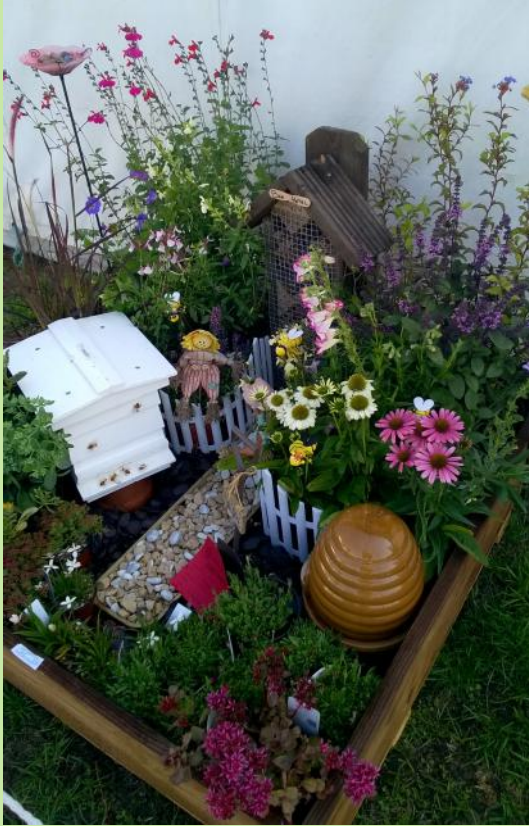


# THE ESSEX BEEKEEPER



## 131st Annual County Honey Show

Harlow Division's  
winning entry in  
Class 51

- Divisional Garden

*More photographs  
and results inside*

Monthly Magazine of the  
Essex Beekeepers' Association  
[www.ebka.org](http://www.ebka.org)

*Furthering the Craft of Beekeeping in Essex  
Registered Charity number 1031419*

Issue No. 646

October 2018

# Divisional Meetings around the County

## Meetings in October:

4 Oct	Thursday 8.00pm	Harlow	<b>Asian Hornet</b> with Andrew Durham. Kings Church, Red Willow, Harlow CM19 5PA
4 Oct	Thursday 8.00pm	Romford	<b>Rose Hives</b> - Matt Broughton. Chadwick Hall, Main Road, Gidea Park RM2 5EL
11 Oct	Thursday 7.30pm	Saffron Walden	<b>The Flow Hive</b> - Rita Wilson. Great Dunmow Day Centre CM6 1EQ
14 Oct	Sunday 10am - 4.00pm	Braintree	<b>Apple Day</b> , Cressing Temple Barns, Witham Road, Cressing CM77 8PD
15 Oct	Monday 7.30pm	Chelmsford	<b>The Work of the NBU</b> - The Link, Rainsford Road, Chelmsford CM1 2XB
18 Oct	Thursday 7.30pm	Epping Forest	<b>Microscopy Evening</b> - have your bees checked for nosema & view pollen. Chingford Horticultural Hall.
24 Oct	Wed 7.30pm	Southend	<b>Veolia</b> - Consideration of the environment at the large waste management site at Pitsea. W I Hall, Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh SS6 7ED
25 Oct	Thursday 7.30pm	Colchester	Tba

## Meetings in November:

1 Nov	Thursday 8.00pm	Romford	<b>Journey from beekeeper to bee farmer</b> - Michael Coe. Chadwick Hall, Main Road, Gidea Park RM2 5EL
1 Nov	Thursday 8.00pm	Harlow	<b>BeeBee Wraps.</b> Kings Church, Red Willow, Harlow CM19 5PA
3 Nov	Saturday 10 - 4pm	COUNTY EVENT	<b>Annual Conference</b> hosted by Braintree Division. Great Leighs Racecourse, Chelmsford CM3 1QP

