



The London Beekeepers' Association

LBKA News

February, 2020

Welcome to this month's newsletter! Thanks for those who've volunteered for our events. See page 4 for an update. We had our microscopy course last month. Thanks to Andrew Warren-Payne for writing up for us (p5). Thanks also to Mary Walwyn for her writeup of a swarm last year (p9) and to regulars Richard (p1) and Howard (p7). Thanks to Martin for proof-reading the whole thing and to Mark for this forage article from last year (p8).

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A big thank you to this month's contributors: **Richard Glassborow, Martin Hudson, Howard Nichols, Mark Patterson, Mary Walwyn and Andrew Warren-Payne**. Would you like to join these esteemed contributors? If so, do contact me.

Happy beekeeping.

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

From our Chair

Just in case recruitment fatigue is setting in with all the calls for volunteers that have been going out recently I would just like to point out that the whole year ahead is being planned at the moment. Martin, who let us not forget is also a volunteer, is doing an absolutely fantastic job of finding enough people to fulfil what will be our busiest year yet. And the response we are getting from LBKA members is equally fantastic. To those of you who have already volunteered, thank you so much.

Our outreach activities involve sharing our bees and flowers go together message, presenting honey bees as a window onto wildlife, raising awareness of the link between pollinators, plants, food, and our dependence upon wildlife to provide pollination services, inspiring school children by taking a live, semi-wild animal into the classroom, selling products of the hive, always with narrative attached.

There is apparently a large and growing public demand to learn about bees and beekeeping. The LBKA is trying to satisfy that demand, not least because there is an element of self-interest in better public understand-



Bulbs poking through. Photo: Aidan Slingsby.



The venue for our monthly meeting – the white door on the left.

ing of bees. But we can only meet that demand if we increase the number of willing and able volunteers. Fortunately it has to be said, most if not all beekeepers seem very capable of overcoming their natural reserve when given an opportunity to share their passion. Even so, we recognise that not everyone is going to want to jump in at the deep end. Equally, even the most experienced know that running stalls, visiting schools or delivering talks is both more effective and more enjoyable if you have somebody with you. And it is by matching up experienced and new volunteers that we soon have more people able to take a more leading role in these activities.

I don't think any of us envisaged this kind of activity when we first got involved in beekeeping and there is no reason why we should. But I think I speak for most who have got involved if I say that it can be hard "work" but it is invariably pleasurable and brings surprising personal rewards.

So, if there is still anyone who is drawn to the idea in theory but can't see themselves taking the plunge there are many ways and levels to get involved and a discrete dipping of the toe in the water can be arranged. We won't ask anyone to do anything they do not feel comfortable with.

Announcements

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

February's Monthly Meeting: Bailey Change and Shook Swarm techniques

Howard will lead February's Monthly Meeting "**Bailey Change and Shook Swarm techniques**" on **9th February** at **11:00** at **Fairley Junior School Hall** (218

Lambeth Rd, Lambeth, SE1 7JY). As usual, there will be tea, coffee and chat afterwards.

The meeting will be an in-depth look at both Bailey frame change and Shook Swarm frame change. These are alternate ways to change all brood frames in a colony at the same time. These biomechanical manipulations are typically carried out in late February, March or early April so this is a topical subject. Frame change is integral to both bee health and apiary hygiene. We will consider the reasons and methodology for each manipulation and also look at the pros and cons of each method. The consideration will be undertaken by means of Powerpoint slides and a practical demonstration using the relevant equipment but without the bees. There will be opportunity to ask questions and time for the usual social aspects of the monthly meeting.

March's monthly meeting on **8th March** will be a hands-on session where we'll be diagnosing nosema in bees. If you'd like to test your bees, collect 15-20 flying bees, kill them humanely in the freezer overnight and bring them along. **After the meeting**, we will have a couple of run-throughs of the Schools Food Matters presentations and logistics – more details about this are on page 4.

Natalie's pub pick

This month's Pub Social will be at the [Old Doctor Butler's Head](#) (2 Masons Ave, Moorgate, London EC2V 5BT) on 25th February. Drink and dine in the historic surroundings of one of Moorgate's oldest pubs.

