

# The Essex Beekeeper

Issue 662

February 2020

## In this issue

Update from the CEC Chair

140th AGM

MEPs block move to weaken EU rules on bee-harming

Good News from the BBKA Annual Delegates Meeting

BBKA Examination Dates 2020

Divisional Roundup

The Napoleon bee

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



## Update from the CEC Chair

Jane Ridler, Chair, CEC



The CEC met on the first Tuesday of the New Year. Amongst other points, some tweaking of the Health and Safety Policy was included.

Health and Safety must be owned to be a more important issue in our hobby than say, stamp collecting. There is the odd hazard! All members, especially those who volunteer on Divisional committees should take responsibility particularly at apiary meetings and when there are new members. To make sure everyone is up to date on the protocol, here is some of the most important detail from the latest update on the EBKA Health & Safety Policy.

All Divisional meetings and CEC arranged events need to have a named responsible person present who has a completed Risk Assessment Form, preferably with them. This person could be the owner of the apiary, a committee member or other volunteer, to spread the load of responsibility. As usual each Division is responsible for their own arrangements, but should an incident occur, the form should be sent to the CEC (via the trustee) for consideration.

Most meetings will have some similar safety requirements, especially for your well used indoor venue and training apiaries, so a proforma is a good idea. I know that Divisions are up to speed on this, from my travels around the County, but everyone always needs to comply. Here are a few ideas from round the Divisions as a checklist :

- Have the Risk Assessment Sheet at the meeting, with the named Safety Officer, so there's no confusion, and venue postcode or other location information for ambulance access.
- Fully charged mobile phone

- First Aid Box both general and bee specific
- Are there any (new) members with relevant health conditions/ disabilities?
- Introductory talk re appropriate apiary behaviour and post-sting procedure
- Checking of bee suits – and that zips are done up!
- Being aware of all lifting and tripping hazards.
- Emergency bee equipment e.g. sheet for throwing over knocked down hives, water spray

Coming up soon is the County AGM. Hopefully we will get a good turnout of members on 7th March, starting promptly at 2.00pm. There's an opportunity to have your say, mix with other divisions over refreshments and enjoy a good bee lecture. The venue is Writtle University, as usual, but we are returning to rooms we used in the past - E03/6 in the Design Building, King's Lodge Campus on Lordship Road, CM1 3RR. An important agenda item will be the introduction of the proposal that the EBKA transfers to becoming Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). The CEC have discussed this through the year, but the bulk of the effort has been from our secretary, Tony Rand. After the meeting and delicious tea, provided this year by Chelmsford Division, we will be enjoying a lecture by Abi Lowe from the University of Bangor, and National Botanic Garden of Wales - 'The identification of floral resources used by honeybees'. Her talk will cover the modern techniques of pollen identification and will make a comparison of flowers visited by bees now with 50 years ago, especially in areas like Essex. She'll also show us some of the flowers the bees prefer in the extensive collection at the National Botanic Garden in Carmarthenshire. Some of you may have seen her presentation at this year's National Honey Show.

Last but not least, by no means least, we are still searching for a new Treasurer!

Jane Ridler, Chair, CEC 

**140th Annual General Meeting  
to be held on  
Saturday 7th March 2020 at 2pm**

in  
Room E06, Writtle College, Lordship Lane,  
Chelmsford. CM1 3RP

**AGENDA**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 139th AGM
3. Report of the Chair of the Central Executive Committee (CEC)
4. General Treasurer's Report & Approval of the 2019 Accounts
5. Written Reports of other members of the CEC
6. Election of County Officers (Trustees): CEC Chair, General Treasurer and General Secretary
7. Notification of the 2020 Divisional Voting Members and 2020 Presiding Officer
8. Election of County (non Trustee) Appointees:
  - a. President
  - b. BBKA Delegate
  - c. Editor (The Essex Beekeeper)
  - d. Education Secretary
  - e. Examinations Secretary
  - f. NHS Delegate
  - g. EBKA Show Secretary
  - h. Bee Health Secretary
9. Notification of CEC Appointees and Co-opted Members
10. Notification of Honorary County Life Member Clive de Bruyn

11. Confirmation of the Accounts Examiner

12. Propositions:

- a. That the General Secretary, on behalf of the trustees and following consultation with the membership, prepare and submit a Constitution to the Charity Commission with the objective of changing the status of EBKA to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).
- b. That authority to set membership subscription rates be vested in the CEC and that the letters “CEC” should replace the words “Annual General Meeting” in Rule 4 Conditions of Membership of the Rules.