## Meetings in November:

Cont'd

7 Nov	Wed 7.30pm	Saffron Walden	<b>Making cosmetics</b> with bee products, including soap making demo - Sara Robb. Swards End Hall CB10 2LG
15 Nov	Thursday 7.30pm	Epping Forest	Tba
19 Nov	Monday 7.30pm	Chelmsford	<b>Beekeeping around the World.</b> The Link, Rainsford Road, Chelmsford CM1 2XB
28 Nov	Wed 7.30pm	Southend	<b>Divisional AGM</b> - W I Hall, Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh SS6 7ED
30 Nov	Friday 8.00pm	Braintree	<b>Soap making - talk and demonstration</b> - Dr Sara Robb. White Notley Village Hall CM8 1RH

**Would each Division kindly ensure that their meeting details - topic, venue and time are notified to the editor at [dsmye@lineone.net](mailto:dsmye@lineone.net) by the 4th of the month so that a comprehensive list is available to all members.**

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# **EBKA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2018**

## **'Bees and Wellbeing'**

The theme of our conference is the ways in which bees enrich our lives and make a difference to our world. Bees promote biodiversity by providing essential pollination for a wide range of crops. Honey is becoming a powerful new weapon in the battle against hospital-acquired infections. Being around bees can raise a person's self-esteem and the educational benefits are now being recognised.

Let's learn more from our three speakers.

### **Speakers:**

#### **Bunny Campione, Daws Hall Trust**

*Many of you will know Bunny from the Antiques Roadshow, but you may not be aware that she is a fellow beekeeper.*

**Dr Rowena Jenkins, Swansea University Medical School, Department of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases.** *Rowena is a lecturer in microbiology.*

#### **Chris Newenham, Managing Director, Wilkin & Sons Ltd**

*Chris will be speaking about the importance of bees as pollinators and the collaboration between beekeepers and agriculturists.*

**STILL TIME TO BOOK  
BUT HURRY!**

### **Date and venue:**

**Saturday 3rd November 2018**

10 - 4pm

Chelmsford City Racecourse

Great Leighs, CM3 1QP

**Tickets £25**

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- Buffet lunch
- Afternoon tea and cakes
- Raffle and trade stands

### **Payment:**

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**BACS Transfer:**

**Sort code 20-97-40 Account number 80089230**

**Reference *EBKA Conference.***

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**to advise transfer has been made and you will receive an e-ticket by return.**

**Cash:**

**Cash to Braintree Committee members when visiting Divisional meetings**

**(a ticket will be given immediately)**

# 131<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL ESSEX HONEY SHOW

## Show Secretary's Report



Another memorable Essex Show at Orsett on 1st September.

The sun was shining, the general public were out in force and so were the Essex Beekeepers. We would like to express our gratitude you to all our Volunteers, over 55 of you, who manned our Marquee and presented our Show in true style. Although this is only a 1 day Show there were also plenty of other events going on in the showground which always helps to draw in the crowds.

Braintree Division did extremely well supplying a thirsty band of volunteers with refreshments as well as presenting a lovely lunch - there was plenty for everyone. Well done to their organisers and ladies in the kitchen area.

This was our biggest show for some years; with 80 exhibitors entering 350 exhibits - there was definitely plenty to see. Well done to everyone. A new innovation - with every exhibitor being given a mark towards their Division's grand total for entering - made it unsure who was going to win the President's Cup. Well done Harlow for coming out on top.

This year sees the Centenary of 3 of our Divisions: Chelmsford, Saffron Walden & Epping Forest. To celebrate the occasion a special display was set up in the marquee, manned by Chelmsford members, showing how beekeeping has evolved over the years.

There is always a lot of work involved in setting up the show and well done to all those involved – a terrific job. This was helped by well organised, accommodating and helpful showground management. Again, they were extremely happy with the marquee and display and are encouraging us to return again next year – as this was a very successful day.

