



# The London Beekeepers' Association

# LBKA News

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## From our Chair



*Karin Courtman*  
*chair@lbka.org.uk*

Welcome to the July newsletter. I have been meeting quite a few excited members. It is looking as if a lot of members have got a honey

crop this year, which will make up for all the years when they had little or none! I noticed this week that the flow in my area seems to have stopped again and that overall the hives were a little bit lighter. Previously placid bees have been more defensive and any supers that were not completely covered when removed to inspect the brood box, have immediately attracted a cloud of robber bees. I wonder if the flow will start again for my bees before the ivy comes into flower.

The colonies that I keep close to the woods are starting to bring in dark brown honey which I think is probably from honeydew. It tastes like it anyway – like toffee and figs and spice – my favourite. The bees only feed on this exudate from aphids when there is not a good nearby nectar source. This sticky substance that can be seen coating leaves is harder work to collect than most nectar. My friend in West London says that his bees are now on the Himalayan Balsam, a tall pink flower that likes to have its feet in water. His bees are coming back with the tell-tale sliver stripe from the pollen on their bodies. I think most of the honey I have had this year has been from the lime trees. They need both heat and enough rainfall to give nectar so the hot thundery weather has favoured them.

There are still LBKA nucs available for sale. There have been so many swarms this year that it looks as if I will be over-wintering some for sale in the Spring.

A big thank you to everyone who helped to make the Lambeth Country Show and the Brompton Cemetery Open Day a success for the LBKA.

Enjoy harvesting your honey!

## Announcements

### Summer social (and August Meeting)

If you haven't already done so, please tell us if you will be attending our **Summer Social** with **barbecue** on **3<sup>rd</sup> August**. This is free to members who can bring partners and family members. Please email [services@lbka.org.uk](mailto:services@lbka.org.uk) with who will be coming and any dietary requirements. The social will follow the next monthly meeting at **11:00** on 3<sup>rd</sup> August at **Walworth Garden Farm** (Manor Place, SE17 3BN; near Kennington station).

We will also have apiguard for sale (at a very competitive price!).

### Mudchute

*Barbara Linder  
Apiary Manager (Mudchute)*

*Mudchute is our new apiary in East London, managed by Barbara Linder through LBKA. See full article later in this issue.*

Mudchute is up and running. The apiary is in early stages but it is absolutely beautiful with the WBC's standing majestically in Mudchute's fields of flowers.

We would like to thank the following LBKA members who helped very hard to make the apiary at Mudchute the bees' knees: Emily Abbott, Angela Woods, Karin Courtman, Richard Glassborrow, David Hankins and Julie Adams.

The bees have found their way to the farm's pond and lime trees. I unfortunately took one girl home on the DLR yesterday. She did not cause a stir and did not get ticketed.

### We have (still) have nucs available!

Members with adequate beekeeping experience who'd like another colony of bees should contact [nucs@lbka.org.uk](mailto:nucs@lbka.org.uk). We still have nucs that we can sell to members for £140. Our nucs conform to BBKA nuc standard and the queen is marked and clipped.

We have quite a **strict policy** about whom we sell nucs to. People should have done a basic beekeeping course, should have been mentored for a season (or have kept bees successfully for a few years) and have someone else in the association can vouch for their beekeeping experience. The reason for this policy is that inexperienced beekeepers are more likely to have problems with their bees. Helping out can be quite time-consuming and may cause

unnecessary inconvenience and alarm to members of the public.

We hope you understand why we strongly encourage adequate training before embarking on beekeeping



### Mentoring

The committee have decided that **we can only take on mentees who have attended our beekeeping course**. Unlikely most other beekeeping courses, our courses include a full year of mentoring. 60 people a year take our course and finding mentoring places for these students is difficult.

We strongly encourage all would-be beekeepers to go on one of our courses and take advantage of our unique mentoring programme before getting one's own bees.

Our courses sell out very quickly, so please check the website from January to book courses which usually take place in April or May.

For further enquires, please email Tristram at [mentoring@lbka.org.uk](mailto:mentoring@lbka.org.uk).

