



The London Beekeepers' Association LBKA News

June, 2024

Firstly, congratulations to **Elaine Ellis, Zoe Groves, Casper Rodgers, Geoff Everson** and **Georgie Herety** who took and passed their BBKA Basic Assessment! Very well done!

This month we're at the Lambeth Country Show in Brockwell Park (instead of our monthly meeting). Please do come and say hello (and help out if you have time). We have a lot of events coming up. Attend "Food Safety for Beekeepers" by Andy Pedley on Tuesday 18th June. Come to Bell House on Tuesday 25th June for a full disease inspection with Danyal Conn. Come to Ruskin Park Community Garden on Sunday 14th July for our Monthly Meeting. Put 11th August in your diary for our Spectacular Summer Social.

The highlight in this newsletter is Monika's inspiring report on how they celebrated World Bee Day at Abbey Gardens (p5). But the other content is excellent too: our apiary managers tell us what's going on in their apiaries (p11), Howard tells us what to do in the apiary (p7) and Mark tells us what's in flower (p9).

As usual, we have an upcoming pub social and our monthly meeting will be replaced by our stall at the Lambeth Country Show next month. Do come.

Announcements	1
June's Committee meeting	5
World Bee Day: Abbey Gardens celebration	5
June in the Apiary	7
Focus on Forage	9
LBKA Apiaries in June	11
Upcoming events	11
Trustees	12

Thank you to this month's contributors: Elena Bessusi, Janet Evans, Annie McGeoch, Howard Nichols, Mark Patterson, Andrew Slade, Guillaume Tremorin and Monika Szolle. Would you like to join these esteemed contributors? If so, contact me. Please help make the newsletter better by providing content – photos, articles, advice, recipes. . .

Aidan Slingsby, Editor, services@lbka.org.uk

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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!

June's Monthly Meeting and Pub Social

This month's Monthly Meeting falls on the same weekend as **our stall at the Lambeth Country Show**. This is a great annual event with lots going on. We are usually there, telling the public about bees (and Asian Honets) and providing fun activities. **So come along to Brockwell Park on Saturday or Sunday** (8-9th June) at some point between 13:00-21:00 to visit the LBKA stall, meet other members, give an hour or so of your time helping sell honey, rolling candles with children, and maybe engage with other Londoners on issues relating to bees and other pollinators. For more information (and if you want to sell honey) please contact treasurer@lbka.org.uk.

The **Pub Social on Tuesday 25th June** will be **replaced** by the full disease inspection evening at 18:00



Brambles! Photo: Janet Evans.

at Bell House (27 College Rd, Dulwich, SE21 7BG) with Danyal Conn (see below).

July's Monthly Meeting will be on Sunday 14th July and will be hosted by Sharon at her apiary in Ruskin Park, Camberwell. This will be a meeting with bees and bee chat. Do come along to do what beekeepers do!

Full disease inspection evening with Danyal Conn

Annie has organised a full disease inspection evening with Bee Inspector Danyal Conn. This will be on **Tuesday 25th June** at 18:00 at Bell House (27 College Rd, Dulwich, SE21 7BG). All welcome to open 6 full hives and listen to Daniel talk through his inspection process and learn more about his NBU role.

Important date for your diary: 11th August for the Spectacular Summer Social

Please add **11th August** to your diaries for our social highlight of the year – the Spectacular Summer Social, with food provided by the ever excellent Delica Sisters and talk from Stephanie Slater, Founder and Chief Executive of School Food Matters. As last year, this will be at Bell House (Dulwich).

