



# The London Beekeepers' Association

# LBKA News

## In this issue...

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As well as the usual newsletter features, Howard gives us a round-up of the LBKA education and training that he has overseen, Richard tells us about his and Mark's relocation of bees from a compost heap, Cerys has again kindly recapped last month's meeting for us, Mark has been celebrating his and other LBKA members' success at the National Honey Show and Emily has been telling us about David Goulson's talk about bumblebees at the London Honey Show last month.

Thanks to those who have contributed to this month's newsletter: Karin Courtman, David Hankins, Cerys Harrow, Richard Glassborow, Howard Nichols, Mark Patterson and Emily Scott (via her excellent blog).

Please contact Aidan at [services@lbka.org.uk](mailto:services@lbka.org.uk) if you'd like to discuss writing an article. We hope you enjoy the newsletter.



## From our Chair



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

Welcome to the November newsletter. Our bees are now preparing to over-winter and the temperature is expected to drop significantly very

soon and they will stop foraging and we will hardly see them. This can be a worrying time for us. Will they have enough food? Is the cluster big enough? Will they suffer the ravages of disease and will lots of bees die prematurely leaving insufficient to make it through to the Spring? Fortunately the bees are adapted to the challenge they face and most of them should safely make it through. Remember the old beekeeper's saying that, 'Damp kills more bees than cold'.

I was pleased that there were a lot of entries this year for our LBKA sponsored London honey category class at the National Honey Show last month. This time it was someone outside our association who won. Game on for next year! I add my congratulations to those of others.

The Committee is now preparing for the Annual General Meeting (AGM). This is on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November. I hope to see you there. Mark Patterson is bringing some beetle traps and some samples of USA honey for us to sample, so I am particularly looking forward to that.

The papers have been e-mailed out. This time we only have one candidate for each post that we need to elect. We have no one who has come forward for the Events Officer post, but the new Committee will be seeking to co-opt additional people onto the Committee so if you are interested in this, please do let one of us know.

Jon Harris our Treasurer and Angela Woods our previous Secretary will not be standing for re-election. I want to thank them for the hours of unstinting hard work they have put in over their years on Committee. We are in a much stronger position than we were in terms of our finances, our reach and our capacity to deliver mentoring support to new beekeepers across

London than we were, and they deserve much of the credit for this.

I am pleased that most of the current Committee are standing for re-election and also that a couple of new people are seeking election. Working with the membership this new Committee will build on what we have already been doing. Please do make sure you make your views known about the future direction of the LBKA. My own priority would be that we continue to work with the public around planting for pollinators and that we continue to hold planting events.

I have decided that I would like to focus more on practical beekeeping and don't plan to be on Committee next year. It has mostly been a pleasure and I have made some great friends through the LBKA and I plan to remain an active member. I think the new proposed Committee looks strong and that together with the membership they will continue to take us from strength to strength. I still be very involved; supporting Paul Vagg in taking on the role of caretaker of the LBKA swarms and nucs, managing the new permanent observation hive that we are setting up at Brockwell Park and mentoring new beekeepers.

I hope you will volunteer your time for the LBKA, as the more of us that do, the more impact we can have both in terms of supporting each other as members and in terms of educating the public and involving local businesses.

Enjoy the Newsletter.

## Announcements

### November Monthly Meeting

November's monthly meeting will be on Sunday (9<sup>th</sup> November) at 11:00 at Fairley House Junior School, (220 Lambeth Rd, SE1 7JY) on the subject of Oxalic Acid and discussion of small hive beetle. Mark will have some beetle monitoring traps from his trip to the US and Oxalic Acid will be for sale. The meeting will be followed by the usual hot drinks and biscuits.

### Annual General Meeting

Our **Annual General Meeting** will be next week (Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November) at Roots and Shoots.

Members have just been emailed the agenda, statements of the candidates standing for office, the background and details of a proposed

motion to transfer to charitable status and minutes from the last AGM and EGM.

Don't forget that you must be a member to have a say at the AGM.