### LBKA at the Lambeth Country Show and Brompton Cemetery Open Day

We had a stall at the Lambeth Country show and Brompton Cemetery Open Day over the weekend. Thanks very much to those members who volunteered to help out. We provided beekeeping information, showed bees in our observation hive, advised on planting for bees and sold our special seed mix. Members sold their honey and other hive products. It was an incredibly hot weekend and luckily we had a lot less of the thundery rain that we were forecast!



## Newsletter

Thanks to Karin Courtman, Emily Scott (via her excellent blog), Richard Glassborow, Cerys Harrow, Barbara Linder, Howard Nichols, Mark Patterson, Simon Wilks for their contributions this month.

Please contact Aidan at [services@lbka.org.uk](mailto:services@lbka.org.uk) if you'd like to discuss writing an article. Please do so!

## July in the apiary

*Howard Nichols*  
[education@lbka.org.uk](mailto:education@lbka.org.uk)

### Where should we be with our colonies at this time of year

July beekeeping work has 2 distinct parts. These are dealing with the July nectar flow then, at the end of the month, removal of honey.

During May and June there is relatively little nectar flow and the bees utilise this period to swarm. There is now a lot less inclination to swarm and the bees direct their attention towards capturing the flowing nectar from the summer flowers.

### Nectar flow

Exact timing of the nectar flow depends upon weather and locality but in London it usually commences, late June or early in July.

#### How do I know when it has started?

There are at least 2 ways. The first is to keep in contact with other local beekeepers and association members. This is an advantage in joining an association – you become part of a pool of knowledge and experience. The second is to watch the colony entrance. The coming and going becomes a lot more purposeful when

the nectar flow starts, bees leaving the hive entrance in a determined and focussed way. They have the appearance of knowing exactly what they are doing and where they are going. As the nectar flow progresses then, of course, the supers also become heavier but, by this time, the flow is well underway.

#### Adding supers

Regular inspections are still needed but the beekeeper's attention should now be directed towards checking there is enough room in the supers. A cursory glance in the top super should be sufficient. When the frames in the top super are covered with bees then it is time to add another. Many beekeepers move the frames around a little by putting a few combs of honey and nectar into the newly added top super as this encourages bees to continue onwards and upwards. The nectar flow can also be used to draw out new combs from foundation.

#### Removing honey from the hive

A comb of honey should only be removed when it is at least 75% sealed by the bees. This is to avoid fermentation of the final product. There are several methods of clearing the bees from the supers. These can be grouped into physical methods (bee escapes, etc), chemical methods (repellents available for purchase from bee equipment suppliers) and mechanical methods (blowers which blow the bees off the frames). Some beekeepers have concerns relating to the use of chemicals and mechanical methods are more akin to commercial beekeeping, not hobbyists. It is only the physical methods detailed here. The 2 most common physical methods are Porter bee escapes and shaking the bees off the frames.

#### Porter bee escapes

Most of us use Porter bee escapes incorporated into a clearing board. These work well provided they are used properly and the metal escapes are clean and not stuck with propolis. After about 48 hours most of the bees have gone down through the valve and there are relatively few bees in the super.

Place bee escapes into crownboard (you should still have another crownboard to cover the supers) then place crownboard (incorporating the bee escapes) below the supers and wait 48 hours.

Better to use a crownboard with 2 bee escapes. If 1 malfunctions then the other is still in use.

Make sure there is plenty of space for the bees below the supers. If necessary then insert



another empty super with frames below to house the bees.

Ensure the bees cannot come back up into the supers being cleared. Ill fitting, non bee spaced equipment or defective Porter bee escapes are the usual reasons for failure.

### Shake and brush

Another method is shaking the individual frames to remove as many bees as possible then brushing off the remainder. An extra super is needed to hold the shaken frames and this should be placed on the upturned hive roof and covered with a sheet or large cloth.

This method causes a certain amount of disturbance to the bees and may not be suitable for a hive in close proximity to people. Its advantage is that it is quick and only involves 1 visit to the apiary.

### Other action to be taken this month include the following:

- Once the nectar flow starts then most colonies abandon the idea of swarming as it is now not in their interests to do so. There is still a small risk of swarming and this is increased if the bees do not have enough room to store nectar. Another reason to ensure that enough supers are on the hive.
- Reduce colony entrances when the nectar flow ceases.
- Plan your Varroa treatment for next month. Decide your strategy and buy any supplies you will need. Once the honey is off then the beekeeper should be managing the colony with a view to having it in the best possible condition for winter.
- Reserve your use of an extractor if you usually hire LBKA equipment.