Congratulations to those who passed their BBKA Basic Assessment

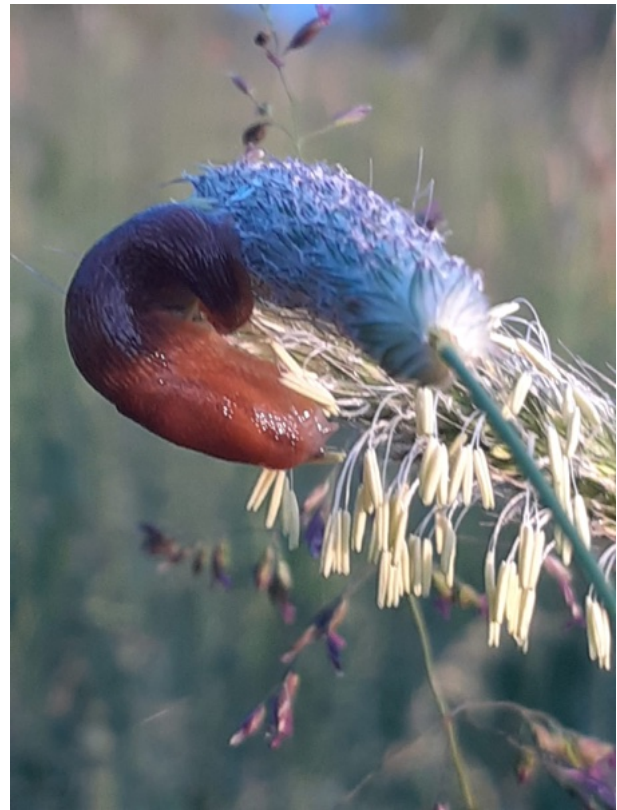
Many congratulations to **Elaine Ellis, Zoe Groves, Casper Rodgers, Geoff Everson** and **Georgie Herety** who took and passed their BBKA Basic Assessment!

We strongly encourage those who've been keeping bees for at least a year to do their BBKA Basic Assessment. Please sign up for Howard revision classes which happen over winter.

BBKA Talk: Food Safety for Beekeepers

The next in the BBKA series of Zoom talks will be "Food Safety for Beekeepers" with Andy Pedley on Tuesday 18th June at 7pm.

Andy has been keeping bees for 30 years and, as an EHO, developed an interest in the law on food safety as it applies to beekeepers and honey production. He realised that there was a fair amount of misinformation and traditional, but not always good, practice among beekeepers. In 2009, he authored a series in BeeCraft on the Food Safety Legislation and has authored other relevant articles for them too on the Honey Regulations and Recycling jars. He has recently worked more on the nuts and bolts of food safety for beekeepers and has presented talks on this and the Food Safety law as it applies to beekeepers at the National Honey Show and to local associations. Northern Bee Books asked



"Pollen breakfast for a wingless pollinator". Caption and photo: Guillaume Tremorin

him to produce a book and this is now [in print](#). Andy is currently the Training Apiary Manager for Oxfordshire BKA; this gives him responsibility for 10 colonies there as well as his own 7 in various apiaries around Oxfordshire.

This talk will be streamed to YouTube and the link will be [available on BBKA's website](#).

Ocado search for the best local honey

The BBKA is working in partnership with online supermarket Ocado and the celebrity cook Nigella Lawson in a competition to champion honeys produced by small-scale beekeepers and to discover an outstanding British honey. The beekeeper with the best honey will win £2,000 and the BBKA will receive a £1,000 donation. Online applications close at 14:00 on 28th June 2024 but if the maximum number of 100 entries is reached before this date, then the competition will close earlier.

Entrants will be sent labels and given full details of where and how to submit four matching jars of liquid honey (min weight 227g) for judging. Honey entries must be received by 5th July. The winner will be announced during the week commencing 22nd July.

For details and to enter visit: <http://www.ocado.com/honeyheroes>.



"An aphid treat". Caption and photo: Guillaume Tremorin

Asian Hornet Roadshow

Without Guillaume and Mary helping Annie, the roadshows would have been a real struggle.

The colouring in proved a success at Herne Hill market. Children coloured in Asian Hornets while their adults talked about the effect the hornets will have on agriculture and fruit farming. The people working on the rail tracks were interested, as were the security people from the Brockwell festival.

Members welcome to visit LBKA's Apiaries

LBKA currently has four (operational) apiaries: Battersea Children's Zoo, Brockwell Park, Hyde Park and Mudchute Farm. They are overseen by Tristram but each is managed separately. Beekeeping activity happens weekly during the opening hours below. All members welcome but we recommend you check with the Apiary manager before travelling in the [members' area](#) of the website [on this page](#).