We are fortunate that our forage Officer Mark Patterson will give a talk about his recent trip to the US, in which he has spent time with beekeepers and associations in several states. He will be sharing his experiences with the audience, sharing insights into beekeeping politics, differences in husbandry practices, beekeeper education, how US cities compare to London in terms of forage and numbers of beekeepers, and how US beekeepers have developed a variety of tools to combat the small hive beetle. He will also bring examples of beetle traps and some US honeys for the audience to taste.



### Membership renewal reminder

If you want to continue to be in LBKA and receive our emails don't forget to renew your membership. All last year's members have been sent renewal emails. If you're not sure if you've joined up yet or don't have the renewal email, contact [services@lbka.org.uk](mailto:services@lbka.org.uk). As of today, 133 of you have joined – thanks for your continuing LBKA support.

### Honey Sales

A resident in Camberwell, (SE5), is still interested in purchasing local honey for her daughter who has multiple allergies, and a restaurant in the Kings Cross area, (N1), is also looking for local honey to augment its seasonal British menu. If you'd like contact details for either of these potential purchasers, please contact David at [membership@lbka.org.uk](mailto:membership@lbka.org.uk).

### Talk by Elizabeth Birchall

Hatchard's bookshop have offered us some complimentary tickets to an event at their bookshop on Piccadilly where Elizabeth Birchall will be talking about her new book **In Praise of Bees**. Tickets are £5, but complimentary tickets are available to LBKA members on 020 7439 9921.

### LBKA-forum on Facebook

Don't forget LBKA members have a special Facebook Group all to themselves! Contact

membership@lbka.org.uk if you're a member and need help accessing this.

## Last month's meeting

*Cerys Harrow*  
*LBKA member*

There was a good turnout for the October meeting held at Fairley House School as usual. Howard called us to order at 11 am and we began with a run through the legal requirements of honey labelling. We were reminded that if we were selling honey we could be investigated by the Trading Standards authority so it was important to comply with the regulations. A lot number/best before date was vital (as were proper records) just in case of any health issues – extremely rare, but not impossible. We also ran through the EU regulations about composition of honey which stipulate relative sugar/moisture content among other things.

We then had an opportunity to check the water content of our honey using a refractometer. Water content should be no more than 20% and reassuringly no one who had brought in samples of honey found they were over the limit!

Then on to the fun bit of the morning – tasting everyone else's honey. There were about 20 different jars on offer. It is endlessly fascinating how different they can be even when taken from hives that are very close to each other or just extracted slightly earlier or later in the season. There were no prizes – they were all delicious. It would be interesting to know how judges discriminate between the different jars as it must be hard not to be influenced by individual taste.

Refreshments followed – for anyone not full up with honey samples – and the usual invaluable chance to chat with other beekeepers sharing tips for keeping bees healthy over the coming months. Don't forget the AGM next month.

## Our education and training programme this year

*Howard Nichols*  
*education@lbka.org.uk*

The beekeeping season has finished for 2014 and set out below is a summary of the education activities undertaken by the

association for 2014. This time last year, in her report at the A.G.M., Karin talked about the LBKA producing competent and confident beekeepers. The 2014 education plan has tried to meet this and with varied results. A summary is as follows.



## Monthly meetings

As with 2013 we have continued to introduce different intermediate topics as the theme for the monthly meetings. These have included disease recognition, use of compound microscopes for Nosema testing, queen rearing for the small scale beekeeper, an entire meeting dedicated to production and use of nuclei. In addition many of the seasonal apiary tasks have also been covered such as varroa treatments and swarm control. We have tried to cover both seasonal and intermediate topics so that there is always something for everyone. Based upon member feedback the strategy seems to have been successful. Anyone who would like a particular topic to be covered in 2015 please contact a committee member and we will see if it can be included.

## Module 1

The association provided tuition for several members who took Module 1 in March 2014.

## Basic Assessment

We arranged tuition and the assessment for 12 members who took the BBKA Basic assessment in May 2014. It is hoped that we can do this for even more members in 2015. Anyone interested in this assessment in 2015 please email your details and I will forward electronic course material for winter reading. It does not require any commitment at this stage.

## General Husbandry Assessment

Preliminary outline arrangements were made with the BBKA for training for anyone wishing to take this assessment. No LBKA members



wanted to undertake this training and so it did not proceed further.

