome. contact: Peter Clark: 02085211533.

**HARLOW** Thurs.4th.7.45pm. Kings Church, Red Willows.

**ROMFORD** Friday.5th.8pm. Mock Honey Show by Terry Watson.

**SAFFRON WALDON** No Meeting

**SOUTHEND** Wed.7.30pm. Hawkwell Village Hall, Main Road,  
Hawkwell..Talk by David Blackwood, 'Portrait of a Honey  
bee'

**ESSEX ANNUAL HONEY SHOW**

@

**BARLEYLANDS**

**SAT .13th & SUN.14th SEPTEMBER**

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE 20TH  
SEPTEMBER 2008**

CEC Meeting Thursday 25th September .7.30pm. at Trinity Hall Methodist

**Central Executive Committee 31/7/08: Summary**

**1 Events**

Two County events will take place in **September**.

- First, the **Essex Honey Show (13th & 14th)** at Barleylands where we hope most beekeepers will participate and enter honey or honey products and provide items for sale. Your Divisional Secretaries should have all the relevant details, with free entry wrist bands for those helping for half a day, and you should all have received a schedule.

- Secondly, Colchester Division will be hosting the **County Conference (Saturday 20th)**. Do come along, and please book early to give Colchester a chance to plan ahead.

**2 Exams & Assessments**

We have done well, with around 30 persons taking the Basic Assessment and one the General Husbandry. Those of you who have successfully taken any examinations or assessments, will receive their certificates at the conference.

**3 Research Grants**

- The CEC agreed to fund a PhD student for four years at £500 per year, looking into the chemical interactions between Varroa and the honeybee, supervised by Dr Giles Budge of the CSL and Dr Stephen Martin of Sheffield University. This is part of an Eastern Region initiative.

- The BBKA is looking to raise money for its 'fighting fund' for more research. The CEC has pledged £100 and hope to add to this by voluntary subscription.

**4 Disease Training**

Three members from Essex attended a course at CSL run by Andy Wattam on disease and their report is in *The Essex Beekeeper*. They found the course most useful.

**5 Website**

The new website group is to meet in September.

**6 National Honey Show**

Essex is a member of the National Honey Show and has voting rights. Terry Watson is our delegate, so bring any issues to him (01708 747235, terencewatson@aol.com). We pay the NHS £168 in prize money for the Essex classes. If this money is not awarded, due to not enough entries or prizes, the money remains with the NHS. To get the benefit of this money please enter the show and win. Jim McNeill has agreed to take up any exhibits (01708 765898).

**Contacts:**

chair@ebka.org, treasurer@ebka.org or via your Trustee.

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## THE ESSEX BEEKEEPERS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**20th September 2008.  
The Langham Community Centre  
Langham, Near Colchester.**

**Hosted by Colchester Division of EBKA.**

### **SPEAKERS:**

**Selwyn Wilkins - DEFRA**

**Professor Ted Benton - Bumblebees  
Essex Wildlife Trust - A Treat in Store  
We look forward to seeing you all here.**

### **EBKA to Fund Varroa Research**

EBKA has committed £500/a for the next four years to part fund a PhD studentship to investigate the chemical interactions between Varroa and the honey bee. The principle aim will be to investigate the effect of viral diseases on honeybee recognition systems and how these are exploited by Varroa. Specifically the studentship aims to (1) understand how Varroa mites are able avoid detection by their honeybee hosts; (2) to investigate the interactions between, viral diseases, honeybee recognition cues and mite feeding behaviour.

The CEC felt that the threat of Varroa and its possible link to colony collapse disorder was so vital to us all that this was something you would all support doing.

The work will be supervised by the National Bee Unit and Sheffield University. Our funding together with sums from other beekeeping associations in the eastern region is essential to trigger government funding of six times as much.

Once the research is underway then hopefully we will be able to publish progress reports in the Essex Beekeeper.