13. 2019 Conference Report

14. 2020 Conference Preview

15. Installation of the 2020 Presiding Officer

16. Reading from the Book of Commemoration

## **Presentation**

Following the meeting Abigail Lowe from the National Botanic Garden of Wales and University of Bangor will give a presentation on honeybee uses of floral resources.

Her talk will cover the modern techniques of pollen identification. She will make a comparison of flowers visited by bees now with 50 years ago, especially in areas such as Essex, and also describe the flowers preferred in the extensive collection at the National Botanic Garden in Carmarthenshire. 🐝

# Divisional meetings around the County

## Meetings in February 2020

- 02** 10:00 – 16:00 - Train The Trainers' Day  
*Address: tba*
- 06** 20:00 – 22:00 - tba, Harlow Division  
*Address: tbc*
- 06** 20:00 – 22:00 - Filippo Negri, Chunk Honey in a Jar, Romford Division  
*Address: Gidea Park, 91 Main Rd, Romford RM2 5EL*
- 13** 19:30 – 21:30 - The Abberton Black Bee Project, Kevin Thorn, Suffolk BKA/ BIBBA, Saffron Walden Division  
*Address: Radwinter Village Hall, Walden Rd/Water Lane, Radwinter, CB10 2SN*
- 18** 19:30 – 21:00 - Film Night, Chelmsford Division  
*Address: Margaretting Village Hall, Wantz Rd, Margaretting, Ingatestone CM4 0EP*
- 22** 19:30 – Annual Dinner, Braintree Division  
*Address: Rivenhall Golf Club, Forest Road, Witham CM8 2PS*

- 26** 19:30 – 21:30 – “EWT Blue House Farm Nature Reserve” talk by the Warden, Harry Smith, Southend Division  
*Address: WI Hall, Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh SS6 7ED*

## Meetings in March 2020

- 05** 20:00 - 22:00 – tba Harlow Division  
*Address: tbc*
- 05** 20:00 - 22:00 – Ed Fairey, National Open Gardens Scheme, Romford Division  
*Address: Chadwick Hall, Main Road, Gidea Park, Romford RM2 5EL*
- 07** 14:00 - 16:00 – **EBKA AGM**  
*Address: Room E06, Writtle College, Lordship Lane, Chelmsford. CM1 3RP*
- 12** 18:30 - 21:30 – Beginners' Theory Classes and Discussion Classes for Second-Year Beekeepers, Saffron Walden Division  
*Address: Thaxted Day Centre, 2 Vicarage Ln, Thaxted, CM6 2RL*

**14** 09:30 - 17:00 – Beetradox

*Address: tbc*

**17** 19:30 - 21:00– tba,  
Chelmsford Division

*Address: Margaretting  
Village Hall, Wantz Rd,  
Margaretting, Ingatestone  
CM4 OEP*

**19** 8:30 - 21:30 – Beginners’  
Theory Classes and  
Discussion Classes for  
Second-Year Beekeepers,  
Saffron Walden Division

*Address: Thaxted Day Centre,  
2 Vicarage Ln, Thaxted, CM6  
2RL*

**21** 12:300 - 17:00 – Ted Hooper  
Memorial Lecture

*Address: tbc*

**25** 19:30 - 21:30 – Drone laying  
Queens & Laying Workers  
by Jane Ridler, Southend  
Division

*Address: WI Hall, Bellingham  
Lane, Rayleigh SS6 7ED*

**26** 18:30 - 21:30 – Beginners’  
Theory Classes and  
Discussion Classes for  
Second-Year Beekeepers,  
Saffron Walden Division

*Address: Thaxted Day Centre,  
2 Vicarage Ln, Thaxted, CM6  
2RL*

**31** 19:30 - 21:30 – Ethical pest  
control and use of bumble  
bee boxes in pollination,  
Mike Abel, Braintree  
Division, Saffron Walden  
Division

*Address: Thaxted Day Centre,  
Vicarage Lane, Thaxted, CM6  
2RL*



**Articles appearing in The Essex Beekeeper are not necessarily the views  
either of the Editor or the Essex Beekeepers’ Association**

To ensure inclusion within the diary of county-wide events would Divisions  
provide the editor with details of local meetings by the 4th of the previous  
month.