## July in the forage patch

Mark Patterson  
[forage@lbka.org.uk](mailto:forage@lbka.org.uk)

With the seasons much advanced this year we should expect many July flowering plants to have come and gone earlier than usual this season. The limes began flowering in June this year, an advancement on their usual early July start and with them we've seen an explosive nectar/honey flow in many parts. White clover has also made an early appearance and seems particularly abundant this year in areas where it has not been mown and allowed to flower.



*Echinacea*



*Verbena bonariensis* are attractive to bees and have a long flowering period.



Lime blossom, now going over.





Scabious



Honey bee in wild majorum



Rosebay willow herb: a wild plant that provides an abundance of forage along railway sidings and brownfield land



Bumble bees on LBKA pollinator mix



Honey bee on bramble

This is great if you want an early honey crop to sell at summer fairs and festivals but could lead to a long gap later in the summer. This main flow will soon begin to dry up and the attentions of our bees will shift to new forage opportunities. Many of the summer staples for our bees are also flowering much earlier this year. In many parts of the city brambles are already bearing the first fruits. Bramble does not normally begin its main flowering period until July but has been in flower in some areas since May. Balsam is also flowering much earlier this year. Look out for 'ghostly' looking bees covered in white pollen as tell tail signs they've been visiting balsam.

Many of our native flowers have a short flowering period and this will likely be exaggerated this year. Generally any plants flowering earlier will also set seed and die back or become dormant earlier. Many of our garden herbaceous plants which urban bees rely on

during the summer dearth in native flower availability are also flowering and going over far earlier than normal this year. Already in my garden my salvias, Catmints, lavenders, perennial cornflower and oriental poppies are beginning to die back - they do not normally finish flowering until September. I shall be cutting these back hard, feeding and watering well to encourage a fresh flush of flowers later on. Many late summer flowers like *heleniums* and *echinacea* are also in flower early. My autumn flowering *sedum spectabile* looks set to make an appearance very soon, a plant which does not usually grace the garden with its bright pink blooms until September.

So with everything super early and the dreaded gap looming what can we do to help out pollinators? Annuals could be our bees

salvation, if sown in succession they will offer a staggered flowering right through the season. I'm currently re-sowing *phacelia*, borage, poached egg plant and other annual favourites. Many of the annuals I sown in late March are already at their best now and will start a downhill trend from now on but the new successional showings made in June and July will keep flowering right through until the ivy emerges in September.

## What happened at the June Meeting

*Howard Nichols*

Attendance at the meeting was about 30 in number and these ranged from new beekeepers to older, more established beekeepers. England's opening World Cup match against Italy in the early hours of that morning may have had an adverse effect upon attendance but it was not apparent.

The topic was everything to do with making up nuclei and the outline talk was supplemented and illustrated by a large quantity of PowerPoint slides covering most aspects, questions and answers and general discussion.

Nucleus topics covered included:

- Definition of a nucleus in accordance with the BBKA "Standard and Guidance Notes for Nuclei", BBKA Leaflet L014.
- Different designs of nucleus hive.
- Different reasons for making up a nucleus. The group identified at least 15 different reasons.
- A colony in miniature and importance of colony balance.
- Differences between making up different types of nuclei, including:
  1. Whether it is to remain in the apiary or to be transported at least 3 miles.
  2. Making up with a mated queen or queen cell.
  3. Inherent difficulties of trying to use an unmated queen.
- Introduction of queen cell.
- Developing and building up a nucleus into a full colony during the season.
- Uniting a nucleus to a full colony.
- Queen cages and queen introduction were also discussed.

The specific topic of making up a mating nucleus was not covered as this formed a small part of the "Queen Rearing for the Small Scale Beekeeper" topic at the July meeting.

Members appeared to find the subject informative and the main comment was along the lines "I never realised there was so much to a nucleus".