Pauline Tidmas

# EBKA ANNUAL HONEY SHOW RESULTS

## 1st September 2018

Orsett Showground, Thurrock

Class	Description	Position	Winner	Division
1	One section of comb honey (Gift)	VHC	Paul Abbott	Southend
2	One jar of clear honey (Gift)	1st	Ted Gradosielski	Epping Forest
		2nd	James Mc Neill	Romford
		3rd	David Tidmas	Harlow
		VHC	Michael J Barke	Harlow
		HC	Victoria Tidmas	Harlow
		C	Pat Allen/Pauline Tidmas	Romford/Harlow
3	One jar of Crystallised honey (Gift)	1st	James McNeill	Romford
		2nd	Paul F Abbott	Southend
		VHC	Pat Allen	Romford
4	One pair of comb honey sections	2nd	Danny Nicholl	Harlow
5	One frame of Extractable honey	1st	Ted Gradosielski	Epping Forest
		2nd	Michael J Barke	Harlow
		3rd	Gary Stapleton	Southend
		VHC	Dr A K Yeats	Saffron Walden
		HC	Alicia Winham	D H & Maldon
		C	Sabine Barke	Harlow
6	Two jars of light clear honey	1st	Pauline Tidmas	Harlow
		2nd	Alexandra Tidmas	Harlow
		3rd	Victoria Tidmas	Harlow
		VHC	David Tidmas	Harlow
		HC	Ted Gradosielski	Epping Forest
		C	Sue Frazer	Harlow
7	Two jars of medium clear honey	1st	Ted Gradosielski	Epping Forest
		2nd	Linda Yeats	Saffron Walden
		3rd	Pauline Tidmas	Harlow
		VHC	Alexandra Tidmas	Harlow
		HC	David Tidmas	Harlow
		C	Pam Hughes	Chelmsford
8	Two jars of dark clear honey	1st	Ted Gradosielski	Epping Forest
		2nd	Roy Hardwicke	Chelmsford

# EBKA ANNUAL HONEY SHOW RESULTS

1st September 2018

Orsett Showground, Thurrock

Class	Description	Position	Winner	Division
9	Two jars of crystallised honey, natural set	1st	Paul F Abbott	Southend
		3rd	Filippo Negri	Romford
		VHC	Ted Gradosielski	Epping Forest
		HC	Elisaveta Stefani	Romford
10	Two jars of crystallised honey, Soft set	1st	James McNeill	Romford
		2nd	Paul F Abbott	Southend
		HC	Pat Allen	Romford
11a	One plastic container of cut comb honey, not set or crystallised	1st	Janet French	Braintree
		2nd	Linda Yeats	Saffron Walden
		3rd	Carlie Mayes	D H & Maldon
		VHC	Gary Stapleton	Southend
11b	One plastic container of Crystallised cut comb honey		No entries and/or awards	
12	Two jars of chunk honey	1st	Gary Stapleton	Southend
13	One cake of bees-wax 425gm - 482gm 25mm min thickness	1st	Lorna Pattle	Romford
		2nd	Jim McNeill	Romford
		3rd	Jan French	Braintree
		HC	Carol Stapleton	Southend
		C	Margaret Clay	Chelmsford
14	One bottle of sweet mead	1st	Filippo Negri	Romford
		2nd	Paul F Abbott	Southend
		VHC	Carlie Mayes	D H & Maldon
15	One bottle of dry mead	1st	Jim McNeill	Romford
		2nd	Michael J Barke	Harlow
		C	Filippo Negri	Romford

# EBKA ANNUAL HONEY SHOW RESULTS

## 1st September 2018

Orsett Showground, Thurrock

Class	Description	Position	Winner	Division
16	Two jars of light clear honey (Novice)	1st	Carol Sissons	Harlow
17	Two jars of medium clear honey (Novice)	No entries and/or awards		
18	Two jars of dark clear honey (Novice)	No entries and/or awards		
19	Two jars of clear honey, any colour (Novice)	1st	Norman J McDonald	Romford
		2nd	Howard Green (Friends of Cressing Temple Gardens)	Braintree
		3rd	Debbie Adams	Southend
		VHC	Angela Mander	Romford
20	Novice class. Two jars of crystallised honey, natural or soft set	VHC	Howard Green (Friends of Cressing Temple Gardens)	Braintree
21	Novice class. One cake of beeswax, 99gm - 128gm	1st	Howard Green (Friends of Cressing Temple Gardens)	Braintree
		2nd	Nick Messenger	Romford
22	One honey fruit cake	1st	Susan Richardson	Romford
		2nd	Maggie Dixon	D H & Maldon
		3rd	James McNeill	Romford
		VHC	Michael J Barke	Harlow
		HC	Margaret Clay	Chelmsford
		C	Sean Fowler	Harlow