### Queen handling tuition

In line with Karin's vision of producing competent and confident beekeepers we offered internal practical teaching for matters relating to the queen. In particular, how to find her, handle her, mark and clip her. Substantial interest was anticipated for this but, rather disappointingly, only 1 member applied. The course was run for the 1 member. The low response was disappointing as this aspect of beekeeping is quite challenging and, once proficient, the beekeeper's competence and confidence substantially increases.

### Bee Health Day

Each May we have a Bee Health day whereby Regional Bee Inspectors visit and teach practical and theoretical aspect of different diseases. This is always a major education event and always enthusiastically received. This was unable to go ahead in 2014 due to internal changes within the bee inspectors' department. This was due to circumstances beyond our control but we expect this to be back on the agenda for 2015.

### Winter lectures

We had 2 winter lectures and both of these were reasonably well attended. Each had about 15 attendees in number which is a little disappointing but probably sufficient to continue with these into 2015.

### Beginners Course

All the above events were free and included within the annual membership. We also ran our 2 usual beginners courses which is a fee paying event. Each course is for Saturday and Sunday and both were organised and led by Richard Glasborrow and Jon Harris. Both weekend courses were fully booked. During the course of each weekend a variety of LBKA members were involved, each speaking or demonstrating a single aspect of the course content and attending the course for ½ a day. The time given by all of these individuals is greatly appreciated. Special thanks should be given to John and Brian who were in attendance for both days at both weekend events and to make the tea and deal with refreshments as necessary. Thank you John and Brian.

### Mentoring Programme

We have again been able to run our mentoring programme. This has been organised and monitored by Tristram and all appears to have been very successful. We intend to match all people attending the Beginners Course with a mentor (assuming they want a mentor), but subject to availability of mentors and appropriate geographical areas. Thank you to Tristram and all mentors who have taken part.



### November in the apiary

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

Even with the extended period of warm weather this year, November is still not the most active of months for the beekeeper but a certain amount still needs to be done.

- Tidy up the apiary if not already done. Complete cleaning, sterilising and storing of equipment.
- Check stored supers for evidence of waxmoth infestation. The lifecycle of the waxmoth is substantially different to that of the honey bee. A waxmoth egg is temperature dependent and is able to stay as an egg then hatch after a few weeks or months. Supers should be stored in a cold and draughty place if possible but also checked during winter. If any evidence of waxmoth is found the best way to deal with it is to place the frame(s) in a deep freeze cabinet for 48 hours. This will kill the waxmoth in all 4 lifecycle stages.
- Planning for further varroa treatment in December. December is the usual month for treating the colony with Oxalic Acid. Monitoring natural mitedrop in November is a useful diagnostic tool and precursor to actual treatment next month. Insertion of the varroa floor for 1 week in November will give useful information to the beekeeper.

- Check the hive is secure and that the roof cannot blow off or be dislodged. Placing of heavy items such as a couple of housebricks on the roof is usually sufficient for a National with a well fitting flat roof. They are designed not to blow off. A hive with a gabled roof, such as a WBC, may need tethering with rope.
- Quick check behind the mouseguard is useful as dead bees and other debris can build up. The colony should not be opened.
- For those who have not taken the BBKA Basic Assessment, please download the syllabus from the BBKA website and consider background reading with a view to taking the assessment next summer. The requirement is that you have kept bees for a minimum period of 1 year. The LBKA will not pressurise anyone to take the assessment but will actively encourage and assist those wishing to do so. Reading about bees and beekeeping in the winter months is a useful way to spend our spare time and acts as a beekeeping bridge between the seasons.
- Consider your approach to next season. Will you need an additional hive, nuc box or replacement frames? Most equipment suppliers have winter sales where they sell slight seconds. This is an excellent time to buy, especially if you search 2 or 3 websites for offers. If 2 or 3 people jointly purchase then you may even be able to save on the delivery charge.

## November in the forage patch

Mark Patterson  
forage@lbka.org.uk

There is little to forage on for our bees at this time of year as the Abundance of Ivy comes to an end and the first frosts reduce most late flowering garden plants to mush. By now most colonies will be well stocked and hunkered down for winter.

