



# The London Beekeepers' Association

# LBKA News

## January, 2023

Happy New Year!

The committee has started planning events for the new beekeeping year, including our Winter Lecture and Monthly Meetings which we are planning to have in-person. See your emails, newsletters and website for all upcoming events. We hope to see you at some of these. For example, [sign up to](#) Kirsty Stainton's talk about Varroa on 26th January.

This month we have an excellent reprinted article from Mark about pollinator-friendly plantings (p6) as well as Richard's usual thought-provoking musings (p1), Howard's summary (p5) of what we should be doing in the apiary and a reprinting of some of LBKA's education offering this year.

Please help make the newsletter better by providing content – photos, articles, thoughts, reflections, advice, recipes, poetry...

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Thank you to this month's contributors: **Richard Glassborow, Howard Nichols, Mark Patterson and Simon Saville**. Would you like to join these esteemed contributors? If so, contact me.

*Aidan Slingsby, Editor, [services@lbka.org.uk](mailto:services@lbka.org.uk)*

## From our Chair

*Richard Glassborow*  
[chair@lbka.org.uk](mailto:chair@lbka.org.uk)

Happy New Year fellow members of the LBKA! I hope your bees have survived the winter so far and will continue to make it through to spring.

These days it can be a little difficult to tell where we are in the seasonal cycle, especially in London where the heat-island effect further distorts the general trend of increasing temperatures.

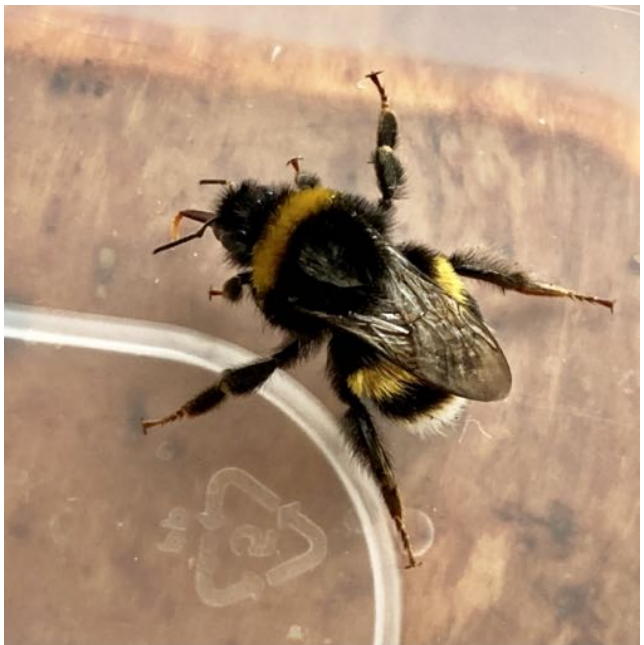
Last summer we had temperatures in excess of 40°C and a long period with no rain. This gave us simultaneous blossom and fruit on Horse Chestnut trees in October and before Christmas we had a cold snap for a



*Spotted by Simon. "Friendly visitor in our hive in Walworth Garden. Think it's a Noble False Wizard spider. Beauty!" Photo and caption: Simon Saville.*



*Drones in winter: left: January 03 2023; right: December 24 2020. Photo: Richard Glassborow.*



*Winter active Bombus terrestris: Left: Queen being revived with sugar syrup and a bit of warmth. December 22, 2022.; right: B. terrestris worker foraging on Lonicera fragrantissima (Winter-flowering honeysuckle). January 22 2021. Photo: Richard Glassborow.*

good week with temperatures as low as -6°C and snow on trees that had not yet shed their leaves! Now in January we have temperatures back in double figures. All very confusing.

But what do bees make of it? In recent years, Buff tail Bumblebees, workers as well as queens, have become not uncommon throughout the year in London. They are changing their winter strategy from one of hibernating mated queens to active winter colonies. And Honey bee drones at Christmas?

Are the bees exhibiting confusion or just responding to opportunities and triggers, unencumbered by calendars? Or is it just that we are failing to read situations that do not conform to our expectations, orthodox thinking and limited knowledge?

Probably the most difficult skill to acquire in beekeeping is learning to "read the bees". And this is even more difficult in winter. Our species has been around 300,000 years, during which time we have learned to keep warm with fires, central heating and other clever stuff. Honey bees have been around 35 million years. We should be very careful thinking we know better than they do when it comes to survival.

