

THE ESSEX BEEKEEPER



Clive de Bruyn will be speaking at the AGM on 16 March

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**Monthly Magazine of the
Essex Beekeepers' Association**
www.ebka.org

Furthering the Craft of Beekeeping in Essex
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March 2019

Divisional Meetings around the County

Meetings in March 2019

| | | | |
|----------|--------------------|------------------------|---|
| 7 March | Thursday 8.00pm | Romford | From Beekeeper to Bee Farmer - Michael Coe. Chadwick Hall, Main Road, Gidea Park RM2 5EL |
| 7 March | Thursday 8.00pm | Harlow | Understanding and managing Swarms - Khalil Attan. Kings Church, Red Willow, Harlow CM19 5PA |
| 13 March | Wed 7.30pm | Saffron Walden | Asian Hornet trap making practical - Thaxted Day Centre CM6 2RL |
| 16 March | Saturday 2.00pm | County Event | EBKA Annual General Meeting. Notice and agenda on pages 8/9. |
| 18 March | Monday 7.30pm | Chelmsford | Top Bar & Warre Hives. Peter Aldridge. The Link, Rainsford Rd. Chelmsford CM1 2XB |
| 20 March | Wed 7.30pm | Dengie 100 & Maldon | Black Bee initiative. Kevin Thorne. The Oakhouse, High Street, Maldon |
| 24 March | Sunday 10 - 3pm | Epping Forest | Asian Hornet Special - Andrew Durham (Cambridge BKA) and Bob Hogge (Jersey BKA). Copped Hall CM16 5HS. |
| 27 March | Wed 7.30pm | Southend | Introduction of Queens - Clive deBruyn. WI Hall, Bellingham lane, Rayleigh. |
| 29 March | Friday 8.00pm | Braintree | Agraian - the Natural Choice. Mike Able. Ethical pest control. White Notley Village Hall |

Meetings in April 2019

| | | | |
|----------|--------------------|------------------------|--|
| 4 April | Thursday 8.00pm | Harlow | Fun with Pollen Traps - Robert Smith. Kings Church, Red Willow, Harlow CM19 5PA |
| 4 April | Thursday 8.00pm | Romford | Microscopy - David McHattie. Chadwick Hall, Main Road, Gidea Park RM2 5EL |
| 6 April | Saturday 2.30pm | Saffron Walden | Practical Wax Extraction - Boyton End CM6 2RB |
| 13 April | Saturday 2.30pm | | Putting Your Hive Together - Takeley CM6 1SU |
| 17 April | Wed 7.30pm | Epping Forest | A different kind of swarm control. Chingford Horticultural Hall E4 6PE |
| 17 April | Wed 7.30pm | Dengie 100 & Maldon | Identification - Bumble Bee Conservation Trust. The Oakhouse, High Street, Maldon |
| 24 April | Wed 7.30pm | Southend | Bee Space - Bob Smith. W I Hall, Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh |
| 27 April | Saturday 2.30pm | Saffron Walden | From Comb to Jar - Wimbish CB10 2UY |
| 27 April | Saturday | Romford | Wax Day - Havering Out Apiary. |
| 28 April | Sunday 3.00pm | Braintree | Apiary Meeting - Coney Green, Great Bardfield CM7 4PV. Jan French 07725 166 609 |

Essex Beekeepers' Association presents a
Bee Health & Disease Recognition Day
at
The Millennium Centre
The Chase, Dagenham Road, Romford. RM7 0SS



Thursday 20th June 2019
10 am - 4pm Reception 9.30

Suitable for Beekeepers of all levels of Experience

Come and meet your Eastern Regional Bee Inspector Keith Morgan and local Seasonal Bee Inspectors.

This relaxed & friendly day will include a mixture of presentations, Useful Tips & Hints with Discussions.

Apiary Hygiene - Varroa - Live Comb Recognition
Asian Hornet

Plus, a practical Session in the apiary observing how inspectors manipulate and check for disease.

IMPORTANT

Bring CLEAN Protective Beekeeping Clothing and a packed lunch. Tea & Coffee will be provided.

Pre Booking of Places is Essential as a limited number available
Contact; Jim McNeill on 01708 765898 answer phone, or
jimandliz44@aol.co.uk



Chair's Annual Report

for AGM 2019



First and foremost, let us celebrate our hobby of diverse pleasures and challenges. There is nothing to compare with the beauty of healthy bees on a frame of glistening comb in the spring sunshine with its accompanying aroma and gentle sound. Then there's the challenge of every beekeeping year being different – let's just say the first 20 years are the most difficult! We thought the winter of 2017/18 was going to be kind – that was before the 'beast from the east'. A short spell of inattentiveness just then ended with colony losses due to starvation for some. But to follow – a glorious summer yielded for many of us an exceptional honey harvest.