Mark Patterson is LBKA's Forage Officer

Mark Patterson has kindly agreed to act as the **LBKA's Forage Officer**. He previously had this role when he was on the Committee, and his knowledge and passion for the topic was most valuable. However, due to work pressures, Mark had to stand down from the Committee a year or so ago.

The Committee has now adopted a policy that **non-committee members** can act as officers on behalf of the LBKA. They are not trustees, nor are they a spokesperson for the charity. They do, however, have an LBKA email and business card.

Mark's email will continue to be forage@lbka.org.uk. Thanks to Mark for taking on this role!

Introductory Beekeeping Courses and Taster Sessions

Please spread the news about our [Beekeeping courses and Taster sessions](#). Our weekend Introductory Beekeeping course, which includes a season's mentoring, is one of the most comprehensive courses that exist in

London. For those who are not so interested in keeping bees but want to know more about pollinators, see our half-day Taster sessions.

Old announcements from January

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

Consider getting more involved: Join our members' only "Bee Banter" WhatsApp group, come to our Monthly meetings, [the dates of which are on the web-site](#), join our members' only "LBKA-Forum" Facebook group, opt-in to sharing details with members, volunteer, read the newsletter. Contact Aidan on services@lbka.org.uk if you need any help with this.

Old announcements from November

2020 dates for volunteers' diaries: beekeeping courses and taster sessions will be held over the week-ends of 18-19 April and 2-3 May, and on 5th July in Clapham, and the Lambeth Country Show – LBKA's main publicity effort of the year – will take place on 18-19 July 2020 in Brockwell Park, Lambeth.

Membership renewals: our membership year has ended, so you will need to renew your membership if you wish to continue being a member of LBKA. Contact Aidan at services@lbka.org.uk if you need help rejoining.

Register your bees: please remember to update your apiary records on BeeBase; [here's why](#).

Register for BBKA Basic Assessment preparation: we encourage members to do the BBKA Basic Assessment. It is fairly straightforward ([see syllabus](#)). We will help you prepare by running a revision course in the spring, likely to last for 3 evenings (2 hours per evening). If you have been managing bees for at least 12 months and wish to take this assessment please confirm by email to education@lbka.org.uk, no obligation.

Old announcements from October

LBKA wins award for its championing of bees: delighted to have won a DEFRA Bees Needs Champions Award as part of the Year of Green Action.

Thanks for bee suit donations: We thank Partizan and adam&eveDDB for donating 5 beesuits to us.

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.

Asian Hornet Identification leaflet. Source: [BBKA website](#).

Hurrah to all LBKA Volunteers!

Martin reports on upcoming LBKA events in the summer of 2020, all of which rely on the wonderful LBKA volunteers, and offers thanks in advance to those who have already signed up.

Martin Hudson
events@lbka.org.uk

Schools Food Matters Visits

First, a very big “thank you” to the 19 stalwart members who have kindly volunteered to visit 20 schools throughout Greater London during the summer term to tell children about “**Honey bees as a Window onto Wildlife**”, and to show them an observation hive – always the big attraction. We are nearly sorted on that front, but we could easily fit in anyone else who is interested, and we will certainly need reserves, in case of illness. The more the merrier!

We have booked a couple of **run-throughs of the presentation**, together with logistics of transporting the observation hive and equipment safely to, and through, the schools, and these will be held for two hours either at 13:00 after the monthly meeting on Sunday 8th March at Fairley House School (bring sandwiches if you want lunch!), or at Roots & Shoots, Walnut Tree Close, SE11 6DN at 18:30 on Wednesday 25th March. All members, particularly those who have volunteered for the school visits, would be most welcome at one of these sessions.

LBKA's Infamous Introductory Courses

Now we must turn our attention to the **Introductory courses**, on **18th-19th April** and **2nd-3rd May** at the usual venue in Clapham. We need a variety of speakers, and also helpers with refreshments, assisting on hive visits (including suiting everyone up), frame-making or just chatting to the new recruits during the breaks and lunchtimes. It's always exciting and interesting to discover what has brought people to the courses, and to explore their wishes for the future. If you would like to come and help, please do get in touch with me on events@lbka.org.uk.