Robert Silver – robert.silver@outlook.com

## MEPs block move to weaken EU rules on bee-harming

From Lune Valley, via eBees

**B**ee populations have collapsed around the world, with pesticide use said to be the main cause.

The European parliament has vetoed a move by 16 member states and the European commission to weaken EU rules protecting bee colonies from toxic pesticides. MEPs blocked revised legislation that was said to ignore the risk to bee larvae from long-term exposure to chemicals, known as chronic toxicity.

The MEPs instead argued that a guidance document produced by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) in 2013 should be fully implemented. The guidance seeks both to protect bees from adverse effects from a single exposure or multiple exposures over a short period of time, known as acute toxicity, and also long-term exposure.

Sixteen member states, which have not been publicly named, lobbied against the full implementation of the guidance before the new rules are brought to a vote in the European parliament. 🐝

**[www.thebeeshop.co.uk](http://www.thebeeshop.co.uk)**

*Quality Beekeeper Clothing At Affordable Prices*

**Full Suits, Smocks, Bee Vests & Veils**

**Full adult suit - £55 (with free postage)**

**From Somerset**

**Email: [michaeljohnduckett@gmail.com](mailto:michaeljohnduckett@gmail.com)**

## EBKA Trustees

**President** Pat Allen, Hon CLM

**Chair of CEC** Jane Ridler

E: jane.ridler@uwclub.net

T: 01799 218023

**Gen Secretary** Tony Rand

E: secretary@ebka.org

**Treasurer** Paras Shah

E: treasurer@ebka.org

**Braintree** Bridget Mudd

E: bridget.mudd@yahoo.com

**Chelmsford** Jan Tutton

E: cec@chelmsfordbeekeepers.com

**Colchester** Tony Rand

E: tony@agewhatage.com

**D.H. & Maldon** Glenn Mayes

E: trustee@maldonbeekeepers.org.uk

**Epping Forest** Don McHale

E: donaldmchale@gmail.com

**Harlow** Nick Holmes

E: wwwcight@gmail.com

**Romford** Paul Wiltshire

E: paul.g.wiltshire@btinternet.com

**Saffron Walden** Vanessa Wilkinson

E: swaldensec@ebka.org

**Southend** Chris Allen

E: cjlallen@gmail.com

**EBKA Exams Secretary** Steph Green

E: examsec@ebka.org

## Divisional Contacts

<b>Braintree</b>	Jan French	T: 07725-166609
<b>Chelmsford</b>	Fiona Cutting	T: 07788-180011
<b>Colchester</b>	Morag Chase	T: 01206-522576
<b>D.H. &amp; Maldon</b>	Carlie Mayes	T: 07979-862952
<b>Harlow</b>	Nick Holmes	T: 07730-735752
<b>Epping Forest</b>	Katy Langley	
<b>Romford</b>	Sue Richardson	T: 07971-957333
<b>Saffron Walden</b>	Vanessa Wilkinson	T: 07747-506000
<b>Southend</b>	Pat Holden	T: 01702-477592

## Regional Bee Inspectors

### Epping Forest and Romford Divisions (excluding Brentwood)

Peter Folge

E: peter.folge@apha.gsi.gov.uk

T: 07775-119433

### All other Divisions:

Keith Morgan

E: keith.morgan@apha.gsi.gov.uk

T: 01485-520838 or  
07919-004215

## The Essex Beekeeper Magazine & Web site

**Editor:** Robert Silver

E: robert.silver@outlook.com

T: 07956-487703

**Advertising:** Jean Smye

E: jsmye@sky.com

**Mailing Secretary:** Michael Elliott

E: michaelelliott55@sky.com

**Web site:** Nick Holmes

E: webmaster@ebka.org

# Good News from the BBKA Annual Delegates Meeting

Richard Ridler

Saffron Walden Division, CEC ADM Representative for Essex

**O**ur Essex motion which moves the UK towards re-applying for Apimondia membership was passed with 93% of votes in favour. It was good to see the BBKA President and Chair being supportive. They have already started moving things forward. Hopefully the embarrassing years of the UK being the only European country which is not a member will come to an end at the 2021 Apimondia conference in Russia which is the next time an application can be considered.

The award for the association with the best performance in Basic Assessments went to Tyneside, a small association with many entering. The prize for the best performing association in other BBKA assessments and module exams was awarded to Yorkshire. Steph Green [stephgreen711@gmail.com](mailto:stephgreen711@gmail.com) can tell you all about BBKA assessments and exams. Why not have a go?