- **Battersea Children's Zoo:** Saturdays, 14:00
- **Brockwell Park:** Sundays, 12:00.
- **Hyde Park:** Thursdays, 15:30.
- **Mudchute Farm:** Mondays, 14:00

See updates from apiary managers on page [11](#).



Asian Roadshow at Herne Hill Market. Photo: Annie McGeoch

Instagram

Thanks to Lucie who recently "retired" from looking after our [Instagram account](#). Yohanna, Rebecca, Annie and Aidan have been discussing how we get more members involved. The aim is to put up great images and give insightful beekeeping context about them.


We would love members to get involved in suggesting content and will be setting up a Whatsapp group (details via email).

We would simply like members to **post suggestions for nice images and captions**. Please ensure that anything you post is **suitable for sharing on social media** (all permissions secured), but we'd ideally like original content; i.e. pictures you've taken.

Categories of post might include:

- Nice pictures of flowers and pollinators.
- Bee behaviour (washboarding/swarming)
- Apiaries and beekeeping
- Things that are in the news.
- Things that align to LBKA values
- Things that promote LBKA.

Please post your Insta handle with your submission if you have one. We may not use all the content suggested and may edit comments. We look forward to seeing your submissions!



Produced by Lucy Cornwell, Cliff Booy (NNESS), Gay Morris, Mike Brown (National Bee Unit) with assistance from Corinne O'Flynn (National Biodiversity Data Centre Ireland) Stuart Roberts (BWARIS)

www.nonnativespecies.org

Alert! Report sightings of this species to: alernonnative@ceh.ac.uk

Asian Hornet

Species Description


Scientific name: *Vespa velutina*
AKA: Yellow-legged Hornet
Native to: Asia
Habitat: Nests usually high in trees and man made structures, sometimes closer to the ground; hunts honey bees, other insects and also feeds on fruit and flowers.

Not easily confused with any other species. Dark brown or black velvety body. Characteristically dark abdomen and yellow tipped legs. Smaller than the native European Hornet.

Introduced to France in 2004 where it has spread rapidly. In 2016 the first UK sighting was confirmed in Gloucestershire. High possibility of introduction through, for example, soil associated with imported plants, cut flowers, fruit, garden items (furniture, plant pots), freight containers, or in/on untreated timber. The possibility that it could fly across the Channel has not been ruled out.


A highly aggressive predator of native insects. Poses a significant threat to honey bees and other pollinators.

Do not disturb an active nest. Members of the public who suspect they have found an Asian Hornet should send a photo to alernonnative@ceh.ac.uk.



Key ID Features

Asian Hornet Queen

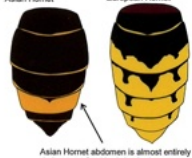


Queens up to 30 mm, workers up to 25 mm long


Entirely dark brown or black velvety body, bordered with a fine yellow band

Legs brown with characteristic yellow ends

Asian Hornet **European Hornet**



Asian Hornet abdomen is almost entirely dark except for 4th abdominal segment





Asian hornet, 'hawking' for honey bee prey

Photos from: J. Haasine, Rachel Scopes and Nigel Jones; Richard Ball

Similar Species

Asian hornet (*Vespa velutina*) for comparison



- Queen up to 30mm long, worker up to 25mm long
- Legs yellow at the ends
- Dark brown / black abdomen with a yellow / orange band on 4th segment
- Head dark from above, orange from front
- Dark coloured antennae
- Entirely black velvety thorax
- Never active at night

Actual size

European hornet (*Vespa crabro*)



- Queen up to 35mm long, worker up to 30mm long
- Legs brown at the ends
- Yellow abdomen marked with brown on the upper part, not banded
- Head yellow from above, yellow from front
- Yellow antennae
- Thorax black with extensive brown markings
- May be active at night

Actual size

Giant woodwasp (*Urocerus gigas*)



- Larger than Asian hornet, female up to 45mm long
- Legs yellow
- Distinctive yellow and black banded abdomen
- Long cylindrical body unlike Asian hornet which has an obvious waist
- Long yellow antennae
- Female has an obvious long sting-like appendage (ovipositor) which it uses to lay eggs in trees