# EBKA ANNUAL HONEY SHOW RESULTS

**1st September 2018**

Orsett Showground, Thurrock

Class	Description	Position	Winner	Division
23	Six honey nut cookies	1st	<b>Sabine Barke</b>	<b>Harlow</b>
		2nd	Michael J Barke	Harlow
		3rd	Sue Frazer	Harlow
		VHC	James McNeill	Romford
		HC	Zoe Bridges	D H & Maldon
		C	Keith Naunton	Harlow
24	One honey sandwich	1st	<b>Sabine Barke</b>	<b>Harlow</b>
		2nd	Michael J Barke	Harlow
		3rd	Susan Andrews	Romford
		VHC	Julie Watson	D H & Maldon
		HC	Maggie Dixon	D H & Maldon
		C	Susan Richardson	Romford
25	Four Apricot and Honey Scones	1st	<b>Zoe Bridges</b>	<b>D H &amp; Maldon</b>
		2nd	Maggie Dixon	D H & Maldon
		3rd	Millie Jane Perry	Harlow
		VHC	Susan Andrews	Romford
		HC	John Ferguson	D H & Maldon
		C	Margaret Clay	Chelmsford
26	Junior Class One Honey Fruit Cake	No entries and/or awards		
27	Junior Class Six Honey Nut Cookies	No entries and/or awards		
28	Junior Class One Honey Sandwich	No entries and/or awards		

**EBKA ANNUAL HONEY SHOW**  
**1st September 2018**  
Orsett Showground, Thurrock



Judging the record number  
of cookery entries



Frames of extractable honey - Class 5



Winner of Class 52 - Needlework



Susan Andrews' Vase of  
Flowers in Class 50

# EBKA ANNUAL HONEY SHOW

## 1st September 2018

Orsett Showground, Thurrock



**Happy Helpers on the Centenary Stand and the Central Display**

*Which honey shall I buy?*

**Not just honey**



**Beeswax Products of all sorts**



**The Honey Tasting Table was very popular**



**Paul Abbott and Jim McNeill in the  
Demonstration area**



**BBKA Blue Ribbon Award for  
Gary Stapleton's Chunk Honey**



**Lots of honey to sell**

*All photographs on pages 10—12  
by Tony Andrews  
Cover photo by Jean Smye*

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# EBKA ANNUAL HONEY SHOW RESULTS

**1st September 2018**

Orsett Showground, Thurrock

Class	Description	Position	Winner	Division
29	Six pieces of Honey Fudge	1st	Angela Mander	Romford
		2nd	James McNeill	Romford
		3rd	Michael J Barke	Harlow
		VHC	Sabine Barke	Harlow
		HC	Maggie Dixon	D H & Maldon
		C	Simon Nicholson	Epping Forest
30	Six pieces of honey toffee	1st	James McNeill	Romford
		2nd	Michael J Barke	Harlow
		3rd	Maggie Dixon	D H & Maldon
		VHC	Sabine Barke	Harlow
		HC	Ron Pratt	D H & Maldon
		C	Susan Andrews	Romford
31	One honey and malt wholemeal loaf	1st	Maggie Dixon	D H & Maldon
		2nd	Sabine Barke	Harlow
		3rd	Michael J Barke	Harlow
		VHC	Margaret Clay	Chelmsford
		HC	Linda Yeats	Saffron Walden
		C	Julie Watson	D H & Maldon
32	Junior Class A Poster about beekeeping	1st	Eloise Holt	Southend
		2nd	Val-Lily Jepps	Harlow
		3rd	Joseph Holt	Southend
		VHC	Scarlett Dawson	D H & Maldon
33	Divisional Composite Class	1st	Harlow Division	
		2nd	Southend Division	
34	Decorative display of honey products	2nd	Dengie 100 & Maldon Division	