Richard Ridler

### OCTOBER 2008

- BRAINTREE** **Friday 31st.8pm.** Constitutional Club. Gt.Sq. Braintree Wildlife & Conservation Management. Talk by Mr.P. Beale.
- CHELMSFORD** **Mon.20th.7.30.-9pm.** Trinity Hall Methodist Church Rainsford Rd.Chelmsford. Introducing the Virtual Hive.
- COLCHESTER** .
- DH & MALDON** **Sat.11th.** Video session & 'look at our library books' -Venue tba - RSVP: Nan, 01632 773297.
- EPPING FOREST** **Thurs.16th. 7.30pm.for 8pm.**Chingford Horticultural Hall, Larkshall Rd.,Chingford, London.E.4.'Microscopy
- HARLOW** **Thurs.2nd. at 7.45pm.** Kings Church, Red Willows.
- ROMFORD** **Sat.18th.2.30pm. St.Mark's Church.HONEY SHOW** (Judging). Judge Oonagh Gabriel - entries in, please, between 1pm.&2.15pm....followed by.....**5.30pm.for6pm. Annual Supper.**
- SAFFRON WALDON** **Wed.29th.8pm.** Social evening, By kind permission of Jane & Richard Ridler at Rundle House, Hatfield Broad Oak...CM22 7HE. Bring along your favourite literary 'Bee extracts', to share.
- SOUTHEND** **Wed.22nd.7.30pm.** Hawkwell Village Hall, Main Road, Hawkwell.. Ann Cushion & Sarah Vickery.
- NATIONAL HONEY SHOW - Thurs.30th October to Saturday 1st November**  
**Weybridge Surrey.**  
**Thursday.30th October. 2pm - 6pm.**  
**Friday 31st.October.9.30am - 6pm**  
**Saturday 1st November.9.30am - 4.45pm.**

Young Beekeepers at Epping Forest Division

## NHS Workshops 2008

### Thursday

PM 3.00 Preparing honey for the show bench  
Peter Schollick winner of 6 trophies at NHS in 2007

PM 3.00 How to prepare a perfect piece of Commercial wax  
Dr Stephen Case-Green

### Friday

AM 11.00 How to prepare the perfect photograph  
Claire Waring

AM 11.00

PM 2.30 Preparing Granulated and Set honey Judge Mary Hill

PM 2.30 Introduction to beekeeping John Hendrie

### Saturday

AM 10.00 Making toiletries Dr Sara Robb

AM 11.00 Preparing honey for the show bench - The art of displays  
Jill Tinsley

PM 12.30 Introduction to beekeeping Chris Deaves

Spaces in all workshops will be limited and as a result anyone wishing to take part must book in advance. Please therefore see the NHS schedule (available August) for booking arrangements.

Please contact Sandra Rickwood:

E-mail: [srhoneyshow@googlemail.com](mailto:srhoneyshow@googlemail.com) or Tel: 01932 244326

to join and obtain a copy of the Show Schedule.

## More Pictures from Gt.Saling



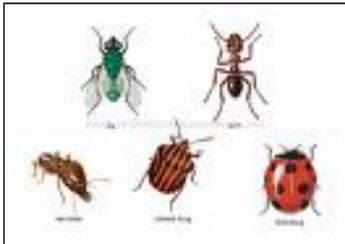
### National Insect Week

Saffron Walden Division joined forces with Saffron Walden Museum to promote the Royal Entomological Society's National Insect week at the end of June. The museum has an excellent natural history department and they organised a special display for the week with many activities involving insects. Participating children received bright yellow pencils and butterfly identification charts.

With all the current interest in honeybees, we were invited to contribute and were able to put up our display boards, miniature hive, virtual hive and the day to day equipment of a beekeeper. We also supplied some take way fact sheets about bees and a 'what-to-do-if you- have-a-swarm' advice sheet.