Honey Bee Taster Sessions

We are also planning to run some taster sessions – “**A Taste of the World of the Honey Bee**” – aimed at those who are more interested in learning about bees and pollinators than about beekeeping itself. At the

moment, two of these are planned for **Sunday 5th July**, again at the Clapham Church Hall – one from 10 till 1, and the second from 2 till 5 pm. This will also involve a quick visit to one of the local apiaries, together with refreshments and lots of chat. We had also planned to run two more on **Saturday 30th May**, but these may not now go ahead. If you could help on either of these dates, please let me know.

The Annual Amazing Lambeth Country Show 2020

I have just applied for our stand at the wonderful **Lambeth Country Show**, held as usual in Brockwell Park, Herne Hill, over the weekend of 18th–19th July. Once again, we hope to have two of our wonderful white gazebos, emblazoned with our logo and our ‘bees and flowers go together’ message on show, as well as our observation hive. We need lots of volunteers for this event, too, so please do sign up for that. Once again, contact me for more information.

Other Shows This Year

Once again, we are starting our ‘events year’ with a visit to the **Ascot Racecourse's 'Family Day'** on **Sunday 29 March**. Some volunteers have already offered to join Richard, who will be taking an observation hive – always the attraction – but we would welcome more helpers to talk to the punters about bees during the day. Contact Richard at chair@lbka.org.uk if you can help on that day.

We have also been asked to take the observation hive to **Battersea Park Children's Zoo's "Honey Bee Day"** on **Thursday 16th April**, so if anyone would like to join us to show the bees at this event, as well as candle rolling, and talking about bees, please get in touch with either Richard or me.

February's Committee meeting

Here, we keep you up to date with what the committee discuss 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

This month, we had a wide-ranging discussion about the issues around bees and beekeeping in London and how our association might position itself on these is-

sues. Richard has mentioned some of these issues a few times in the newsletter and we will be consulting with members in due course.

We discussed a scheme by which LBKA might fund some forage creation projects. This would fit in with one of our objectives: to improve the environment for bees and Londoners. We are currently working out details of such a scheme.

We discussed our new policy for LBKA officers who are not committee members and our intention to formally ask Mark Patterson to become LBKA Forage Officer under these terms.

We discussed ideas for having some LBKA member apiaries (in addition to our training ones) at which members would be able to have their own bees and group beekeeping sessions.

Martin reported that volunteer recruitment was going well and outlined plans for sessions about delivering the content for Schools Food Matters, the first of which will be after March's Monthly Meeting.



An assortment of appendages. Photo: Andrew Warren-Payne.

LBKA's Microscopy Course

Andrew Warren-Payne took part in LBKA's microscopy course and reports back, along with photographs from Elliot and captions by Howard.

Andrew Warren-Payne, with additional photos by Elliot Hodges and captions by Howard Nichols

Once again, LBKA ran its microscopy course in January, organised by Howard Nichols and Richard Glassborow and held at Walworth Garden over three evenings in January. Here's a brief summary of what was covered.

Evening 1: Pollen and Microscope Usage

For the first session, we familiarised ourselves with the microscopes, most of us not having used one since school! This included some important steps, such as making sure that before adding or removing a slide, one should have the smallest magnification on to prevent damaging the lenses, which at high power are very close to the slides being examined.

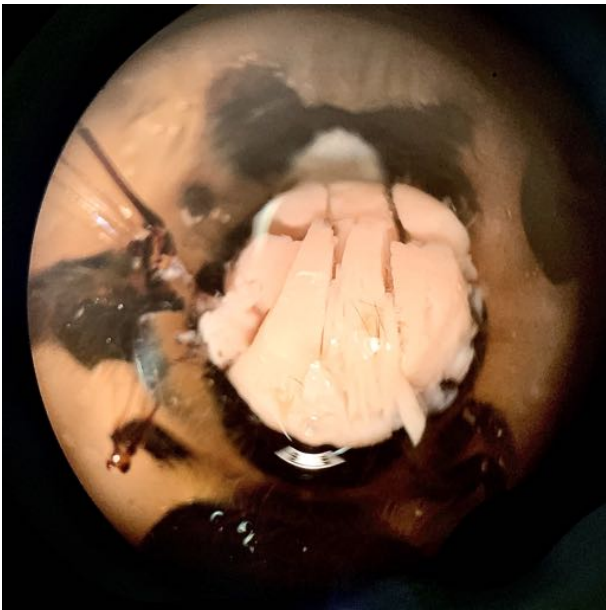
We were given an overview of pollen structure before we commenced with making our own slides using flowers. The pollen was cleansed with isopropyl alcohol before being dyed with fuschin jelly. As we examined



Pollen grains stained with fuschin. Photo: Andrew Warren-Payne.