# EBKA ANNUAL HONEY SHOW RESULTS

**1st September 2018**

Orsett Showground, Thurrock

Class	Description	Position	Winner	Division
35	Pair of beeswax candles - cast in a mould	1st	<b>James McNeill</b>	<b>Romford</b>
		2nd	Nick Messenger	Romford
		VHC	Carol Stapleton	Southend
		C	Margaret Clay	Chelmsford
36	Pair of beeswax candles - not cast in a mould	2nd	James McNeill	Romford
		VHC	Nick Messenger	Romford
		HC	Jane Abbott	Southend
		C	Pauline Tidmas	Harlow
37	Practical invention related to bee-keeping	1st	<b>Darren Burge</b>	<b>D H &amp; Maldon</b>
		2nd	Carlie Mayes	D H & Maldon
38	Twelve 454g jars of clear honey, all one colour & labelled	1st	<b>Victoria Tidmas</b>	<b>Harlow</b>
		2nd	Michael J Barke	Harlow
		3rd	James McNeill	Romford
		VHC	David Tidmas	Harlow
		HC	Paul F Abbott	Southend
39	Twelve 454g jars of crystallised or soft set honey, all one colour & labelled	1st	<b>James McNeill</b>	<b>Romford</b>
		2nd	Paul F Abbott	Southend
40	Junior class. One colour photograph related to beekeeping,	1st	Scarlett Dawson	D H & Maldon
		2nd	Sophie Collins	D H & Maldon
		3rd	Aimee Collins	D H & Maldon
		VHC	Lexi O'Connor	D H & Maldon
41	One colour photograph related to beekeeping - un-mounted	1st	<b>Carol Stapleton</b>	<b>Southend</b>
		2nd	Gary Stapleton	Southend
		3rd	David Tidmas	Harlow
		VHC	Carlie Mayes	D H & Maldon

# EBKA ANNUAL HONEY SHOW RESULTS

1st September 2018

Orsett Showground, Thurrock

Class	Description	Position	Winner	Division
41 Cont'd	One colour photograph related to beekeeping - unmounted	HC	Victoria Tidmas	Harlow
		C	Danny Nicholl	Harlow
42	One Bottle of sweet melomel	1st	<b>Michael J Barke</b>	<b>Harlow</b>
		2nd	James McNeill	Romford
43	One bottle of dry melomel	1st	<b>Janet French</b>	<b>Braintree</b>
44	One bottle of sweet metheglin	1st	<b>James McNeill</b>	<b>Romford</b>
		2nd	Michael J Barke	Harlow
		3rd	Carlie Mayes	D H & Maldon
45	One bottle of dry metheglin	1st	<b>Michael J Barke</b>	<b>Harlow</b>
46	Honey label	1st	<b>Pauline Tidmas</b>	<b>Harlow</b>
		2nd	Paul F Abbott	Southend
		3rd	Carol Sissons	Harlow
		VHC	Keith Naunton	Harlow
		HC	Michael J Barke	Harlow
		C	Scarlett Dawson	D H & Maldon
47	Pair of coloured beeswax candles	2nd	Jim McNeill	Romford
48	Junior Class Two rolled beeswax candles	1st	<b>Val-Lily Jepps</b>	<b>Harlow</b>
		2nd	Joseph Holt	Southend
		3rd	Luke Ruane	Southend
		VHC	Eloise Holt	Southend
		HC	Natasha Ruane	Southend

# EBKA ANNUAL HONEY SHOW RESULTS

1st September 2018

Orsett Showground, Thurrock

Class	Description	Position	Winner	Division
49	Beeswax polish	1st	John Willett	Harlow
		2nd	John Ferguson	D H & Maldon
		3rd	Howard Green (Friends of Cressing Temple Gardens)	Braintree
		VHC	Michael J Barke	Harlow
50	Vase of flowers	2nd	Susan Andrews	Romford
51	Divisional Garden	1st	Harlow Division	
		2nd	Romford Division	
		3rd	Dengie 100 & Maldon Division	
52	Needlework	1st	Pauline Tidmas	Harlow
		2nd	Sue Frazer/Maggie Dixon (Joint)	Harlow/D H & Maldon