On mild days our bees may venture outdoors for brief periods to perform cleansing flights or to collect water. If pollen is available from winter flowering plants then bees may collect and bring back to the hive but as temperatures drop most flowers struggle to produce any nectar.



*Mahonia*

Mahonia is now in bloom and this plant is very important to bees in winter, 75% of winter flower visitations by all bees are to this flower alone. It is most important to Buff tailed Bumble Bees, some of which are active all winter beginning new colonies in autumn. In very cold winters these winter active colonies really struggle to survive but during mild winters they can do very well for them selves foraging predominantly on Mahonia.

Other flowers which may offer forage to bees in winter include Viburnum's, particularly viburnum tinus which is widely planted in parks, gardens and amenity spaces. Its an evergreen shrub with white to pale pink pflowers which are highly fragrances with a sweet smell. It is one of the very few winter flowering plants that produces nectar even in the cold. Winter flowering Primulas may offer limited forage to honey bees though many of the modern polyanthus hybrids have deep corolla tubes meaning the bees short tongues cant reach the nectar but they may be able to gather the pollen. Pollen from these bedding type Primulas has been recorded in notable quantities in Central London Honey.

When warm enough to fly honey bees may also visit Fatsia japonica flowers, Winter Honey Suckle and Winter flowering Clematis.

Now is a good time to start planning what to grow in your garden for the bees next year and get ordering seed packets. Remember that LBKA members have access to several very good discounts from a variety of seed suppliers. Details can be found under members services section on the website.



## LBKA Apiaries

*Richard Glassborow*

*apiaries@lbka.org.uk*

Things are finally quiet in the apiaries although even at the end of October the bees have been flying like it's high summer, still bringing in so much to store that we have had to check they are not running out of space and supers have had to go back on some. Proof of this concern is supported by the swarm line still buzzing into October!



One such call came to me in the middle of the month. The caller was a bit vague about how long it had been in their garden but thought about four days, settled in a compost bin. To be honest I was reluctant to go as it was by now raining quite hard and hungry swarms can be very stroppy. At this time of year there is also a question of where to put them.

But I was persuaded when the full story came out: the couple had builders in and they were held up by the bees; mum had just given birth to their second child.



So along I went prepared to take a swarm. After clambering over one of the most untidy building sites I have seen (and I've seen a few) I had to hack through the undergrowth to the bin. Sure enough bees were flying in and out at quite a rate even in the rain. I gently lifted the lid which, being rubber was quite flexible. And there it was, a fully mature feral honey bee nest of about eight combs maybe more. I closed the lid. This needed more preparation and was not a one man job.

I returned a couple of days later with Mark Patterson who had kindly volunteered to help. The builders has not cleared up as requested so the first job was to tidy up enough to be safe - climbing over piles of building materials with a box of angry bees is not clever.

We had with us a standard hive, this lot was too much for a nuc, and I had prepared some frames with wire but no foundation. The sequence of events is best told by Mark's photographs shown here. Suffice to say, we removed the lid then the bin, leaving most of



the nest precariously freestanding. Large pieces of wild comb are very delicate and definitely needed two pairs of gentle hands to lift them off the nest and onto a frame which we then wired up and placed in the hive. We had a sheet on the ground to help stray bees find the new home. Most of the time it was raining but the bees were remarkably well behaved considering what was going on from their perspective. If they survive the winter this bodes well for their temperament.



Eventually all the comb was in the hive but that was more than could be said for the bees. By this time it was about an hour off darkness so we decided the best thing was to leave them to settle and return to collect the hive the following night.

This I duly did and took them to an out apiary of mine that is big enough to put the hive a little way from my own bees. This is still a risk as cut-outs are notorious sources of disease. But we had inspected the brood as much as we could in the circumstances and there were no immediate alarm bells. All the LBKA apiaries were full and even more colonies would have been put at risk had we used one of them. I hope this has not been a mistake, time will tell. If they do survive the winter my intention is to shook swarm them in the spring. In the meantime they seem busy enough foraging from their new home (see last photo) and consuming gallons of syrup.



My thanks to Mark for his help and his photos.

## Sweet success for LBKA at the National Honey Show

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

This year's NHS show was held at St Georges College Weybridge October 30<sup>th</sup> to November 1<sup>st</sup>.