Actual size

Hornet mimic hoverfly (*Volucella zonaria*)



- Abdomen has more yellow stripes than Asian hornet
- Legs darker than Asian hornets
- Only one pair of wings (hornets and wasps have two pairs)
- Large, globular eyes

Actual size

Median wasp (*Dolichovespula media*)


- More extensive yellow and orange colouration on abdominal segments than Asian hornet
- Yellow markings on thorax unlike Asian hornet

Actual size

Field Signs

Active April-November (peak August/September). Mated queens over winter singly or in groups, in various natural and man-made harboursages – underneath tree bark in cavities left by beetle larvae, in soil, on ceramic plant pots – potentially any small, well-insulated refuge. Makes very large nests in tall trees in urban and rural areas, but avoids pure stands of conifers. Will use man made structures (garages, sheds etc.) as nesting sites.



For more information visit:
www.nonnativespecies.org
www.nationalbeehiveunit.com

Alert! Report sightings of this species to:
alernonnative@ceh.ac.uk

Asian Hornet Verifiers

This is the time of year when we're putting out traps for Asian Hornet queens. If you'd like to be an Asian Hornet Verifier, let us know. See the map of our current Asian Hornet Verifiers. You will shortly get an email if you are registered as an Asian Hornet Verifier.

Swarm list

Now it's swarming season we need to make sure our lists are up to date.

Swarm list: Experienced beekeepers with the inclination and means to be "on call" and have the public contact them directly can have their phone number on the [public swarm map](#). You will shortly get an email if you are.

Swarm Whatsapp: We use a Whatsapp group internally to coordinate swarm collection. Any member can join. It's also a good place to get swarms if you're willing to take them at short notice and you're experienced enough to deal with bees of unknown provenance. We do not recommend beginners to start with swarms.

See "members' area" for members' goodies

LBKA members can log in via the members' area on the website and see videos of past talks and meetings

Old announcements from May

Tristram on ITN: Tristram was interviewed for ITN for International Bee Day at our Mudchute apiary. He appeared on the ITV news, talking about bees and the threats that pollinators face from the Asian Hornet.

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.



Elena posted this picture on Whatsapp of the early stages of Asian Hornet nest in Italy, explained she's in one of the worst-affected areas and that beekeepers here have adopted a nomadic beekeeping approach, moving hives at higher altitude as a form of protection from Asian Hornet. She reported the nest and that someone was coming to remove it. Photo: Elena Besussi.

June'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

We were pleased to be joined by member Elaine Ellis who has some ideas on improvement to the way the association does things. We encourage anyone interested in contributing to LBKA to contact us.

Trustee part of the meeting

This was apt, because the Trustee part of the meeting was dominated by a wide-ranging discussion about the future of the Association. Richard introduced the topic and referred to a number of interwoven issues, including use of BeeBanter, what members of the association want (and say they want), with the observation that there is now low attendance at meetings. This may suggest that few members are interested in in-person activities – pretty key for practical beekeeping – or that

we are pitching events wrongly. The committee is trying its best to understand what members want. A survey we did two years ago suggested strong support for educational activities and in-person meetings, but there has been low take-up on these when we have tried to run them. We have been trying to hold meetings where there are bees, with next July's meeting being a good example, but many of our pre-COVID meetings were well-attended even with no apiary present. **We would welcome insights from members: please email services@lbka.org.uk.**

We also heard from the Asian Hornet steering group. We now have 4 Asian Hornet Coordinators (Sharon, Elliot, Annie and Rebecca), there is the possibility of licencing for track & trace, BBKA are developing new mapping and the roadshows have been successful.

Executive part of the meeting

In the Executive part of the meeting, we discussed upcoming events. For the Lambeth Country Show, all arrangements in hand with honey to be sold at £10 per 8oz jar with LBKA taking 5%. July's monthly meeting will be at Sharon's Ruskin Park apiary. And our Spectacular Social will be on Sunday 11th August at Bell House (Dulwich) with food provided by the excellent Delica Sisters and a talk from Stephanie Slater from School Food Matters. However, We are also struggling to get volunteers for the School Food Matters Programme at our apiaries.