Main incision into the thorax before dissection commences. Photo: Elliot Hodges.



Thorax about to be dissected. Photo: Andrew Warren-Payne.



Bee being embedded into wax to prepare for dissection. Photo: Andrew Warren-Payne.

the pollen grains, we compared how they appeared with a number of illustrations in the books brought along for the course. As pollen is a 3D structure, one has to be mindful that the same grain may look quite different from various angles.

In addition, we examined the varroa mite under the microscope and examined pollen grains found in honey, which were extracted through using a centrifuge.

Evening 2: Dissection of the abdomen

For the second evening, we commenced with dissection of bees to examine the abdomen. To do this, a petri dish filled with wax acted as a way to hold three to four (dead!) bees in place so we could examine them under the microscope. To embed the bees, we heated up an allen key under a flame, before melting an area of wax



Pollen press on hind leg comprising the rake and auricle. Photo: Elliot Hodges.



Compound eye with the eye hairs. Photo: Elliot Hodges.

and dropping the bee in place. This task is far easier said than done!

With a few attempts, the bees were embedded, after which we flooded the petri dishes with isopropyl alcohol to assist in the dissection. By carefully removing the top of the abdomen, we could examine the organs in this part of the bee. One interesting aspect was that, these bees having been collected in the winter, some of them were carrying an yellow-egg-yolk-looking substance but others were not. This could tell you whether or not a bee had left the hive, as this mass was its waste carried in the rectum. In addition, the intestines and other components such as the sting could be seen. As we carried out the dissection, our printed handouts acted as guides to look for various elements.

Evening 3: Thorax and head dissection

The final evening consisted of inspecting the thorax and the head, as well as the appendages of the bees.

To inspect the tough thorax, the bees were first pickled to make dissection easier, before again embedding them in wax and flooding them with isopropyl alcohol. From



Wing. Photo: Elliot Hodges.

the dissection it was easy to see that this part of the bee is full of muscle, with a texture not dissimilar to lobster meat, powering the wings and the limbs.

Among other things, the dissection of the head allowed us to look closely at the proboscis, mandibles, and the hypopharyngeal gland (which produces brood food). Also, it may surprise you to know that in addition to the obviously visible compound eyes of the bee, there are three simpler eyes (the dorsal ocelli) on top of a bee's head which help them navigate.

As for the appendages, it was interesting to see that the legs have unique structures. For example, the foreleg contains an antennae cleaner, while the hind leg has a pollen packer and pollen basket.

The evenings made for a very informative and enjoyable way to spend the winter evenings. Do make sure to put your name down if they are run again next year!

February in the Apiary

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

Howard Nichols
education@lbka.org.uk

February is a time of increasing activity for the bees. Although cold and rainy on the outside, and, to all appearances all appears to be very quiet, a lot is happening inside the cluster. Brood rearing is increasing and this requires use of additional stores. Bees consume relatively few stores in Winter but when they start to fly more in late February / early March the consumption substantially increases. Therefore, the main job of the beekeeper is to keep an eye on stores. Bee colonies are

more likely to die out in February / early spring due to starvation, not due to the cold.

The queen will now be laying at an increasing rate. The empty cells inside the cluster will have been prepared and more eggs are being laid. The temperature of a broodless cluster is maintained at 20°C but a cluster with brood requires a 35°C temperature. This, again, also consumes more stores.

If feeding is necessary then fondant is still the best bet. If, on a warm day, the bees are flying and emergency stores are required then feeding liquid stores is a possibility. Bees carry and metabolise nectar at 50% concentration. 1kg of sugar dissolved in 1 litre of water will give this concentration and so involve the bees in the minimum amount of work. If stores are not required then it is better not to feed at all so not to cause any disturbance.