To any new members who have not been to our Sunday monthly meetings please do come along and give it a try. You will find a friendly atmosphere and informative and passionate discussion about many beekeeping aspects. The monthly meetings are all included within your membership and are free to all. Even the tea, coffee and cake are free! As the beekeeping season is now underway then the monthly meeting is also an opportunity to obtain assistance with some of the more challenging areas of apiculture. The topic of discussion is only one element of the meeting. It is also an informal and sociable event where members meet with each other to discuss bees and beekeeping and secure support with managing their colonies.

The Committee tries its best to reflect members' wishes and aspirations on beekeeping matters. If you would like a particular beekeeping subject to be the topic for discussion at a monthly meeting please ask a committee member.

## The Bee Basic exam: a personal perspective

*Cerys Harrow*

When I signed up to help as a volunteer beekeeper as part of a team at Fulham Palace, I was immediately sent off to do the LBKA course. That seemed entirely reasonable as I knew nothing about keeping bees at that point. I was relieved to find that we would be guided through our first year by an enthusiastic mentor who was able to steer us through to producing a first honey crop (thanks Mark). But nothing had prepared me for the dread word "exam" – as in "you will all be taking your bee basic exam". I hadn't done any exams for more years than I care to admit and to be honest I was a bit nervous of the idea. However, we were all signed up and there was no way out.

So off we went to Howard's revision sessions. These were amazing. In three two-hour sessions we went through the whole syllabus of the bee basic exam and bits of half understood, half remembered theory began to fall into place.



It was also good to meet other beekeepers at roughly the same stage as ourselves. At LBKA meetings people who had taken the exam previously were reassuring, too.

The exam itself turned out not to be such an ordeal. It focuses on the practical – there is no writing. You make up a frame, inspect a hive (hoping that you don't end up with the one that is about to swarm) and then spend about half an hour being questioned about basic beekeeping. About a week later all being well Howard gets in touch to let you know you've passed.

Looking back, I am glad I was steered into doing the exam. It really made me learn and understand the basic principles of beekeeping properly and I feel more confident as a result. There is still plenty to learn (and more exams you can take if you are really keen), but for now at least the basics are in place.

## Mudchute: our new Apiary in East London

*Richard Glassborow, LBKA Apiary officer  
apiaries@lbka.org.uk*

So, the LBKA have a new teaching apiary at Mudchute farm in Docklands, joining Eden and Brockwell to bring our total of dedicated teaching apiaries to three. This is good news as it increases our capacity to mentor new beekeepers following our introductory course. If things continue to go according to plan (how often does that happen in beekeeping!) we will, in time, be able to offer more course places and reduce the existing gap between supply and demand.



But apiaries take more than air, a bit of land and a box of bees. Mudchute would not have happened without the energy, enthusiasm, dedication and ability of Barbara Linder, a new member, though experienced beekeeper from over the pond, who volunteered to make it

happen and then run it. Our huge thanks and congratulations to Barbara. I am afraid we only have an early days snapshot of the day the first colony was introduced at the beginning of June. There will be a formal launch on the Mudchute website on July 17th: <http://www.mudchute.org/blog/welcome-to-our-new-bees>.

*The following photographs are from the Mudchute website.*



*The work begins!*



*Preparing for the new posts.*



*Many hands make light work.*





*Securing the mesh.*



*The completed enclosure.*



*Checking the enclosure.*



*Our hardworking volunteers!*



*Hanging the door.*



*Components of the WBC hives.*



*Assembling the hives.*





*Happy bee*

## Our Apiaries

*Richard Glassborow, LBKA Apiary officer  
apiaries@lbka.org.uk*

Eden has been going mad with bees and we are now having to recombine artificially swarmed colonies as we are in danger of running out of both space and equipment. Not so funny with close to 50Kg of honey on board. We had hoped to wait until the supers came off but of course the bees have their own ideas and we must submit. It does throw mentees in at the deep end, no bad thing.



We are as yet uncertain as to the full potential of this site but would like to establish a presence as soon as possible. It would not be suitable for a novice beekeeper but any more experienced members interested in keeping a couple of colonies here please contact [apiaries@lbka.org.uk](mailto:apiaries@lbka.org.uk).

Meanwhile our more established apiaries are also undergoing change. There are plans to

move the Brockwell apiary, only a hundred metres or so but, as we all know, moving bees a short distance can be, well... calendar dependent? But we hope to get a nice new, bigger apiary out of this move.