If we examine our motives, are we keeping bees or playing with bees? Are we in a deeper relationship with bees – helping them helping us helping them – all bees.

We are all students and our curriculum involves everything from anatomy, lifecycle and behaviour of small furry things with six legs and a sting in the bum, to abundant successions of the right kind of flowers, the relationships between climatic conditions and plants, habitat/homes/hives that suit the bees a lot and us a bit, population densities, biodiverse ecosystems, etc.

And now I had better get on with frame building!

Stay well, have a great year.

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## Announcements

**This is our official place for announcements.** If you only read one section of the newsletter, it should be this one!

### January's Monthly Meeting and Pub Social

Howard will lead this month's Monthly Meeting about Wax Moth on **Sunday 8th January** at 11:00-13:00 at The Foundry, 17 Oval Way, London SE11 5RR.

Our Pub Social will be on **31st January** at [The Lamb](#) (94 Lamb's Conduit St, WC1N 1EA), in Central London. A nice food-serving pub.

**February's Monthly Meeting on 12th February** will

be Spring Preparation and Build-up on 11:00-13:00 at The Foundry.

### Winter Lectures

Here are our upcoming Winter Lectures. All start at 18:30, will be via Zoom and will probably be recorded (subject to permission from the speaker).

- **"Varroa"** by Kirsty Stainton on Thursday 26th January. [Book here.](#)
- **"The mind of the bee"** by Lars Chitka on Wednesday 15th February
- **"Different plants for different bees: the interdependency"** by Rosi Rollings on Thursday 23rd February *organised by North London Beekeepers*
- **"Queen rearing"** by David Evans on Monday 20th March

Details will be emailed to you nearer the time.

### BeeBase's Regional Forum

BeeBase's Regional Forum is in Central London this year, on 25th January. It's free to attend and should be interesting with updates on the Asian Hornet and EFB. [Sign up here.](#)

### Old announcements from December

**Check our [previous newsletters](#) or contact [services@lbka.org.uk](mailto:services@lbka.org.uk) for more details.**

**AGM.** Last year's committee members, all of whom agreed to stand again, were unanimously accepted at the AGM. Trustee Officers are Richard Glassborow (Chair), David Hankins (Treasurer) and Simon Saville (Secretary). Trustee Committee Members are Elliot Hodges, Stuart Kennon, Annie McGeoch, Howard Nichols, Aidan Slingsby and Tristram Sutton. Richard confirmed that the Trustees will co-opt Will Fry as a Trustee again for the coming year.

### Do you have any announcements?

If you've any announcements for the next issue of LBKA News, please send to Aidan at [services@lbka.org.uk](mailto:services@lbka.org.uk).

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## January's Committee meeting

Here, we keep you up to date with what the committee discusses at our monthly committee meetings (and what keeps us awake at night). Let us know if you can help or have any suggestions that might help.

*Aidan Slingsby*  
[services@lbka.org.uk](mailto:services@lbka.org.uk)

In the Trustee part of the meeting we decided that LBKA should continue to deliver the School Food Matters programme, but that it should be organised differently this year and that Richard will put our proposal to School Food Matters this week. We noted that we may have a modest deficit next year but that our account balance is currently rather too high for a non-profit-making organisation. We discussed priorities for expenditure which follow from our Character and Direction documents, including investment in apiaries, responding to the London Bee Situation and a website upgrade.

In the executive part of the meeting, we discussed the calendar of events for 2023. We plan to run our "Introduction to Beekeeping" courses using the same format as for last year, but offering discounted places to members who have been members at least 2 years. We also plan to run an "Improver" course whose date is to fit with Bee Health Day in May. Monthly meeting topics are Wax Moth (Jan), Spring Preparation and Build-up (Feb), Swarm Control (March), Swarm Collection (April), Bee Health Day (May), Improver Course (June) and Honey Preparation (July).

Trustees agreed unanimously to co-opt Will Fry as a Trustee and Committee Member.

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## Education Matters

Repeated from last month, here are LBKA's education opportunities for the coming year.