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE ABOVE PRIZEWINNERS, and to  
GARY STAPLETON (Southend Division)  
winner of the BBKA Blue Ribbon for 'BEST IN SHOW'**

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Award	Classes	For	Winner	Division
Burt Challenge Cup	11A & 11B	Best container of cut comb honey	Jan French	Braintree
Cowan Vase	1 & 4	Section	Paul F Abbott	Southend
Dearman Cup	39	Twelve Jars of crystallised or soft set honey	James McNeill	Romford
Ford Trophy	2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 & 12	Most points in extracted honey classes	Ted Gradosielski	Epping Forest
Horton Cake Cup and Knife	22 & 26	Best honey fruit cake	Susan Richardson	Romford
Mallinson Cup	35 & 36	Best exhibit of cast and uncast candles	James McNeill	Romford
Ongar Cup	5	Frame of extractable honey	Ted Gradosielski	Epping Forest
President's Cup		Division gaining highest total number of points in all classes	Harlow	
Holmes Cup		Exhibitor gaining highest total number of points in all classes	James McNeill	Romford
Tidswell Challenge Bowl	1 to 12	Most points in all honey classes	Ted Gradosielski	Epping Forest
Jersey Cup	13 & 21	Best cake of beeswax	Lorna Pattle	Romford

Award	Classes	For	Winner	Division
W.B.C. Cup	23, 24, & 29	Biscuits, sandwich and fudge	Sabine Barke	Harlow
Devall Award	1 to 41	Novice gaining highest total number of points and an award in classes 19 to 21	Howard Green	Braintree
Essex Chronicle Cup	38	Twelve jars of clear honey	Victoria Tidmas	Harlow
Chelmsford Wine Circle Marconi Trophy	14	Best bottle of sweet mead	Filippo Negri	Romford
Alf Gunn Jubilee Shield	44 & 45	Best bottle of metheglin	Michal J Barke	Harlow
Walden Wine Shield	42 & 43	Best bottle of melomel	Michael J Barke	Harlow
G A Taylor Mazer	15	Best bottle of dry mead	James McNeill	Romford
Archie Horton Award	35 & 36	Most points in candles classes	James McNeill	Romford
B.B.K.A. Blue Ribbon		Best exhibit in the show	Gary Stapleton	Southend
National Honey Show ticket	19-21	Best in the Novice classes	Norman J McDonald	Romford
Honey Judges' Commendation	8	Outstanding Entry	Ted Gradosielski	Epping Forest

# A year in the life of Braintree Division

Jan French / Clive de Bruyn

At Braintree we hold all our summer meetings at different members' apiaries – and what a great way to enhance our skills and to visit some interesting places. We are coming to the end of the season and have had some fantastic venues and hospitality.



Michael Coe, Mick Lovell and John Barlow  
at the Queen Introduction demonstration  
Photograph by Clive de Bruyn

Our August meeting was hosted by two of our bee-farmers, **John Barlow** and **Mick Lovell**, also present were **Clive de Bruyn** and **Mike Coe** of Great Tilkey Honey.

The theme of the meeting was queen introduction and we learnt from the experts. The meeting was held at John and Mick's queen rearing apiary in Wethersfield and Clive provided 10 queens. Clive opened the meeting with a brief introduction on the 10 queens provided, showing the different types of travelling cage and how to make the fondant plugs using honey and icing sugar.

This was followed by hands-on experience of queen introduction using different techniques – for example, John often uses newspaper at the end of the cage held in place with an elastic band rather than a plug of fondant.