Last year we lost the apiary at the Art4Space studios in Stockwell to developers. We hope to be invited back once the builders have finished.

But to compensate, the apiary at Eden community garden in St Paul's churchyard, Clapham, has been expanded. We currently have 5 thriving colonies (but too much varroa!). One of the colonies (left) had a complicated history last season but has emerged from the winter a monster. By the first inspection on March 15 it was already capping its first super of 2014! By the end of March it was on 14 frames of brood and 3 supers.





If you are a beekeeper, novice or experienced, looking for an apiary, please do contact Richard Glassborow at [apiaries@lbks.org.uk](mailto:apiaries@lbks.org.uk). We can't promise anything but we need to be aware of demand as, when and where supply opportunities arise.

## Musings of a beekeeper: Stings and Reactions

*Simon Wilks*

There's a lot been written about sting reactions, and whether we should take antihistamines before beekeeping, carry adrenalin-injecting epipens or undertake desensitization treatment. This all looks frightening and bothersome, so I've been thinking about what causes reactions, and what the risks are.

Bee venom has lots of different things in it, but there are three main components of interest. The first is mellitin, a little protein that can burst open cells, especially red blood cells, and trigger our deep pain receptors. Then there's phospholipase A2, which breaks down cell walls and interferes with communication. And a third is histamine, which makes blood vessels leaky and triggers inflammation. These things are mainly why the normal reaction to a sting is pain, swelling, redness and inflammation.

But not all reactions are normal. Sometimes the reactions are different, and away from the sting site – rashes, trouble breathing, high pulse rate, for example. And sometimes we won't react at all. So, what's going on, and can we be 'immune' or 'allergic'?

Any puncture of the skin will provoke an response from our immune system which produces inflammation. Inflammation isn't a bad thing – it draws blood to the area and, with it, defensive cells and chemicals that attack any strange substance they find. Some of these defensive cells will try to produce antibodies against the substance.

Antibodies are large molecules that 'recognise' other molecules. One type of antibodies, called IgG, work to smother anything strange found in our blood or tissues. For example, when we catch a cold, we start to produce IgG antibodies that match up with molecules on the coat of the virus that causes it. These antibodies then stick to the side of the virus, smothering it and stopping it from being nasty, until the whole bundle can be broken down in our liver. The same thing happens with any strange substance, so we also produce antibodies to some of the components of bee venom.

However, it takes about five days to produce enough IgG to smother a cold, and that's a long time to wait. Moreover, IgG gets broken down quite quickly, so if we relied on IgG alone, it wouldn't stop us catching the same cold, ever five days, over and over again.

Happily, there's another sort of antibody, called IgE, that works a bit differently. IgE, instead of floating around in the blood on its own, sticks to a type of cell called a 'mast cell'. Mast cells are little packets of histamine that move around the body, waiting for a strange molecule to lock on to the IgE they're carrying. If that happens, then the histamine gets released, the blood vessels nearby become leaky and white blood cells flood out to eat up the nasties. This is a much quicker way to deal with problems and because mast cells don't get broken down very quickly, once we've made some IgE against a strange molecule, we're virtually immune.

IgE, however, doesn't seem to be very well tuned. We can produce more of it than necessary, which can make us hypersensitive or allergic, which results in a much greater reaction. And, given that both mellitin and phospholipase are very similar to compounds we make naturally, it might recognise the wrong targets. At present, we don't really understand this part of the immune system, so there's no way to tell who will become hypersensitive, when or for how long. And there are degrees of hypersensitivity, from slightly greater local responses to severe systemic reactions, including anaphylaxis. The picture is even less clear as many of the symptoms of anaphylaxis can be caused by other things, including 'normal' shock.

But it does mean we're all at risk of becoming hypersensitive. The risk isn't very great, but it's probably higher than you'd think.

A recent research paper [1] describes a study of 4141 cases of anaphylaxis events across Austria, Germany and Switzerland reported (a population of about 98m) over a seven-year period. About 10% (412) of cases were caused by bee stings, none of which were fatal (wasps



caused over three times as many cases and three fatalities). The chance of anaphylactic shock in response to a bee sting is, on average, about two in three million.