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

### 2023 BBKA Basic Assessment

Both the BBKA and London Beekeepers Association encourages members to take the BBKA basic assessment where possible. The BBKA requirement for entry is that the applicant has been keeping bees for a minimum period of 1 year and is a BBKA member. The assessment is fairly straightforward and the syllabus can

be downloaded free of charge from the BBKA website. Follow the dropdown menu for "Members" then "examinations and assessments". The cost is £20 and entry forms can also be downloaded at the same time.

Any LBKA member who has been keeping bees for a minimum of 12 months and wishes to take this assessment please confirm by email to [education@lbka.org.uk](mailto:education@lbka.org.uk). I will then be able to let you have some electronic course notes to read at your leisure over the winter months. One member has already notified his interest. The BBKA website should be sufficient to deal with any queries regarding the assessment. Alternatively, ask another LBKA member who has taken it. Preparation for the Basic is an interesting way of continuing your beekeeping activities through the winter months. Even if you have been keeping bees for several years but not previously taken the assessment then please do seriously consider taking it in 2023. It is well worth the effort.

London Beekeepers Association will also run a revision course in the spring for members wishing to take the examination. This is likely to last for 3 evenings (2 hours per evening) in early April. The assessment is both practical and simple oral questions. It lasts about 1 hour. We cover the theory on the revision nights and, for those wanting it, also offer a practical session at an apiary beforehand.

The assessment is not difficult, is within the capabilities of anyone who has been handling bees for 12 months and who is willing to download the syllabus and undertake some background reading. We also supply free course notes in electronic format.

### 2023 BBKA Modular examinations

These are written examinations, each on a different aspect of beekeeping, and will be held in March 2023. The LBKA usually offers tuition to members wanting to take one of these examinations and will continue to do so this winter. The support offered depends upon the number of people who intend taking a particular module (there are 7 modules in total and I will offer tuition for 1 module, depending upon the interest). A lot of information is on the BBKA website. Anyone who is interested in developing their beekeeping knowledge by this route should first look at the BBKA website under the education section. There is a lot of information including a FAQ factsheet. Simply enter "module" in the search engine on the website. Then contact me by email on [education@lbka.org.uk](mailto:education@lbka.org.uk) to register your interest. I will then communicate directly with you. People who have taken the Basic in 2022 may be particularly interested in pursuing this.

Please note that a certain amount of commitment is required, both by me as tutor and the candidates. It is not something that can be decided and pursued at the last minute. Those who may be interested should

contact me now so that we can consider what options we all have.

## 2023 Microscopy Course: Anatomy of the honey bee and pollen analysis

Unfortunately, we had to cancel this due to lack of interest from members.

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# January in the Apiary

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

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

January is a quiet time for beekeepers but an eye must still be kept on the apiary. Make sure that the roof has not been blown off by winds or that woodpeckers have not taken an interest in the hive. Woodpecker damage is more likely to occur when the ground is hard as they cannot find insects in the earth and so can turn their attention to beehives. The green woodpecker, *Picus viridis*, is the main culprit. Woodpeckers frequent my own apiary and have been seen sitting on my hives. They have never been a problem as not the green woodpecker variety.

**Varroa strategy.** If not already done in December then Oxalic Acid should be administered early January. The time taken to open the hive and administer is all done in less than 1 minute as the bees are in a cluster. As always, it is essential to wear a veil when opening the colony to treat. Do not take chances. The application sets the colony back and should not normally be administered after mid-January as the colony is then rapidly building up for Spring. If not done already then it should be done in the next few days.

**Check ventilation.** If the air vents are blocked then ventilation will be impeded, leading to internal damp. Cold does not kill bees but damp does!

**Wax Moth damage.** Check stored frames for evidence of wax moth infestation (see picture which shows the extent of damage that can be found together with wax moth larvae, pupae, distinctive black faeces). This is the subject of our January monthly meeting.

**Food stores.** If the colony went into the winter with the recommended 35lb of stores then feeding will not be necessary. If stores are light then only candy or fondant should be used at this time of year. (Sugar syrup should be avoided as it will excite the bees and so disturb the cluster. The bees are also unable to process syrup in winter and it is then liable to fermentation). Feeding is



Waxmoth damage.

not usually necessary in January, more of a March task as the bees are then flying more and consuming stores at a considerably faster rate than in January.

**New equipment.** Those who have purchased equipment during the winter sales can assemble frames, etc. It is surprising how quickly events can move when the bees get going in spring and ready assembled equipment keeps the beekeeper ahead of any eventuality. Some suppliers may have a January sale so it is still worth checking out the websites. Late autumn and winter is a far better time to buy equipment than in May or June.