Thirty members attended plus visitors from Chelmsford and Saffron Walden divisions. We divided into two groups and Mick and John showed us their preferred method of queen introduction. Four queenless nucs had been set up and we also used full sized colonies to enable members to find and dispatch the queens. Some queens were in travel cages with their workers and we learnt how to transfer the queen to an introduction cage, whereas others were alone in their introduction cages and this was a much more straight forward procedure.

Members were given the opportunity to clip, mark and introduce queens which is something that many have never attempted. Through the use of

different queen introduction cages we were able to see the advantages and disadvantages of the various methods and everyone now understands when to use a nuc or a mini-nuc such as an Apidea. We rounded off the meeting with a delicious BBQ in the sunshine – it was a truly wonderful event.

Our June apiary meeting was held at Crossing Temple Barns. Members were divided into three groups and we rotated between hive inspection and guided tours of the gardens and barns. This was another memorable meeting. Last year we held a similar event at Layer Marney Tower as the owners are beekeepers and members of Braintree Division.

Our members are spread across a wide area and our other apiary meetings in 2018 were held in Felsted, Great Totham, Chignal St James and at our divisional apiary in Coney Green. Each apiary meeting enabled members to view a range of hives, to solve different problems and the tea and cakes afterwards provided a good opportunity for further discussion.

As we move inside for the winter we have more interesting meetings planned. In November, Dr Sara Robb will be showing us how to make honey soap and everyone will take home a sample. December is Braintree's Honey Show and while judging takes place, we will make origami Xmas decorations guided by a Japanese expert in the craft. This is our Xmas Social and friends and family are welcome as long as they join in - last year the special activity was willow weaving to make a Xmas wreath. And, we must not forget that we're hosting the **EBKA Annual Conference** in November and the other roles that come with it such as running the **EBKA AGM** and catering for the **County Honey Show**. So we're having a busy 2018.

The Committee is now thinking of our 2019 programme and there is no shortage of volunteers to hold apiary meetings and we have some interesting speakers lined up. Members have requested a visit to a honey production facility to watch the bottling process and we have asked if one of our bee-farmers can host this. We are also negotiating a visit to the apiary at Paycocke's House and Garden in Coggeshall which is run by the National Trust (a Group Member of Braintree Division).

2019 is going to be another good year for Braintree Division.

---

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## Asian Hornet nest in Fowey found and destroyed

September 7 2018 - National Bee Unit

An Asian Hornet nest has been found in Fowey in Cornwall and destroyed by bee inspectors.

It was on Friday 31st August a beekeeper in the Fowey area found 2 Asian Hornets in a trap he'd set up near his beehives. They were positively identified by the Non Native Species Secretariat and a surveillance zone was set up on Tuesday (Sept 4). Killing traps and feeding traps with meat and sweet baits were deployed and there was a lot of hornet activity around them. By timing their visits back to the bait, inspectors from the National Bee Unit were able to track them back to their nest.



### The latest nest found on Jersey (opposite)

The nest was detected on Thursday September 6, and destroyed in the evening, when the hornets would have returned to the nest, by using CO2 gas to carry an active ingredient called bendiocarb. The nest was removed the next day at 0700.

It is described as a small nest, about the size of a child's football, and was situated about 1 metre from the ground in a bramble patch.

Genetic analysis is being carried out to see if the hornets are from Europe or a new incursion brought in on goods from China for example. Genetic tests have shown that the Tetbury and Woolacombe nests in 2017 were two separate incursions from France.

### Trapping advice

At the moment, Defra is recommending that Monitoring traps are put out by beekeepers in all areas of the country.

Once an Asian Hornet has been positively identified in an area then KILL traps should be used. This is in the expectation that if Asian Hornets are in the area then they will be trapped and identified.

The by-catch in these traps will be small compared to the damage caused to honey bees by the Asian Hornets if the nests are not found.

**STOP PRESS:** Further sightings in Liskeard and Hull.

# Hornet mimic hoverfly

*Volucella zonaria*

Andrea Norton - Southend Division

Saw this at Pitsea out apiary on Sunday 19th August, it came and landed on our hive as we were packing away. It was huge! Managed to get a decent photo and found out it is a hornet mimic hoverfly.