On the Saturday we had an observation hive in the grounds and this aroused a good deal of interest. Over one hundred people visited the hive during the course of the day and there were many varied and interesting questions. It was an observation hive with a difference – no queen! When it had been assembled the previous evening there had been a huge easy-to-see queen present. By the time the shutters were taken down she had vanished. People are always disappointed not to see the queen but we made the most of the fact that there were queen cells being drawn. There was also the compensation of one of our members bringing their excellent beekeeping stand – educational materials and beautifully presented hive products.

It was well worth the effort. We were able to promote beekeeping and signed a small number of people on for next year's beginners' course.



*Penny Learmonth*

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### PROGRAMME & PROVISIONAL LECTURE CONVENTION

#### **THURSDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**

- 1.45** Doors Open
- 2.00** Opening Ceremony:  
Vice-President, Scottish Beekeepers' Association
- 2.45** Dr Dewey Caron *Colony Collapse Disorder.*
- 4.10** Dennis Ryan *Queen Rearing.*
- 6.00** Show Closes

#### **FRIDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER**

- 9.30** Show Opens
- 10.30** Keith Delaplane *The Small Hive Beetle -an imminent threat?*
- 12.00** Dr Giles Budge *Varroa related losses and the CCD connection.*
- 3.00** Steve Ryan *Propolis: Beneficial Properties and Uses.*
- 4.30** Dr Dewey Caron *Pollination- integrating native bees with honey bees.*
- 6.00** Show Closes

#### **SATURDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER**

- 10.30** **The Jean Blaxland Memorial Lecture**  
Keith Delaplane *Bee parasites and thier impact on plats and pollination.*
- 12.00** Clive DeBruyn *Bee keeping around the world.*
- 2.30** National Honey Show AGM followed by  
The Annual Meeting of the National Council  
and the Draw
- 4.00** Presentation of Trophies and Awards by  
The Lord Gisborough, President of the Yorkshire Beekeepers
- 4:45** Show Closes

Last date for Show entries:  
Friday 26th September 2008

## Managing Health – Not Coping with Disease: A Report



48 people eagerly gathered at the Salings Millennium Hall to hear Andy Wattam and Peter Smith instruct – and entertain – us on bee disease management and avoidance, in a full day seminar for the Continuing Professional Development of beekeepers of all levels and experience.

Now it will be admitted that disease is not, historically, a crowd puller; clearly times have changed. The threat of Colony Collapse Disorder plus the attraction of Andy, who has rapidly become well known for his excellent presentations, proved to be a considerable draw. Even though 23<sup>rd</sup> July was a weekday and despite extra places being made available, the event was substantially over-subscribed, with people from all over the county and, indeed, from other counties, attending. It is planned to repeat this course/ seminar at a weekend next year.

After initial introductions, we started by trying to identify the diseases shown on much magnified, high quality, A4 photographs. For some, at least, this proved much more difficult than you would think. AFB, EFB, Chalk brood, Sac brood, drone layer, etc., plus the trick “nothing wrong” were all there.

Many thanks to Geoff Mills for this lovely picture of some of us at this meeting, which I have divided in two parts.



The methods of dealing with European Foul Brood and the arguments for and against treatment with antibiotics – and what other countries do – were discussed. What is notifiable (AFB, EFB and the “exotic” pests Small Hive Beetle and the mite *Tropilaelaps*) and what is not (Varroa and the other brood diseases) were defined. The management of colonies to give them the best chance of surviving the commoner diseases, including shook swarm (there is, for example, little point in reusing comb from which a colony had been shaken!) and much more, was memorably described.

John Barlow had brought 2 hives to a field adjoining the Hall for some hands-on experience of looking for disease, in contrast to looking for the queen. The delegates were curiously disappointed not to be able to find anything seriously wrong with the colonies but John was doubtless relieved! At the end of the day, with suitable precautions taken, we were all able to inspect combs with EFB in various stages, which Peter had taken from hives only the day before.

Eileen Marrable is to be congratulated for organising such an excellent day and her team thanked for the seamless arrangements and providing copious refreshments.

*David Learmonth*