**Site location.** Those members who are looking to acquire bees for the first time this spring should try to find a suitable site now so that all is in situ for when the bees arrive. It is not a good idea to have bees on their way and still be trying to find a suitable location.

**Candles and honey recipes.** For those who process beeswax then winter is the usual time of year for this activity. Honey foodstuffs can, of course, be prepared and eaten at any time of year.

**Colony died out!** If you find that your colony has died out then, although distressing, action needs to be taken to deal with the situation. Brood frames and dead bees should be burnt rather than going into a black bag then landfill. An attempt should be made to ascertain the reason for the dying out. This should all be done as soon as possible to prevent other bees entering the hive.

**LBKA events.** Keep in touch with others at our monthly meetings and winter lectures. Full details are on the website.

**Education.** Education and practical experience are



*Helenium, the best garden plant for attracting bees*



*Oregano, the best butterfly plant. The awesome bee-attracting plant also supports other common and scarce species*



*Bellflower, the sole pollen source for Bell Flower Scissor Bee and Harebell Blunthorn Bee*



*Knapweed, one of the highest yielding nectar plants. Its cultivated cousin Montana is equally as good and has a very long flowering period lasting all spring through to autumn.*

the 2 routes through which beekeepers develop their skills. Education may arise from a variety of routes but Beecraft is a substantial resource. If you do not currently subscribe to Beecraft then January is a good month take out an annual subscription. Those members who are already BBKA members will already receive BBKA News which is a free and informative monthly newsletter by post.

forage for bees in the depths of winter when little is in flower and our bees are dormant so for a change my blog takes a look at what we can do to make our gardens better environments for bees all year round going forward into a new year.

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## Focus on Forage

Mark tells us what's in flower at this time of year. This article is reprinted from last year.

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

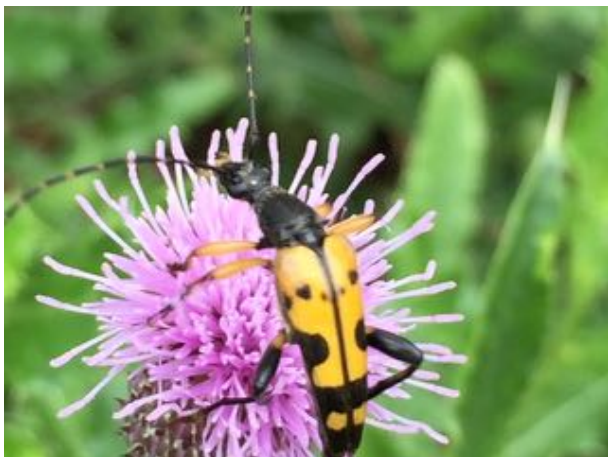
### Bee friendly gardening New Year's resolutions

This month's forage blog takes a different direction. There's not much to write about in terms of seasonal

### Create Habitat for bees

Bees need places to forage and find pollen, nectar, water and propolis and this can be done by planting the right types of flowers for them and incorporating a small water feature into your garden where bees can gather water.

Another sort of habitat bees need is nesting habitat where they can raise their offspring. For Honey bees this is a hive but for other bees this can be piles of decaying logs in which they excavate a nest burrow, a patch of sandy soil or clay bank for mining bees to dig out a nest tunnel, or bundles of hollow plant stems and cardboard tubes for the likes of mason and leafcutter bees. These nesting habitats can be conveniently catered for in the form of the many pre-fabricated bee nesting boxes available from garden centres and online



*Cirsium* (thistles) are the highest yielding UK native nectar plants and super-important bee forage. Here one is being visited by a male longhorn beetle *Retpela maculata*.



Holly, the Male plants are coming into flower now and will continue through spring when the separate female trees also bloom.



Golden rod *Solidago*, the only plant I've ever seen Sharp Tailed Bees frequent

shops or you can make your own [see my guide how to make homes for solitary bees](#).