We learnt that the BBKA is in the final stages of arranging insurance for members of AHATS (Asian Hornet Action Team) who try to locate nests by following hornets prior to the Bee Inspectors destroying them. Salma Attan and Katy Langley, our Essex Bee Health Secretaries, will know more.

For the 4th year running there will be no increase in BBKA capitation and their accounts show a reasonable surplus. The income of the BBKA amazingly now just exceeds £1,000,000.

A new teaching apiary is being built at the BBKA HQ at Stoneleigh in Warwickshire for use in educating and informing all sections of the public from schools to retirement homes about the wonders of beekeeping. If successful BBKA hope to replicate it in the North and South.

It's time Essex contributed to the running of the BBKA again, there

are lots of opportunities from being a trustee and running the Spring Convention to helping at public events.

Just email me if you have any questions about the BBKA. 🐝

## The Bee Shed

Local beekeeping supplies with everything you need for your honey bees

**Open by Appointment:** Please call Wendy on **07764 609 803** or contact via the website [www.beeshedstock.co.uk](http://www.beeshedstock.co.uk) to arrange a time on the following days:

Mon	1.30pm—5.30pm	Wed	8.30am—12.30pm
Thurs	1.30pm—5.30pm	Sat	8.30am—12.30pm

Closed on Bank Holidays

**Meepshole, Great Prestons Lane,  
Stock, Essex CM4 9RL**

Approved *National Bee Supplies* Stockist and Distributor

## BBKA Examination Dates 2020

### All Module Examinations

**March** – 21st March 2020 (*Applications in by 10th February 2020*)

**November**– 14th November 2020 (*Applications in by 30th September 2020*)

2021 module dates: March 20th and November 13th

### Basic and Junior Certificate

Date by arrangement with the Essex Examinations Secretary - Steph Green

Assessments held between 1st May and 31st August (although rarely held in August in our region) *Applications 1 month before*

*the assessment* (although it helps with the administration if sent in as early as possible i.e. from March 2020)

### **Bee Health Certificate**

---

By arrangement with the Essex Examinations Secretary –  
Steph Green

*(Applications in by 28th February 2020 last date for Assessment  
31st July)*

### **Bee Breeding Certificate**

---

Date by arrangement through the BBKA Examinations Board  
Secretary

*(Applications in by 28th February 2020)*

### **General Certificate in Beekeeping Husbandry**

---

Date by arrangement through the BBKA Examinations Board  
Secretary

*(Applications in by 28th February 2020)*

### **Advanced Certificate in Beekeeping Husbandry**

---

To be held at Stoneleigh on 29/30/31 May 2020 and 12/13/14  
June 2020 depending on numbers

*(Applications in by 28th February 2020)*

### **Microscopy Certificate**

---

To be held at various venues on 21st/22nd November 2020  
(other dates as required)

*(Applications in by 31st August 2020)*

All information, application forms, syllabi, fees etc. available at:  
[www.bbka.org.uk](http://www.bbka.org.uk) under 'Examinations and Assessments'.

Secretary to the Exam Board: Val Francis [val.francis@bbka.org.uk](mailto:val.francis@bbka.org.uk)

For general help with enquiries contact Sarah Snelson at Head  
Office: Telephone: 02476 696679 [sarah.snelson@bbka.org.uk](mailto:sarah.snelson@bbka.org.uk)

Essex Exam Secretary: Steph Green: [examsec@ebka.org](mailto:examsec@ebka.org). 07867  
806549

# Divisional Roundup

## Saffron Walden

---

The Saffron Walden division report that they have two talks coming up in February and March and that their beginner courses will take place in March of this year.

They were unaware that the Essex Beekeeper would be sent out via email, and are in discussion over a stall in Saffron Walden marketplace in June.

## Southend

---

Southend report that they have numerous talks planned throughout the coming months including one by Clive de Bruyn in April and one by Kevin Thorn in July.

They have four apiaries, two of which are new and are now operational but only used by members at present.

They report a large interest in potential beginners were planning to hold a meeting to discuss the true numbers wanting to attend beekeeping courses.

## Braintree

---

Braintree report that they're very pleased with their Eat Natural Bee Hive and that other hives have been bought to improve education and teaching.

Their report, which can be found on the EBKA web site, gives a roundup of previous meetings and upcoming events.

## Romford

---

Dr Nikki Gammans from the Bumblebee Conservation Trust gave a very interesting and informative talk at the November meeting, and it was difficult to close the meeting as the speaker gave such an interesting talk.