World Bee Day: Abbey Gardens celebration

Monika has written an inspiring report of how they celebrated World Bee Day at Abbey Gardens.

Monika Szolle
 LBKA member

How much have the bees been recognised in your community? From their incredible dance skills to their hard-working nature it is vital the wider population of London is aware of their friendly pollinators. Therefore perhaps beekeepers everywhere should take inspiration from the recent World Bee Day at Abbey Gardens in Stratford. The gardens hosted an exciting event that unified conservation efforts, creative stalls, and fun activities for all ages. Maybe this will bring forward ideas for your community gardens' next bee-themed event?

As a place for the community, the team had to design inclusive and accessible activities and there was no better way to do this than through a treasure hunt. "How Bees See" was a unique scavenger activity that



immersed participants in the world of the bees. Challenged to find clues using UV photos of flowers, the treasure hunt was tricky at times but nevertheless an exciting adventure. When shown the comparison between the two photos both children and adults leaned forward in curiosity, for the first time they were observing the world seemingly through a bee's perspective, bringing them closer to the creatures that often go unnoticed in their everyday.

The event also featured a candle-making workshop, allowing attendees to express their creativity with colourful wax sheets while enjoying a hands-on activity.

Nearby was a stall for those wishing to get creative, or perhaps those wanting to adorn their home with the comforting smell of bee wax. The candle-making stall featured an array of colors and techniques to create beeswax candles, allowing people to take home with

them a souvenir of the exciting day. Twisting stripes, blocky hexagons, and colour gradients, the candles all had a unique sense of personality embracing the purposefulness of what the bees produce.

A highlight of the event was the "Bee Talk" lecture, an insightful look into the more technical aspect of a beekeeper's routine and the biological nature of the bees.

From their behaviour to hive roles and even proper etiquette when encountering bees, this was an opportunity to leave feeling like more of a bee expert alongside having the sensory experience of smelling and touching wax, propolis, and pollen.

It was also vital to address the more serious issue of the Asian Hornet raising awareness and educating the public on identification methods.

Educational lectures such as this will allow for more widespread understanding as beekeepers directly connect with the public and make space for engagement with the fascinating creatures that serve as one of nature's foundations.

However, although the bees were the centrepiece of the event, there was a greater purpose of fostering a sense of community. The event featured a charming Flower Dance performed by children from the Ballet Academy, adding a touch of artistic flair and allowing many parents, relatives, and onlooking guests to get groovy along to a nature-inspired show.

The event's goal was to educate and inspire. The LBKA team (Andrew, Monika, Naomi, and Li) had a chance to



transcend their passion for bees to a wider audience, becoming a source of inspiration for all ages. Who knows, perhaps walking away from the event are some young future beekeepers? Nevertheless, everyone seemed to be keen on highlighting the importance of bees and fulfilling a role in helping them thrive sustainably which proved the event as an amazing success.

With over 150 visitors, including Mayor Rokhsana Fiaz and local councilors, the event served as a culmination of fun, excitement, education, and most importantly inspiration dedicated towards building a legacy of bee conservation.

Abbey Gardens is buzzing with excitement for next year's World Bee Day celebration promising to bring new activities and evolving from its prior success. This event can serve as a springboard for beekeepers everywhere to take the initiative and share their knowledge to encourage ecosystem preservation. Abbey Gardens cannot be the only place to uphold such an iconic opportunity for bee-themed fun and education. Soon enough we should see World Bee Days happening all over London!

Leave your community feeling more connected to nature, to each other, and most importantly to the wonderful buzzing creatures that right now deserve more recognition than ever. Bee-lieve in the bees and start planning your next world bee day, London can hardly wait!

June in the Apiary

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

Howard Nichols
education@lbka.org.uk

Swarm control

This is still the main priority if the colony has not yet swarmed. Swarming has been sluggish this year and many colonies have not swarmed. Routine inspections should be made every 7 days to check for queen cells. Make sure you have sufficient spare equipment for swarm control. Upon finding open queen cells, you have sufficient time to close up the colony, go home to think things through and collate equipment. You are unlikely to have time to order equipment from a supplier, have it delivered and make it up. For anyone with access to Ted Hooper's excellent Guide to Bees and Honey then Artificial Swarm method is covered extremely well on pages 138 to 140. The National Bee Unit also has helpful [helpsheet](#).