On a warm February day the bees will fly for forage. Main sources in February include snowdrop, crocus and early flowering hazel. The latter provides an abundance of pollen. If your bees have been foraging hazel then they will be coming back to the hive drenched in surplus bright yellow pollen. All these sources provide pollen only. Not nectar.

Dead bees about! Late February / early March is a challenging time for bees. The winter bees are now old but need to work at an increasing rate to feed larvae and young bees. Many of these older bees will be dying off and a disproportionate number will die in the hive. It is not unusual to find a large quantity of dead bees in front of the hive or behind the mouseguard. Just lift the mouseguard and brush out. This should not normally be cause for concern and does not mean that the colony is dying out. If you keep your hive on a concrete or stone floor then the quantity of dead bees may appear to be alarming. If kept on grass then there may well be just as many dead bees but they will appear substantially less. You may not even notice them at all.

Other jobs to do

Plan. Formulate an outline plan for the forthcoming season. Have a strategy to develop or improve a particular beekeeping skill during the forthcoming year.

Assemble. Assemble frames and ensure you have sufficient equipment for the season.

Site. New beekeepers who have not yet found a suitable site should try to do so by the end of the month. Once the beekeeping season starts then life can move at an alarming pace.

Meetings. Do not forget the LBKA monthly meetings (usually on the second Sunday of the month) and our monthly mid-week social event held on a Tuesday evening in a pub. [See our website for details.](#)



Willow

Beebase. We believe that virtually all our beekeeping members are now registered on Beebase. However, it is possible that a few newer members may not be. It is important that everyone is registered in case a notifiable disease or pest is found in your location. The Bee Inspectors are dependent upon them knowing the location of all hives and apiaries. Please do ensure you are registered.

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

There are valuable pollen sources that are making an appearance in February.

Winter Aconites (*Eranthis hyemalis*) are beginning to appear. Their bright lemon yellow flowers are attractive to bees which will collect their pollen. They are members of the Buttercup family.

In gardens **hellebores** are also flowering, offering much needed pollen. Hellebores come in a wide variety of colours. The hybrid hellebores are particularly hardy



Hellebore

and easy to grow as are the native stinking hellebores (*Helleborus foetidus*) which can be found in gardens and in wild areas too.

Winter heliotrope (*Petasites fragrans*) is a relative of our native Butterbur but flowers much earlier. It's not a UK native and can be quite invasive when established in the wild but is a great garden plant for bees in late winter. The flowers are shaped like a toilet brush and pink in colour.

The first **daffodils** (*Narcissus sp.*) are beginning to bloom. Despite their attractive flowers, daffodils and other narcissii are poor forage for bees. I have never seen a Honey Bee visit them and only occasionally have I seen desperate Bumblebees alight on them.

Wallflowers (*Erysimum*) are flowering now and will continue to do so right through till late spring. Bees will visit both the popular bedding type wallflowers as well as the longer lived everlasting perennial types. Their purple and orange 'bowls' are particularly good for bees as they have a very long flowering period and will bloom almost continuously all year round.

Off the ground there are several shrubs and small trees which are now flowering and these may offer rewards of nectar on warm days alongside the pollen they produce. These include **Mahonia** or **Oregon Grape** which grows in our towns and cities in abundance and flowers throughout the winter providing nectar and pollen for bees. In southern towns and cities **Buff Tailed bumblebees** (*Bombus terrestris*) continue to be increasingly active throughout the winter, surviving largely on this plant. Around 75% of winter flowers visited by bees are Mahonia. The variety 'winters sun' is particularly attractive. Bees taking advantage of Mahonia blooms in winter have few other insects to compete with and can fare better than some colonies active in summer.

Viburnum shrubs include a number of deciduous and evergreen species which flower during the winter months. They are relatives of our native **Guelder Rose** (*Viburnum opulus*). Some of bees' most popular Viburnums include the evergreen *Viburnum tinus* whose sweetly scented cream blooms flower from Novem-



Viburnum tinus

ber through to March, and *Viburnum bodnaatense* whose pink flowers bloom from around Christmas to March.

Several **Clematis** species are useful forage sources to bees in winter. *Clematis amandii* and *Clematis cirrhosa* both have creamy white flowers and bloom in winter. Honey and winter active bumble bees will visit them for pollen.