At almost 2cm long, the hornet mimic hoverfly (also known as the 'belted hoverfly') is the largest hoverfly species in the UK.

As its name suggests, it is an excellent mimic of the hornet, but is harmless to humans. Only a very rare visitor to the country up to the 1940s, it has become more common in Southern England in recent years, and is still spreading northwards, perhaps as a result of climate change. It is particularly prevalent in urban areas. The adults are migratory and the larvae live inside wasps' nests.



*Photograph from Andrea Norton - Southend Division*

## How to identify

The hornet mimic hoverfly is mainly orangey-yellow on the abdomen, with dark bands and a dark brown thorax. It is our largest hoverfly. It can be distinguished from the European Hornet by its much larger eyes, broader body and the lack of a sting.

**Distribution**      Mainly in the South of England, but spreading northwards - probably due to climate changes.



*Who's mimicking who here then?*

# WHO'S WHO & HOW TO CONTACT THEM

**President of EBKA**      **Pat Allen**    Hon CLM

## EBKA Trustees:

**Ian Nichols**

**Chairman:** 17 Dyers Hall Road, Leytonstone, London E11 4AD  
email ian@iannichols.demon.co.uk tel. 0208 558 4733 / 07980 299 638

**Secretary:**

[Position Vacant]

**Tom Keeper**

**Treasurer:** Kingfishers, 2 Chandlers, Burnham-on-Crouch CM0 8NY  
email t.keeper@btinternet.com tel: 07722 454 974 / 01621 784 626

**Stuart Mitson**

stuart.mitson@btinternet.com

Braintree

**Jan Tutton**

cec@chelmsfordbeekeeper.com

Chelmsford

**Tony Rand**

tony@agewhatage.com

Colchester

**Kate Tuerena**

trustee@maldonbeekeepers.org.uk

Dengie Hundred & Maldon

**Don McHale**

donaldmchale@gmail.com

Epping Forest

**Nick Holmes**

wwwcight@gmail.com

Harlow

**Paul Wiltshire**

paul.g.wiltshire@btinternet.com

Romford

**Vanessa Wilkinson**

vwilkinson27@hotmail.com

Saffron Walden

**Jean Smye**

jsmye@sky.com

Southend

## Divisional Contacts:

**Braintree:** Jan French 07725 166 609

**Chelmsford:** James Curtis 07940 757 831

**Colchester:** Morag Chase 01206 522 576

**D.H. & Maldon:** Carlie Mayes 07979 862 952

**Harlow:** Nick Holmes 07730 735 752

**Epping Forest:** Robin Harman 07971 237 312

**Saffron Walden:** Vanessa Wilkinson 01799 542 337

**Romford:** Pat Allen 01708 220 897

**Southend:** Pat Holden 01702 477 592

## EBKA Education Secretary:

**Jane Ridler**

Old Barn House, 36 Walden Road,  
Sewards End, Saffron Walden, Essex CB10 2LF  
01799 218 023 jane.ridler@uwclub.net

## EBKA Examinations Secretary: **Pat Allen**

8 Franks Cottages, St Mary's Lane,  
Upminster, Essex RM14 3NU  
01708 220 897 pat.allen7@icloud.com

## The Essex Beekeeper Magazine:

**Editor:** **David Smye** email: dsmye@lineone.net tel. 07710 197 078

**Advertising:** **Jean Smye** email: jsmye@sky.com tel. 07731 856 361

**Mailing Secretary:** **Michael Elliott** email: michaelelliott55@sky.com

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## Web site:

**Nick Holmes** email: webmaster@essexbeekeepers.com

## Regional Bee Inspectors for EBKA Region:

*Epping Forest and Romford Divisions (excluding Brentwood):*

**Peter Folge** peter.folge@apha.gsi.gov.uk tel. 07775 119 433

*All other Divisions:*

**Keith Morgan** keith.morgan@apha.gsi.gov.uk tel. 01485 520 838 or 07919 004 215

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