Photo from Sara Ward via Facebook



Photo from Sara Ward via Facebook

This year's show was flooded with entries reflecting the very good year we have all enjoyed for honey production. Many LBKA Members had entries at the show ranging from Wax candles, cosmetics, honey and photography entries.

The three LBKA-sponsored categories were well subscribed to with around 30 entries for each. Top prizes in all 3 categories went to non-LBKA members – well done to them. Although our categories are open to any beekeeper within the M25, we hope more LBKA members will enter next year. We had success in the Honey classes with our forage officer Mark Patterson securing second best London Honey in category 243. This is the second year in a row Mark's Honey has received an award in this class having previously won 1<sup>st</sup>.



Mark receiving his trophy



Mark also secured a 3<sup>rd</sup> prize for his photographic entry of a bee on a crocus flower titled 'first pollen' but the star win of the show was his bee forage calendar featuring month by month London flowers which secured a first prize. He was awarded the Morecroft bowl for his efforts. Another successful LBKA member was our former chair John Chapple who was awarded the Frazer Cup and secured 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> positions in Honey, wax and mead classes. Full results can be seen on the NHS website along with a slideshow of photos taken during the event.



## Adventures in Beeland: London Honey Show 2014: Dave Goulson

*Emily Scott's write-up from the David Coulson's talk at the London Honey Show last month, from her excellent blog: <http://adventuresinbeeland.com/blog>.*

On Monday 6th October I went to the fourth annual London Honey Show, an event celebrating London's honey and bees in general. As well as a honey tasting competition, there are stalls selling food, beekeeping books and beauty products, plus expert speakers doing short talks. This year's show was a lot of fun, especially as I knew several people there and warming honey cocktails & mead samples were on offer.

### Dave Goulson's talk

Here are some notes from the talk by Dave Goulson, the second speaker. Dave is well known as a Biology Professor at the University of Sussex, writer of books *A Sting in the Tale* and *A Buzz in the Meadow* and founder of the Bumblebee Conservation Trust in 2006, a charity which now has 8,000 members.





*Dave Goulson speaking*

Speaking to a room of honey fans, Dave wanted to remind us that honeybees are not the only bees! There are an incredible 22,000 known species of bees worldwide, including around 250 species of bumblebee.

He gave a quick explanation of the life cycle of bumblebees to us. Emerging from their winter hibernations, bumblebee queens visit pussywillow and lumpwort flowers in early spring. They look for ex-mouse or vole cavities, preferably with some soft bedding material already inside. After laying their precious first eggs, they sit over them like birds on their nests, shivering their muscles to keep the eggs warm. So cute!

We think bumbles first originated east of the Himalayas about 30 million years ago. They have adapted to live in cold weather and tend to be scarce in warm areas like the Mediterranean. Bumbles can keep their body temperature an incredible 30°C higher than the surrounding air temperature, allowing them to fly in the Arctic in temperatures below freezing. Dave showed us a photo he took of a buff-tailed bumblebee flying in January, feeding on Mahonia amongst the snow.

The downside to this ability to stay warm is that it takes them huge amounts of energy to stay in the air. Bumblebees need LOTS of flowers. This appetite and their ability to do buzz pollination makes them major pollinators of crops like oilseed rape, field beans, tomatoes, peppers, raspberries and strawberries. I took the photo of the bumblebee below on chinese anemone and seem to remember she was doing some buzz pollination, intensely vibrating her muscles to shake the flower and release extra pollen from its anthers.



*Bumble on chinese anemone*

Unfortunately bumblebees are not doing as well as they used to be. For instance, as recently as the 1950s the great yellow bumblebee used to be found in many different sites in England, Wales and Scotland, from Scotland's Orkney Islands to England's most southerly county, Cornwall. It is now confined to Orkney, the Hebrides and the northerly coast of Scotland. Why?

Dave gave us his opinions on the reasons some British bumblebees, such as the great yellow bumblebee and the short-haired bumblebee, have declined in their range:

### 1. Changes to farming

England lost 98% of its hay meadows and chalk downland during the 20th century. Like the great yellow bumblebee, Corncrakes, birds which used to nest in hay meadows all over the UK, now live only in remote corners of Scotland where farming has changed relatively little.