With challenges in mind, 2018 has been a difficult year for the CEC. There have been changes and resignations in the officers' jobs through the year, with unfilled posts at times. Thanks go to Ian Nichols as Chair and Tom Keeper as Treasurer for all their work, enthusiasm and conscientiousness during this testing time. After the email scam in the summer, it has been important to upgrade the financial policy as well as to move forward other outstanding policies to cover developments in technology and the law. We are also looking at reforming other aspects of the role of EBKA, including introducing CIO status and reviewing the *Essex Beekeeper* magazine. The new BBKA electronic membership package, eR2, is an ongoing challenge, mainly because the structure of EBKA does not fit the model offered. But we are not alone nationally and more effort from BBKA, as well as from several dedicated members of the CEC and

Education and training are other important aspects of County level activity. Colchester hosted the annual Bee Health Day this year and there have been programmes for training for the BBKA practical assessments and theory module exams as usual. There is no new Education Secretary in the offing. As an alternative, I'd like to see a consortium of more experienced beekeepers working together to organise, if not deliver, the education and training for the County.

The other outstanding role to be filled, at the time of writing, is editor of the *Essex Beekeeper*. Volunteers in either area will be gratefully accepted. Jean and David Smye are retiring as editors over recent years and also from the CEC. They have contributed to EBKA not only in this role but in many during the last decades and deserve our grateful thanks. I'm not sure if there have been any CEC jobs that Jean has not taken on and worked at with her inbuilt tenacity and desire to get things right for EBKA.

Moving forward, communication is key, and I am writing a short ongoing article in the magazine to keep members informed. The information available on the website will also now be maintained right up to date. I have enjoyed the hospitality at divisional meetings asking for members' advice on improvements and looking forward to visiting others soon. Do remember, that as members of EBKA we are all able to attend the meetings of other Divisions, thus increasing the variety of our beekeeping interest and learning.

The year's successful events, including our Honey Show at Orsett, the National Honey Show and the County Conference have been well recorded in the *Essex Beekeeper* and we can look forward to another good year in 2019. Whilst most Divisions run similar but smaller scale events it is important we all contribute to these main ones, binding our nine Divisions into one Association. Saffron Walden Division is in the 'hot seat' in 2019/20. I have heard it queried why one Division has to do all the work in one year! I believe it is a good way of

maintaining the EBKA as the core of beekeeping in Essex. Each Division in turn takes on the year's work and is motivated by it. It requires a significant contribution from all the members of the Division, not just the committee. The Presiding Division has some significant management of the EBKA during their year of office, e.g. the AGM and any EGM is chaired by the Presiding Officer, who is usually the Chair of that Division. So, thanks to Braintree for their year of hard work and influence and good luck to Saffron Walden for the year to come.

I know that the Conference on 20th October '*The Changing Face of Beekeeping*', promises to be a really stimulating day to consider the future for bees and beekeeping. Professor Steve Martin will be telling us more about the possible 'lack of future' for varroa and Ged Marshall, the ever-entertaining bee farmer, about how we as hobbyists can learn a few tricks from the professionals. Will Messenger will look back at bee equipment of the past and how things have improved; and to broaden our beekeepers' view of the environment, Jonas Goldman will present "*Does conserving honeybees help wildlife?*".

Again, the very successful Ted Hooper Lecture of 2018 was reported in detail in the magazine. Dr Norman Carreck spoke about IBRA and Eva Crane, that icon of beekeeping; and Professor Richard Pywell about how growing wild flowers in crop fields boosts natural pest predators. This chimes well with the new EARS 3 project.

EBKA is again helping fund the Eastern region research initiative in supporting a PhD student in bee research. A recent study has shown a strong correlation between chronic bee paralysis and colonies with access to mass flowering crops like oilseed rape and borage. Also, that reduced pollen diversity can lead to gut dysbiosis and increase in gut parasites in honey bees. So, the new project will be looking further into the diversity and quantity of forage as a key driver of

disease susceptibility in honey bees and we look forward to more progress reports as the study develops.