Rare events do happen, though, so is there anything that might indicate we're at particular risk? According to a study on German beekeepers:

"[Risk factors] were, in descending order of importance, symptoms of upper respiratory allergy while working on the hive, presence of other allergies, time spent as a beekeeper, and more severe nonallergic reactions to bee stings in springtime. These factors identified beekeepers at risk of allergic reactions to bee venom in 85.2% of cases. Our results also showed an association between allergy and emotional instability." [3]

Another, slightly more tactful, study on British beekeepers [3] found additional risk factors included being female, having a relative with an allergy to bee venom, and taking antihistamines before attending the hives.

So, it looks like we're all potentially at risk and, though the risks are small, they might not stay small. If we have other allergies, or notice symptoms (runny noses, wheezing) when working the hives, it might be advisable to ask a GP about desensitisation treatment. Desensitisation treatment does seem to work, by lowering the IgE levels, and though it's not free of risk itself [4], it seems to work, as another paper happily reports:

"It appears that [venom immunotherapy] not only decreases the risk of anaphylaxis and death, but also improves quality of life by reduction of anxiety and depression, especially in female subjects." [5]

As for carrying epipens, that's up to you. It may come in useful one day, perhaps, especially if you have allergies already, or work on your own away from other people. You're perhaps 200 times more likely to be run over than to ever have to use it, but never mind that. If we worried about everything we'd never get anything done.

- [1] Dtsch Arztebl Int. May 2014; 111(21): 367-375. "Triggers and Treatment of Anaphylaxis - An Analysis of 4000 Cases From Germany, Austria and Switzerland" Worm M, Eckermann O, Dölle S et al.
- [2] Annals of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology Feb 2011; 106 (2): 159-163 "Risk factors for systemic reactions to bee venom in British beekeepers", Richter AG, Nightingale P, Huissoon AP, Krishna MT

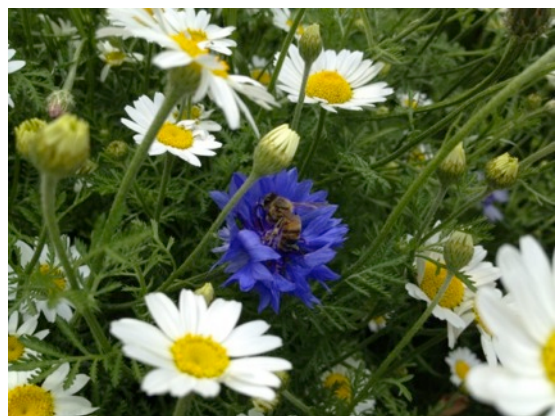
- [3] J Investig Allergol Clin Immunol. 2008;18(2):100-5. "Allergy to bee venom in beekeepers in Germany." Münstedt K1, Hellner M, Winter D, von Georgi R.
- [4] Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol. 2014 Jun;112(6):559-60. "Human albumin causes anaphylaxis during bee venom immunotherapy." Nakonechna A, Abuzakouk M.
- [5] Allergy Asthma Proc. 2014 May-Jun;35(3):260-4. "The relationship between insect sting allergy treatment and patient anxiety and depression." Findeis S, Craig T.

## Adventures in Beeland: Thoughts on keeping bees alone

*Emily Scott's guest article from her excellent <http://adventuresinbeeland.com/blog>.*

I'm finding inspecting my allotment bees a new thing, quite different to the beekeeping I've done in the past. These are the first bees I'm inspecting alone on a regular basis.

I cycle to the allotment alone - this in itself is a new experience! Before Drew gave me my bike a year ago I hadn't cycled in city streets since I was a teenager. And back then I'd cycled on pavements and in parks, not on the roads. Cycling gives me a peculiar feeling of freedom tinged with fear. It is a joyful thing to zoom along with my heavy beekeeping equipment balanced in a basket, but cars behind me in narrow streets bring an element of stress.



*Cornflowers and daisies*

Once at the allotment, I unlock the gate and wheel my bike down the grassy paths between the plots, past beautiful flowers and a huge variety of vegetables. It doesn't take long to reach my plot, where I light my smoker alone on a bench under the apple tree. This week, I had a huge problem getting any of my matches to turn to flame. Maybe they had got soggy at

some point. It was a relief when I heard that rushing noise and got my egg boxes to burn. Then the smoker went out – twice!



