

# Chelmsford Beekeeping Association

## Newsletter April 2011

[www.chelmsfordbees.co.uk](http://www.chelmsfordbees.co.uk)

### The March meeting

This was a presentation given by Richard Alabone on his way of dealing with Oil Seed Rape. As always Richard was very inventive and gave us plenty to think about. It was a very good evening with high attendance. Thank you Richard.

### Swarms The season is almost upon us.

Many of us collect swarms, sometimes against all odds, and no matter how difficult, because we want to be helpful to the general public. Even the most experienced of us though might have doubts about what we are doing because a particular situation is difficult. There is no shame, if on arriving on site and making an assessment that you then decide that this is not a job for you, this reassessment may save you or a member of the public coming to harm. Could we also suggest that you go on the BBKA website and download their leaflet on swarm collection?

### Small Hive Beetle and Tropilaelaps

Fera now have a contingency plan; if, or should it be when, these pests arrive on our shore. The plan relies heavily on two aspects. One, is knowing where beekeepers are located, and two, informing fera with the utmost speed on the first sighting. Some areas have a higher risk factor than others. Coastal areas such as Maldon are at high risk and are being monitored. If beekeepers move into any risk area it would be sensible and good manners to inform the Chair or Secretary of that Division.

We can also do our bit by registering on BeeBase. This is a site run by the National Bee Unit's web based database for beekeepers and will give you all the latest information plus seasonal hints and tips. Your apiaries will only be known to you and BeeBase and your information is totally confidential.

### Next meeting 18<sup>th</sup> April

Don't forget this one: the subject being Swarms and Insurance Cover.

### Membership

The Treasurer reports that 85 members have re-joined the Chelmsford Division of EBKA in 2011. If, however, you not done so, please download an application form from the Chelmsford Bees web site and send it to the Treasurer with your cheque for the appropriate amount.

**Please note that the May issue of the Newsletter and The Essex Bee Keeper will only be sent to those who have re-joined for 2011**

Thanks:- Ian Grant

### Essex A.G.M.

A well attended affair, and Chelmsford's turn to provide the refreshments this year; well organised by Lyndon Hughes and his wife.



After the meeting the BBKA General Secretary, Jane Moseley, told us about many new changes at the headquarters. There are to be changes to their website, and also the BBKA News which is to be monthly and in colour.