Upcoming events include a beekeeping taster session as well courses for people at other stages of beekeeping. 🐝

## The Napoleon bee

The Derbyshire Beekeeper, via eBees

I was watching an episode of BBC's Antiques Roadshow when my ears pricked up on hearing them talk about the fleur-de-lys, how this was linked to bees and specifically Napoleon. So I decided to do a little research and find out for myself.

After the Revolution and the anti-monarchical fervour, France was enjoying rule under a hugely popular leader, Napoleon. He began to toy with the idea of crowning himself "Emperor", having greatly admired the ideals of the Roman empire. He had a new crown made, of laurel leaves, based on "Charlemagne", (King of the Franks from 768 and Emperor of the Romans from 800) . This can be seen in the image on the left, when he was crowned in 1804.

You will also have noticed that his coronation robes are richly decorated with golden bees. The bee had become a powerful symbol of holiness and royalty by early French kings. Three hundred gold bees and other precious objects were found in the tomb of Childeric I, a fifth century warrior and second king of the Merovingian dynasty of the Franks. King Louis XIV (The Sun King) had them consigned to the Bibliotheque Nationale de France and they remained there until Emperor Napoleon decided to have them sewn on his coronation robes. Napoleon understood the importance of emblem and ornamentation on imperial garments and how the display could demonstrate his authority. He was fully aware of the prestige value attached to antiquity and pageantry, wanting to associate himself with the austere military values of France's first monarchs rather than the despised Bourbon dynasty. Napoleon therefore chose the symbol of the bee as his personal emblem as it represented a greater antiquity than the fleur-de-lys which had become associated with the Bourbon kings. Although it has been suggested that the design of the fleur-de-lys is based on

a badly drawn bee! It was a perfect emblem, exemplifying a great republic with a single, all-powerful leader. In addition to all this, bees are also associated with industriousness and are social, well organised and productive.

Jean-Baptiste Isabey was charged with the design of the bee emblem. He developed a design of the bee that was volant en arriere, i.e, a bee seen from the top with partially open wings. The image below shows the two bees which featured on the clasp of Napoleon's robe. The emblem featured on furniture, glass, fabrics and carpets throughout the imperial residence.

After Napoleon's downfall, the bees were sold by the pound by the canons of Notre Dame to pay for the repair of the roof. Now only two survive and were returned to the Biblioteque, after the remainder were stolen with other treasures and melted down.

PETER DALBY - PEBADALE APIARIES

For all your beekeeping and apitherapy supplies

**Large Stock held - all year round**

**Competitive prices; any item not stocked to special order**

**37 Cecil Road, Cheshunt, Hertfordshire EN8 8TN**

**Tel: 01992 622645**

**Email: [pebadalebees@btinternet.com](mailto:pebadalebees@btinternet.com)**

**Open Mon - Sat** Telephone before calling

(any reasonable time)

CLOSED SUNDAY

Agent for E H Thorne and Northern Bee Books

www.thorne.co.uk  
sales@thorne.co.uk  
01673 858555

# THORNE

## HELPING BEEKEEPERS KEEP BEES FOR OVER 100 YEARS

Hives, Bees, Frames, Foundation  
Hardware and Clothing  
Processing, Labels, Packaging  
Queen Rearing  
Health and Feeding  
Books, Gifts, Hive Products  
Candlemaking

## ORDER ONLINE OR IN STORE

### RAND

Beehive Business Park, Rand  
Nr Wragby, Market Rasen LN8 5NJ  
sales@thorne.co.uk 01673 858555

### STOCKBRIDGE

Chilbolton Down Farm  
Chilbolton Down  
Stockbridge  
Hampshire SO20 6BU  
stockbridge@thorne.co.uk  
01264 810916

### WINDSOR

Oakley Green Farm  
Oakley Green  
Windsor, SL4 4PZ  
windsor@thorne.co.uk  
01753 830256

### DEVON

Quince Honey Farm  
Aller Cross  
South Molton, EX36 3RD  
devon@thorne.co.uk  
01769 573086

### SCOTLAND

Newburgh Ind Est  
Cupar Road, Newburgh  
Fife, KY14 6HA  
scotland@thorne.co.uk  
01337 842596



# NEW CATALOGUE

# THORNE

BEEKEEPING & CANDLEMAKING  
CATALOGUE FEBRUARY 2020



## AVAILABLE FROM 1st FEBRUARY