Other ideas you could try include making a nesting cylinder for ground nesting bees. You need to invest in a sheet of perforated metal sheeting which you bring together at the ends and fasten together with nuts and bolts to form a cylinder. This is then filled with sand or free draining soil to provide a medium which bees can burrow into. This design allows bees to nest in the top of the planter by burrowing downwards but they can potentially also excavate lateral burrows entering through the many perforated holes in the metal sheet. Try using soft and sharp sand, cactus compost or John Innes loam based soil with added sand. You can plant drought-tolerant flowering plants in the top too to provide cover as some bees prefer some vegetation cover near their nests whilst others prefer a more open aspect.

Lastly the final habitat that bees need is over wintering habitat. For bumble bees this is often a shallow hollow excavated in dry soil beneath tufts of grass or piles of decaying vegetation, compost heaps or hollow plant stems for solitary bees. Try not cutting back all

your herbaceous perennials in autumn, so leaving some stems intact for insects to hibernate inside the hollow stems. Many solitary bees over winter in their nest chambers.

### Plant useful things in your garden

My gardening mantra is either the bees can eat it or we can. If a plant can't fulfil either of these two requirements then it doesn't get a look in! Of course most of the things that we can eat are also beneficial to bees and other pollinators as the majority of vegetables do also flower and the fruits we eat need the bees to pollinate them.

### Plant the best plants for bees

Not all flowers are equally attractive or beneficial to bees and other pollinators. Attractiveness and benefit to pollinators varies a great deal with some plants being 100 times more attractive and useful than the worst. To complicate things not all plants are equally beneficial to all insects due to the shape and morphology of the blooms which may prevent all but a few dedicated visiting bees whilst others contain toxins, the effects from which only certain bee species are immune. Great examples are the foxglove *Digitalis Purpurea*, Comfrey *Symphytum officinalis* and Everlasting Pea *Lathyrus latifolia* which are among the top 10 UK plants for sugar content in their nectar and the amount of nectar produced per hectare (kg of sugar/ha/year). These 3 plants should be a magnet for all bees having the greatest rewarding nectars among British plants. However Fox Glove and Comfrey are plants with deep tubular flowers which prevent all but the longest tongues from accessing their nectar, meanwhile Everlasting Pea has both a deep nectary and tightly lipped flowers which require a long tongued bee with a robust body to enter.

Bulking up your gardens by planting the most attractive and beneficial plants for a broad range of insects will provide the most benefit to pollinators, whilst adding plants which are attractive or of benefit to only a small



*Solitary bee nest planters.*

number of species helps provide food for more fussy specialists – often the species most at risk. There are many bees which are not generalist and will only feed their offspring pollen from a small number or a single species of plant. Plant a mixture of broadly attractive and specialist plants and choose plants which will offer flowers over a long season or plan a succession of flower types throughout the season. See the tables on pages 9 and 10. There are lots more planting suggestions on my [plants for pollinators](#) pages along with download guides for plants for different types of bees. There are also lots of resources on the [LBKA website](#).

### Reduce your reliance on pesticides

Pesticides do have their place but only as a final resort once other means of defeating pests and disease have been exhausted. Try mulching with compost and recycling garden waste to feed plants rather than chemical feeds, try companion planting to ward off unwelcome pests and attract beneficial insect predators over chemical sprays. Pesticides find their way into pollen and nectar and accumulate in social bee colonies where they can exhibit a wide range of symptoms including reduced reproductive success, decreased life span of the individual insects, compromised immune response and tolerances to environmental stressors and increased mortality rates. When buying plants for your garden try and find out from the seller or the grower whether neonicoti-



*Tim Lover awarded MBE in the Queen's New Year Honours (a few years ago).*

noid pesticides have been used in the plant's production – these pesticides are harmful to bees and long lived in the plant and surrounding soil meaning they can have effects on wildlife for many years to come.

### Stop being so tidy in the garden

Try not to be too much of a compulsive tidy upper in your gardens. Try leaving small hidden away messy areas where vegetation is not cut back and things are left a little wilder. This will act as a refuge for invertebrates which are less tolerant of disturbed areas.

### Learn to plan ahead

If you want to provide for pollinators in summer then the time to plan your planting activity is now. Decide what space you have, plan what you intend to grow and start placing orders now so that come spring you can have plants delivered and planted that will flower come summer. Planning ahead is especially important for spring bulbs which are best planted when dormant in autumn, 5-6 months before they will come into flower.