As ever, we have sadly lost members of our Association this year. They will be recorded in the Book of Commemoration – a beautiful tome – have a look at the AGM on 16th March. Ken Barker, President at Epping Forest deserves special mention after a lifetime in beekeeping. The Book of Commemoration also has three items of celebration to note this year – the centenaries of three Divisions, Chelmsford, Saffron Walden and Epping Forest. Chelmsford, in particular, has enthusiastically embraced this milestone, not least with the replacement of Ted Hooper's observation hive in Chelmsford Museum with a beautiful new model in solid oak.

Finally, in addition to those previously mentioned, I'd like to thank all those who contribute so tirelessly to the success of the Association, both at Divisional level, but especially at CEC. Special thanks to Tony Rand and Richard Ridler who have taken on officer roles in difficult circumstances - we like a challenge - but, I fear, it will be as nothing to the Asian hornet!

Jane Ridler, Chair

February 2019

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CLOSED SUNDAY

Agent for E H Thorne and Northern Bee Books

Notice of the 139th Annual General Meeting of the Essex Beekeepers' Association

to be held on

Saturday 16 March 2019 at 2pm

at

**Northumberland Lecture Theatre
Writtle College, Lordship Lane, Chelmsford. CM1 3RR**

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for absence**
- 2 Minutes of the 138th AGM**
- 3 Report of the Chairman of the Central Executive Committee (CEC)**
- 4 General Treasurer's Report and Approval of the 2018 Accounts**
- 5 Written Reports of other members of the CEC**
- 6 Election of County Officers (Trustees)**
 - CEC Chairman, General Treasurer and General Secretary**
- 7 Notification of the 2019 Divisional Voting Members and**
- 8 2020 Presiding Officer**
- 8 Election of County (non Trustee) Appointees**
 - President**
 - BBKA Delegate**
 - Editor (*The Essex Beekeeper*)**
 - Education Secretary**
 - Examinations Secretary**
 - NHS Delegate**
 - EBKA Show Secretary**
 - Spray & Disease Delegate**
- 9 Notification of CEC Appointees and Co-opted Members**
- 10 Confirmation of the Accounts Examiner (External Auditor)**
- 11 Report of the Governance Sub Committee**
- 12 2018 Conference Report**
- 13 2019 Conference Preview**
- 14 Installation of the 2019 Presiding Officer**
- 15 Reading from the Book of Commemoration**



Refreshments

(tea, coffee, cakes, sandwiches)

will be provided by members of Saffron Walden Division

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## Presentation of Awards and Certificates

by the EBKA President Pat Allen



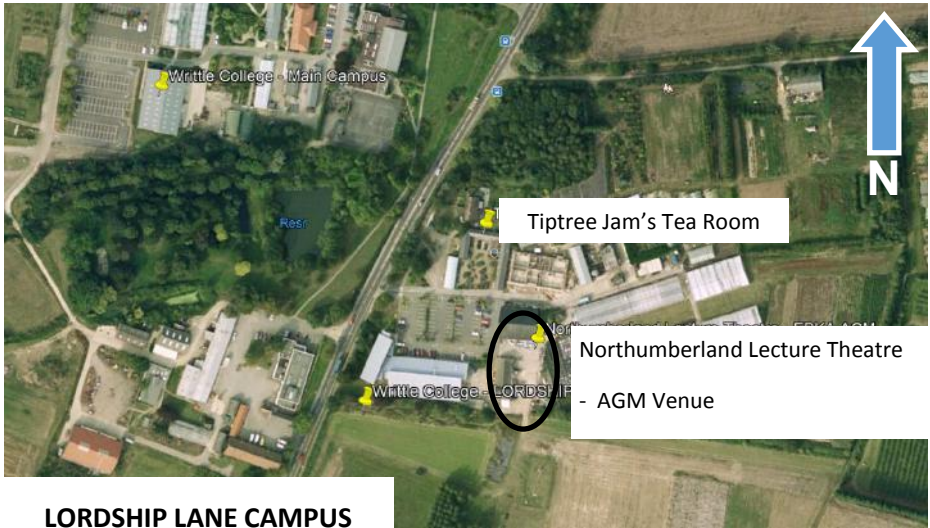
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The AGM Keynote Guest Speaker will be Clive de Bruyn, one of the best known and respected beekeeping authorities in the UK (*and beyond*)



Clive de Bruyn NDB

'Important things beekeepers have taught me'



LORDSHIP LANE CAMPUS

EBKA Annual General Meeting - Saturday 16 March 2019
2.00pm
Northumberland Lecture Theatre, Writtle College, Lordship Lane,
Writtle CM1 3RR