Removing honey

Another seasonal task in early June is removing and processing the spring honey brought in by the bees. This year we have had a cold spring and I am not aware of our own members reporting spring honey. Personally, I do not remove spring honey but leave it until July



when I remove it with the summer honey. If spring honey is removed then keep a watch on stores within the hive.

Collecting swarms

If your bees do swarm or you are called out to collect another swarm then personal and public safety should always be the overriding priority. Do not attempt to climb trees or use ladders beyond your capabilities. A simple order of action may be as follows:

- Make sure they are honeybees.
- If on someone else’s land then obtain permission to enter from the landowner. If a branch of the tree needs to be cut then, again, make sure you have permission.
- Ensure any bystanders are moved away to a safe place.
- Put on bee suit and light smoker. Spraying the swarm with a fine mist of water is a refinement which will help keep the swarm in a cluster.
- Place a large sheet (an old bedsheet is ideal) on the ground underneath the swarm.
- After making sure that you are safe then deposit as much of the swarm as you can in a box or large bucket. Try to aim for 90% of the bees as you then have a 90% chance of including the queen.
- Turn box or bucket containing most of the collected swarm upside down on top of the middle of the sheet with a stone or piece of wood wedged between the box (or bucket) and the sheet. This allows access for the remaining bees.
- Come back at dusk to collect up the swarm by



How bees see



How bees see

removing the stone and tying the sheet around the box. It can then be hived.

Other action to be taken this month

Add supers. Add supers as necessary, adding another in advance of it being needed by the bees. This may be either a brood super or a honey super, depending upon circumstances.

Check varroa mite drop. Check varroa mite drop if not done in April or May. The Beebase varroa calculator is a useful diagnostic tool.

Carry out a specific brood disease inspection. The essence of this is to know what is normal and healthy and so to look out for anything that deviates from this. It is good to do this with a beekeeping friend as you



Red tailed bumblebee on bramble blossom.



Sedums blooming on a roof top in Chancery Lane.

may be looking for only 1 or 2 infected cells in the whole colony.

Have spare frames. Ensure you have sufficient frames to deal with the honey flow when it arrives. In London it often commences in late June when more rural areas are experiencing a June gap. It is a lot easier to simply add a super than having to extract a super and put it back in the middle of the honey flow. This may not even be possible as the water content may still be too high for extraction.

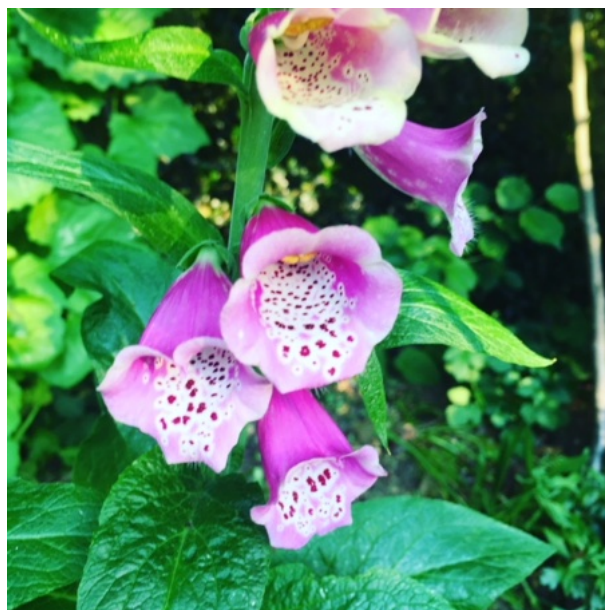
Enjoy your June beekeeping activities. It is a short season and June is a busy part of the season.

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

Early summer – June in particular – is a time of the year



Foxgloves are out now.