### Give no dig gardening a try

Spreading composts and biodegradable mulches onto your soil and allowing worms and other detritivores to take nutrients down into the soil is much more beneficial to most soils over conventional digging in. By refraining from deep digging and only adding organic material to the soil surface we replicate what occurs in nature by creating a nutrient rich, moisture retaining top layer above increasingly mineral based layers of soil. Most plants have the majority of their roots within the top 30cm of soil, even very large trees seldom have roots penetrating deeper than 2-3 feet and they are



Plant variety	Flowering period	Pollinators attracted
Helenium autumnal <sup>a</sup>	July to October	Honey bee, Lasioglossum bees, Hoverfly, 4 species of Butterfly
Oreganum vulgare <sup>b</sup> or Oreganum onites	June to October	Honey Bee, Lasioglossum bees, Andrena bees, Bumblebee, Melitta bees, Hylaeus bees, Hoverfly, 9 species of Butterfly
Agastache foeniculum <sup>c</sup>	July to September	Honey Bee, Bumblebees, 4 species of Butterfly, Hummingbird Hawkmoth, Hoverfly, Flower Bees
Calamint	July to August	Honey Bee, Bumble Bee, Megachile Bees
Lavender Gross Bleu	July to September	Honey Bee, Bumblebees, Lasioglossum Bees, Butterfly
Nepeta	June to September	Honey Bee, Bumblebees, Megachile Bees, Wool Carder Bee, Flower Bees, Butterfly, Mint Moth, Osmia Bees
Echium vulgare	June to September	Honey Bee, Bumblebees, Megachile Bees, Osmia Bees, Wool Carder Bee, Flower Bees, Hoplitis adunca, Lasioglossum, Pollen Beetles
Veronica spicata	June to September	Honey Bee, Bumblebee, Lasioglossum Bees, Hylaeus Bees, Hoverfly, Butterfly
Teucrium hiricanum	June to October	Honey Bee, Bumblebee, Flower Bees, Lasioglossum Bees, Hoverfly, Butterfly, Mint Moth, Swollen Thigh Beetles, Pollen Beetles, Wool Carder bees
Sedum Spectable	August to October	Honey Bee, Bumblebee, Lasioglossum Bees, Butterfly
Solidago <sup>d</sup> and Golden Rod	July to October	Honey Bee, Bumblebee, Xylocopa Large Carpenter Bees, Coelioxys Sharp Tailed Bees, Lasioglossum Bees, Butterfly, Beetles.
Hyssopus	June to September	Honey Bee, Bumblebee, Lasioglossum Bees
Eryngium	June to September	Honey Bee, Bumblebee, Lasioglossum Bee, Hylaeus bees, butterfly, hoverfly, pollen beetles, Solitary wasps
Echinops	June to September	Honey Bee, Bumblebee, Lasioglossum Bees, Hylaeus Bees, solitary wasps
Centaurea <sup>e</sup> (Napweeds and Perennial Cornflower)	May to November	Bumblebees, Lasioglossum Bees, Megachile Bees, Osmia Bees, Hoverfly, Butterfly, Pollen Beetles
Cirsium (thistles) <sup>f</sup>	June to September	Bumblebees, Honey Bee, Andrena Bees, Halictus Bees, Colletes Bees, Flower Bees, Long Horn Beetle, Swollen Thigh Beetle, Pollen Beetle, Butterflies, Solitary wasps

*Examples of some of the best plants to attract a broad variety of pollinators. Suggestions based on several years of data collection in studies into flower attractiveness to pollinators conducted by LASI and Rosybee Plants supplemented with results from the Agriland Project along with our own observations over the years in our London Garden.*

<sup>a</sup>The most attractive garden plant for bees in 4 years of trials By Rosybee

<sup>b</sup>The most attractive plant for butterflies by LASI and top 10 plants for bees by both LASI and Rosybee trials.

<sup>c</sup>The most attractive plant for bees in trials by LASI.

<sup>d</sup>Shown by Rosybee trials not to be very attractive to bees however in my own garden I have 3 varieties which attract large numbers of predominantly solitary bees, blue butterflies, solitary wasps, hoverflies and pollinating beetles. On regular visits to the prairie plantings in London's Burges Park and on my regular travels around North America I have witnessed Golden Rod visited by an extraordinary range of pollinators. Solidago is the only plant in my garden on which I have seen sharp tailed bees visit.