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Advertorial

WORLD HONEY BEE DAY is on the **20th May 2019** as agreed by the UN
(Not August 19th as stated last month - which the USA has chosen as their date)

My apologies - Editor

BBKA Examination Dates 2019

ALL MODULE Examinations
March– 23rd March 2019
(Applications in by 10th February 2019)

ALL MODULE Examinations
November– 9th November 2019
(Applications in by 30th September 2019)

Future module dates

March 21st November 14th
March 20th November 13th

Advanced Certificate in Beekeeping Husbandry
1st/2nd June and 14/15 June 2019 depending on numbers
(Applications in by 28th February 2019)

General Certificate in Beekeeping Husbandry date by
arrangement through the Examinations Board Secretary
(Applications in by 28th February 2019)

Microscopy Certificate
23rd/24th November 2019 other dates as required
(Applications in by 31st August 2019)

BEE HEALTH CERTIFICATE
By arrangement with the Local Examinations Secretary
(Applications in by 28th February 2019 last date for Assessment 31st July)

BEE BREEDING CERTIFICATE
Date by arrangement through the Examinations Board
Secretary *(Applications in by 28th February 2019)*

Basic and Junior Certificate date by arrangement with
the County Examinations Secretary
(Applications 1 month before assessment last date for Basic Assessment 31st August)

BBKA Examinations Board

All the syllabi, information sheets and Procedure Manual are in the Members Area under 'Examinations and Assessments' of the BBKA website.

Any enquiries: Email address val.francis@bbka.org.uk Telephone: 01226 286341 Also, Sarah Snelson in BBKA Head Office can help with your enquiries:..... sarah.snelson@bbka.org.uk Tel : 02476 696679 extension #2003

Start of the Season

– a frank view by a Peggy Mount character



“What ARE you doing? What for? It’s not that time AGAIN is it? Do you HAVE to clean those ‘dirty boxes’ in the kitchen? Look at the state of this floor – what on earth are these sticky brown flakes? The shed is too cold for you is it? You spend enough time down there at other times of the year. You are not, repeat NOT, going to clean off those boxes in the spare room again – I can’t believe you were using a blow lamp to burn them – whatever for? Good job they were old curtains, but you never did repaint that ceiling properly, and the room still smells of smoke. Three times you set that smoke alarm off, three times - I was on first name terms with those firemen by the end.”

“How come ALL these handles are sticky? You haven’t been near these cupboards and they’ve still got tacky. Have you been using this kitchen knife to do that scraping? And, I’ll say this one thing and I don’t care who hears me! Keep those bees IN when I’ve got washing OUT. When they first came out last year on what you dismissingly called a ‘cleansing flight’, I had white sheets on the line. Not for long were they white – I had to wash them all again – dirty little b’s. Next door had just washed and polished his new car too. I couldn’t show my face for days.”

“Now what are you creating? FONDANT? White icing for your bees! Good lord, is it a birthday for one of them? Do I have to bake tiny cakes as well?”

“So when’s the first meeting of the bee club? I suppose you want me to make them cakes and do drinks? I have never seen cakes disappear so fast. Even that poppy seed one vanished before my very eyes. I thought it would slow them down a bit. I put in loads and loads of poppy seeds, hoping that would stop them talking while they got the seeds out of their teeth or at least they would overdose and calm down a bit. AND, I’m only serving tea or instant coffee! that la-di-da one that wants ‘cordial’ can have orange squash and like it.”

Ah, another season is underway



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Swarm Collectors 2019

The BBKA will shortly be collating its Swarm Collectors' List for the coming season. So if you believe you have the necessary experience, are able to take swarms within a 10 mile radius of your postcode and are prepared to remain on the list for the season, please speak to your Division's committee members.

Your Division must endorse your application and will provide a list of its approved members to the BBKA. Your details will then be entered onto the Association's website for the swarm collecting season. Please note that you may not accept payment for this service other than out-of-pocket expenses or sell on the swarm to a third party. To do so will invalidate your BBKA insurance.

A copy of the *BBKA Swarm Collectors' Protocol* is available to download from the BBKA website:

www.bbka.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=6834f0af-3e77-4174-afe5-b3d6c58b099c

WHO'S WHO & HOW TO CONTACT THEM

President of EBKA **Pat Allen** Hon CLM

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Colchester

Dengie Hundred & Maldon

Epping Forest

Harlow

Romford

Saffron Walden

Southend

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All other Divisions:

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



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