A bumblebee on field scabious.

which brings uncertainty for many a beekeeper, and for those in rural areas in particular. June is the beginning of the summer season when the spring flowering plants and trees shed their blooms having been pollinated and now begin to form seeds, but the main flow of summer flowering blooms has yet to begin. Beekeepers refer to this period of change as the June Gap.

At this time of year honey bee colonies are approaching their peak in worker population in readiness for the summer flow, queens are laying at a prolific rate and colonies have many larvae to feed. A reduction of incoming nectar and pollen as the spring flowers cease but the summer flowers are yet to peak can leave large colonies struggling to feed themselves or to fill supers with surplus honey for the beekeeper.

'Fortunately in urban areas like London the June Gap is rarely felt because our towns and cities contain an abundance of exotic plants which bloom throughout June, filling the gap in forage availability.

Early summer flowers like **lime, sweet chestnut, oriental chestnut, pseudo acacia, bramble** and many of



Honey bee on sedum ocre



Campanula blooms

our flowering **hedgerow herbs** and **meadow flowers** have already begun to bloom. In the meadows around Tower Hamlets Cemetery and Mile End Parks in East London, **weld**, **scabious**, **sainfoin**, **lucerne**, **bugloss**, **rest-harrow** and **bird's foot trefoil** are in full bloom attracting **honey bees**, **cuckoo bumble bees**, **flower bees** and **leafcutter bees**.

Last week whilst inspecting my city centre roof top bees I noticed that the **sedums** on the green roofs are just starting to come into flower. Whilst of limited usefulness to bees generally the sedums' brief few weeks of bloom do provide some much needed respite to pollinators in the very heart of the city where good forage is hard to come by. **Honey bees** and tiny **short-tongued solitary bees** are particularly frequent visitors to sedums on green roofs. Other plants important to city centre bees include **pyracantha (fire thorn)** **cotoneaster** and **ceonothus** which are often grown as amenity shrubbery, the blooms of which provide much needed pollen and nectar.

In urban parks and gardens **privet** hedges are coming into bloom. Beekeepers loath privet because its nectar produces a bitter tasting honey that is unpalatable to most, but for the bees privet is a good source of forage. Other garden shrubs important as sources of nectar in urban areas include **hebe**, **choiysia**, **pyracantha**

and **cotoneaster** – all are popular with bees and are widely planted in urban car parks, and amenity areas around housing developments. The latter two have already by-and-large finished flowering now, but **choiysia** and **hebe** often have a second flush of blossom and will continue to bloom well into summer.

Urban areas contain many exotic trees which flower after our native species have ceased flowering. These include **sweet chestnut**, **pseudo acacia**, and **Tree of Heaven**. Along railway embankments, **fire weed**, **thistles** and **teasel** are also blooming.

Right now in my garden, **nepeta**, **geraniums**, **campanulas**, **thyme**, **sage**, **valerian**, **perennial corn flower**, **wall flowers**, **escalonia**, **osteospermums**, **teucrium**, **lamb's lugs**, **oriental poppy**, **knifophia**, **eremus** and **giant echiums** are in bloom attracting large numbers of bees. Soon the **lavender**, **echinops**, **cardoon** and **echinacea** should follow.

This month is a good time to 'Chelsea chop' late flowering perennials to extend the flowering season later in the year and ensure there are still flowers well into autumn for bees. Plants like **helenium**, **belianthus**, **golden rod (solidago)**, **asters**, **dahlias** and **leucanthemum** can be chopped back by about half. This will encourage multiple new flowering shoots from lower down the stem producing a larger mass of slightly smaller flowers later in the season, extending the forage for the bees and ensuring there is colour in your garden late in the season. Now is also a good time to take green cuttings from plants like **penstemon** which will root fast as long as they are kept moist – their deep tubular flowers are popular with longer tongued bumblebees.

Other plants like **perennial cornflower**, **oriental poppy**, **cat mint**, **sage** and **teucrium** can be chopped back very close to the ground once flowered at the end of this month, fed, watered and mulched they often produce a second flush of new growth and later flowering blooms. Other plants can be encouraged to continue flowering for longer by simply dead heading – removing the fading flowers before they have an opportunity to set seed. The plants desire is to reproduce so it will keep on sprouting new blooms until it does so or the season ends.