<sup>e</sup>Centaurea nigra (black napweed) ranked 4th by Agriland project for abundance of nectar produced per Ha and Centaurea montana (perennial cornflower) consistently in top 20 most attractive plants by Rosybee – in addition Centaurea species have long flower season and prolonged usefulness to bees.

<sup>f</sup>UK native Plant producing the most nectar according to Agriland Project.

Plant variety	Flowering period	Main benefitting pollinator
Everlasting Pea	May to August	Megachile Bees
Stachys	May to September	Wool carder bee (collects hairs from the plant to carder its nest) Fork tailed flower bee
Bell flowers	May to September	Chelostoma campanularum, Melitta haemorrhoidalis Bumblebees, Honey Bee
Achillea (Yarrow)	May to September	Colletes davisianus wool carder bee (collects hairs from the plant to carder its nest)
Alliums	April to September	Hylaeus Bees Honey Bee, Bumble Bee
Lamium maculatum	March to November	Bumblebees and Hairy Footed Flower Bee
Pulmonaria	March to May	Hairy Footed Flower Bee
Astrantia	April to August	Hylaeus Bees
Asteraceae	April to October	Hylaeus Bees, Colletes bees, Swollen Thigh beetles
Foxglove	April to July	Garden Bumble Bee
Yellow Loosestrife	June to August	Yellow loosestrife Bee Macropis europaeus
Hawksbeard	June to September	Pantaloone bee Dasypoda hirtipes, Red Tailed Bumblebee, Honey Bee, Andrena bees, Osmia Bees

*Some examples of plants which are beneficial to specialist species and are a good way to provide for fussy flower visitors to your garden.*

mainly for anchorage rather than water and nutritional absorption. The benefit to bees in no deep digging is that solitary species nesting in the soil don't have their burrows disturbed and plants flower better. Digging frequently disturbs the buried seed bank meaning weed species can take hold, whereas no dig gardening results in far less seed bank disturbance and therefore a reduced weed problem. In the United States it has been found that many ground nesting solitary bee populations can triple on no dig farms compared to conventionally tilled crop fields as a result of fewer nest burrows being damaged.

for honey bee colonies and how to recognise symptoms of infestation. She will then provide a explanation of the various ways for varroa monitoring, and most importantly, a comprehensive overview of the treatment options available in the UK and husbandry techniques that can be used to reduce mite loads without chemical intervention. This will be a jargon-free presentation designed to help you chose the right treatment for you and your bees. This talk is targeted at beekeepers of any experience level but may be of broader interest to those interested in invasive pests or integrated pest management.

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## Upcoming events

See our [website](#) for an up-to-date version

### Sunday 8th January: Monthly meeting: Wax Moth

11:00-13:00 at The Foundry, 17 Oval Way, London SE11 5RR

All about Wax Moth

### Thursday 26th January: Winter Lecture: Varroa by Kirsty Stainton

18:30 at Via Zoom ([sign up here](#)).

We're delighted to welcome Dr Kirsty Stainton to talk to us all about the parasitic mite, varroa destructor In this talk, Kirsty will describe the biology of the parasitic mite, Varroa destructor, why Varroa mites are so bad

### Tuesday 31st January: Pub social

18:30-22:30 at The Lamb, 94 Lamb's Conduit St, London, WC1N 3LZ

Our monthly trip to the pub will be at The Lamb in Central London. A nice food-serving pub.

### Sunday 12th February: Monthly meeting: Spring preparation

11:00-13:00 at The Foundry, 17 Oval Way, London SE11 5RR

Spring preparation.

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## Committee

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with a member of the committee if you have any questions, requests, suggestions. We are:

- **Chair:** Richard Glassborow, [chair@lbka.org.uk](mailto:chair@lbka.org.uk)
- **Treasurer:** David Hankins, [treasurer@lbka.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@lbka.org.uk)
- **Secretary:** Simon Saville, [admin@lbka.org.uk](mailto:admin@lbka.org.uk)
- **Education:** Howard Nichols [education@lbka.org.uk](mailto:education@lbka.org.uk)
- **Membership:** Aidan Slingsby, [services@lbka.org.uk](mailto:services@lbka.org.uk)
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- **Apiaries:** Tristram Sutton, [apiaries@lbka.org.uk](mailto:apiaries@lbka.org.uk)
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Our website is <http://www.lbka.org.uk/> and the pictures are in the same order as the names above.