### 2. Disease

The commercial trade in bumblebees shipped for pollination has spread diseases such as nosema ceranae between bumblebee populations. This has happened in Chile, where accidental releases of European bumblebees being used for pollination have spread disease to native bumbles there.

Dave begged us not to buy bumblebee colonies from garden centres. They are supplied from factory reared colonies from Europe used for tomato pollination, and are often full of parasites and diseases.

### 3. Neonicotinoids (Neonics)

For this part I've added to my notes using the chapter 'The Disappearing Bees' in Dave's recent book *A Buzz in the Meadow*. Introduced to the world in the mid-1990s, this type of insecticide works by attacking the nervous

system and brain of insects. Their advantage is meant to be that they can be applied as a seed dressing before the crop is sown, which the growing seedling then absorbs, spreading the chemical throughout the plant. This prevents the farmer having to spray insecticides several times as plants develop.

The trouble with an insecticide present in all parts of the plant is that nectar and pollen produced by the plant contains the insecticide too. Each time a pollinator visits the plant, they consume a small amount of the neonic. This stuff is highly toxic – just 1 teaspoon of neonicotinoids is enough to kill over a billion bumbles.

Research carried out by Dave and his team, published in the journal *Nature*, found that bumblebee nests fed on nectar and pollen mixed with very low field-like concentrations of the neonic Imidacloprid (used to treat oilseed rape seeds) produced 85% less queens over a season than nests fed with clean nectar and pollen. The control nests fed with untreated food produced an average of about thirteen new queens each, the nests fed with treated food an average of just two.

Disturbingly, most of the neonic seed chemical coatings, between 80-98%, end up not in the plants themselves but in the soil. Once in the soil, most published estimates of the half-life of neonics are anywhere between 200 to 6,000 days, depending on soil type and conditions. They are also water soluble. So these chemicals are everywhere in our soil and waterways, having who knows what effect on the insects within them. Please, please don't add to the chemicals in our world by treating your lawns and garden plants with insecticides.

#### 4. Gardening

Don't buy "hideous annual bedding plants – an absolute travesty". They often have no scent, no nectar and some no pollen. Instead, grow perennial cottage garden type flowers. Dave's favourite is viper's bugloss.

If you have no garden, badger your local council to stop wasting your money on mowing verges and removing habitat for bees.

I've done some other posts on books/talks by Dave:

- Book review: *A Sting in the Tale* by Dave Goulson (2013):  
<http://adventuresinbeeland.com/2013/07/16/book-review-a-sting-in-the-tale-by-dave-goulson-2013/>
- A future without bees: A talk at the Southbank Centre (2013):

<http://adventuresinbeeland.com/2013/06/02/a-future-without-bees-a-talk-at-the-southbank-centre/>

And Emma's done a very entertaining post on the London Honey Show with lots of photos:

- The London Honey Show 2014:  
<http://missapismellifera.com/2014/10/07/the-london-honey-show-2014/>

Below is Dave speaking in front of a photo of Toby, an army-trained sniffer dog who helped one of Dave's Phd students hunt for bumblebee nests. You can read about him in Dave's book *A Sting in the Tale*.



## Upcoming events

### Sunday 9th November: Monthly meeting: Oxalic acid

*11:00-12:00 at Fairley House Junior School, 220 Lambeth Rd, London SE1 7JY*

Use of oxalic acid plus other topics. Followed by chat with coffee and biscuits. Members only - non-members who'd like to find out more about LBKA can email us.

### Wednesday 12th November: Annual General Meeting and elections

*1830 at Roots and Shoots, Walnut Tree Walk, London, SE11 6DN*

Our Annual General Meeting will include a talk by Mark Patterson about his recent beekeeping trip to the US, reports of LBKA activities over the past year and the election of a new



committee. All welcome, but only members are eligible to vote. Membership runs until end of September, so don't forget to renew your membership if you haven't already done so.

## **Sunday 14th December: Christmas Quiz**

*11:00-12:00 at Fairley House Junior School, 220 Lambeth Rd, London SE1 7JY*

Christmas Quiz and chat with coffee and cake. Non-members are welcome to come and find out more about LBKA.

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