LBKA Apiaries in June

What's happening in LBKA's apiaries. This section makes a welcome return

Battersea Children's Zoo

Annie McGeoch
events@lbka.org.uk

The queen on the right (as she is known) is doing fine. The queen on the left (as she is known) wasn't present until confirmed today. We gave the colony a frame of eggs which they ignored - the eggs weren't good enough or the bees didn't want to use them for some reason. Maybe the weather. I was concerned they were turning into an old bees home where the bees just live their lives and dwindle. However I added another frame of eggs which they accepted and we now have brood. It's been a month where we have left them to build up while keeping watch they don't make a queen cell. None have been seen (yet). They have had two days of school visits which I think the bees find stressful and sets them back a few days.

One of the School Food Matters sessions happened today. We entertained two schools with attendant teachers, assistants and parents and two people from whole foods shop Piccadilly. The morning was 30 secondary special needs young people who I think gained a lot



Moreland Primary school on the way to the apiary in front of the kookaburras.

from summoning confidence and bravery to be in the apiary and handle bees. In the afternoon we had 30 5 year olds who were a delight and totally fearless. Thanks to Mary Walwyn, Kathy Stevenson and Guy Eaglesfield and Jamie and Gemma from the zoo for their help.

Mudchute

Andrew Slade

We regained some of the winter losses and now have 3 viable hives and nuc that need some TLC. The nuc may be combined with another hive later this month. All the queens are now marked and clipped but not without incident. The queen that came with the swarm from Brockwell Park had been marked and was about to be clipped when she too fright and flew off. Disaster... but queens are known to return to their hives and she did. As deflating as it is for the luckless beekeeper it is not uncommon for the queen to return to her hive.

We are looking forward to the return of our veteran beekeeper Len Mole who suffered a fall recently. Some may know him from days gone by and we wish him a speedy recovery. Two mentees will be joining us soon and we will give them every encouragement to gain the necessary confidence to pass the BBKA Basic Assessment.

Upcoming events

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

Saturday/Sunday 8th/9th June:

Lambeth Country show

12:00-21:00 at Brockwell Park

The Lambeth Country show is the long-running annual event in Brockwell Park. Come and see our stall. This will replace our Monthly Meeting this month.

Tuesday 25th June: Full disease inspection with Danyal Conn

18:00 at Bell House, 27 College Rd, Dulwich, SE21 7BG.

A full disease inspection with Bee Inspector Danyal Conn. All members welcome to open 6 full hives and listen to Daniel talk through his inspection process and learn more about his NBU role.

Sunday 14th July: Monthly meeting: Apiary visit

11:00-13:00 at Ruskin Park Community Garden

We will be in one of Sharon's apiaries in Ruskin Park Community Garden.

Sunday 11th August: Monthly meeting: Spectacular Summer Social

11:00-13:00 at Bell House, 27 College Rd, Dulwich, SE21 7BG.

Our annual Spectacular Summer Social will feature food provided by the ever excellent Delica Sisters and will follow our special guest speaker. Stephanie Slater is Founder and Chief Executive of School Food Matters and will talk about the Programme that LBKA has been part of for many years. Members and their guests only and you'll need a ticket (details to follow)

Trustees

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
- **Treasurer:** David Hankins, treasurer@lbka.org.uk
- **Secretary:** Simon Saville, admin@lbka.org.uk
- **Education:** Howard Nichols education@lbka.org.uk
- **Membership:** Aidan Slingsby, services@lbka.org.uk
- **Events:** Annie McGeoch, events@lbka.org.uk
- **Apiaries:** Tristram Sutton, apiaries@lbka.org.uk
- **Mentoring:** Elliot Hodges, mentor@lbka.org.uk
- **Resources:** Will Fry, resources@lbka.org.uk
- **Asian Hornet:** Sharon Bassey, asianhornet@lbka.org.uk
- Stuart Kennon, stuart.kennon@lbka.org.uk

Our website is <http://www.lbka.org.uk/> and the pictures are in the same order as the names above.