Without any other humans around, it's just me and the bees. I concentrate and lose myself in their hum. My main focus is on trying not to squash any as I move the combs out to inspect. I am afraid not of them but for them – they are so little, so delicate! A misplaced thumb can still them forever. It is they who should be terrified of me. Like cycling, for me beekeeping is freedom and joy with nagging twinges of worry. I hate the crunching noise of a squashed bee.



*Bee in bindweed*

Absorbed in slow, steady movements, looking out for eggs and potential queen cells, I have no time to think about anything else. Troubles are forgotten as I twist the frames round and watch the bees dancing on the comb. This is the gift the bees give me.



*Moths*

This year the allotment hive, headed up by the newly named Queen Stella, have been curiously well behaved. They have made no attempt to swarm – but neither have they made much honey. They are plodding along. The photo below is of a super belonging to a luckier beekeeper.



*Honey super*

I'm not sure whether beekeeping alone makes me a better beekeeper or not. I probably make less silly mistakes, because I'm not being distracted by trying to carry on a conversation or answer questions while I inspect. I lose my hive tool slightly less often.

On the other hand, if I always did beekeeping alone I could miss out on alternative ideas and ways of doing things that have not occurred to me. It is always good to learn from other beekeepers, to watch them and pick up on successful or indeed disastrous movements and techniques they use. And of course the bonus of having a hive partner is that you have someone to help lift heavy boxes and chat with over tea.

What do you think, do you prefer beekeeping alone or with an audience?

## LBKA Marketplace

*In this new section, members offer products and services to other members. If you'd like to add something to this column next month, please email [services@lbka.org.uk](mailto:services@lbka.org.uk).*

*This is a service to members and does not constitute any recommendation or otherwise by LBKA. **LBKA is not involved in any of these transactions and buyers and seller must proceed at their own risk.***

**Mark Patterson:** Langstroth Nuc for sale, 3 frames of brood the rest stores. Queen is marked and clipped. Conforms to BBKA Nuc standard. This year's queen. £150 to be paid on delivery. Will deliver and assist in hiving. Preference for new owner would be someone who's completed mentoring. I'm keen they go to a good home. Contact mark 07525271442

**Caroline Nursey:** WBC cedar wood one and a half (12 inches by 14 inches) brood box with full set of made frames. Unused. £75. [caroline.nursey@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:caroline.nursey@hotmail.co.uk)

**Curtis Thompson:** I am a London beekeeper and I sell local beekeepers' honey by buying it in bulk from local beekeepers. If you'd like me to buy your honey to sell it on, please contact me on 07809-562-045. I buy large amounts and small amounts, Competitive rates, cash paid on delivery.

[chair@lbka.org.uk](mailto:chair@lbka.org.uk)), **Jon Harris** (treasurer; [treasurer@lbka.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@lbka.org.uk)), **David Hankins** (secretary and membership secretary; [admin@lbka.org.uk](mailto:admin@lbka.org.uk) and [membership@lbka.org.uk](mailto:membership@lbka.org.uk)); **Howard Nichols** (education; [education@lbka.org.uk](mailto:education@lbka.org.uk)), **Aidan Slingsby** (members' services and web; [services@lbka.org.uk](mailto:services@lbka.org.uk) and [webmaster@lbka.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@lbka.org.uk)), **Richard Glassborow** (apiaries' manager; [apiaries@lbka.org.uk](mailto:apiaries@lbka.org.uk)) and **Mark Patterson** (forage officer; [forage@lbka.org.uk](mailto:forage@lbka.org.uk)). Our website is <http://www.lbka.org.uk/>.

## Upcoming events

### Sunday 3rd August: Monthly meeting: Apiguard and Summer Social

*11:00-16:00 at Walworth Garden Farm, Manor Place London, SE17 3BN*

How to use Apiguard, followed by our Summer Social with barbecue. Open to members and their family members. Please **email [services@lbka.org.uk](mailto:services@lbka.org.uk)** with the number of people attending and any dietary requirements. Apiguard will be on sale.

## Committee

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with a member of the committee if you have any questions, requests, suggestions (and offers of help!), but remember that we are all volunteers with busy lives. We are **Karin Courtman** (chair;