Winter Flowering Cherry (*Prunus subhirtella*) flowers from late November to February producing pale pink flowers. I've very rarely seen any bees on the blooms but have often seen flies on them. In the absence of better forage like Mahonia bees will visit the flowers.

Sweet Box (*Sarcococca confusa*) is a short growing evergreen shrub which produces extremely fragrant blooms (reminiscent of hyacinths) from late winter into early spring. It's one of those plants that you almost always smell long before you see it. **Winter Heather** (*Heaths Erica sp.*) produce tubular blooms in shades of white to pink throughout the winter. They are coming to the end of their flowering period now but still providing forage for bees brave enough to venture out.

Winter flowering Honeysuckle flower during winter, some of which are climbers and some are shrubs. One of the best is *Lonicera fragrantissima*.

Daphne shrubs are beginning to flower now and their intense perfume-like scent will attract bees to collect their pollen.

Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) is flowering now and the long



Mahonia.

male catkins drip with pollen. On warm days Honeybees may visit the catkins to collect pollen, though the plants are wind pollinated and do not need the bees to reproduce.

Other trees that produce catkins may start to make an appearance in February include **willows** (*Salix sp.*) and **poplars** (*Populus sp.*) though they are usually a little later flowering.

Bee Brexit

Mary recalls what her bees did last year. Watch out – your bees may be plotting – and an early swarm may catch you by surprise.

Mary Walwyn
LBKA member

In anticipation of any swarming plans, I carried out an artificial swarm on 18th April on a hive on the allotment. After checking for brood in the top two boxes, I smoked down the queen, and placed the top box of brood and nurse bees on a new clean box on the same site. Boxes 2 and 3 were put a couple of metres away on a clean floor and observed for a period. Foragers returned to the original site, but no one flew from the new site. So in the evening, these were sealed in and moved to my

garden. The colony seemed puzzled by the new site but calm. So far, so good.

In the garden on 4th May I noticed to my surprise a queen being attacked and ejected. A couple of days later, it was a sunny start to the day and then sudden cloud and cooling, and I noticed that nothing was being brought in. In the afternoon, with no drones visible and many bees fanning at the entrance, bees were frantically rushing around – the Whips were in action. Through the back window, it was the same story.

By 3 o'clock they were swarming, not very high or broad. Many bees rested on nearby plants, or on the ground – unable to choose between Leave or Remain. They seemed to be waiting for a decisive leader queen to emerge.

After ten minutes they gave up flying and headed for the front of the hive, clustering and fanning. After a few more minutes, they formed distinct clusters – the Roof Party, the Top Box Party, the Entrance and Ramp Party, with small, indecisive parties spread between. One or more queens could be seen in each party, porpoising through the clusters.



Mary's swarm.

By 4 o'clock I decided to offer alternative shelters and placed a skep nearby on a white sheet. I shook The Roof Party on to the sheet. I could not see a queen in there, but they attacked the one transferred to them. Then the Top Box Party was offered a nearby bait hive, I assumed with at least one queen on board. After a bit, the Roof Party decided to move into the skep.

By six o'clock, the remaining clusters on the front of the hive and on the nearby plants had followed protocol and returned inside the hive, the mob seen through the back window seemed calm, but the bees on the ground still seemed traumatised by the experience and stayed outside. A lone queen, the eighth I had seen, was wandering down the front of the hive. She went in to the entrance, and I presume, was eliminated.

That evening I left a little syrup in the Skep and the bait hive, but by morning it was clear that the respective Parties had returned to the fold.

Members' marketplace

This section is for members offering beekeeping items or services to members or requesting items. Items could include nucs, wax and honey. Email services@lbka.org.uk to add something here.

Martin Kunz: I own [Diversity Honeys Ltd](#), that supply certified organic cotton bee suits (with/without ventilation). There's a discount for LBKA members in the [members' area](#).

Upcoming events

Sunday 9th February: Monthly meeting: Bailey & Shook Swarm techniques

11:00-13:00 at Fairley House Junior School, 218 Lambeth Rd, Lambeth, London, SE1 7JY This month will be about Shook Swarm and Bailey Change methods for replacing brood frames (and varroa control in the former case). Followed by the usual hot drinks, cake and chat. Meetings are for members only, but you're welcome to come as a guest to find out more about our association.

Tuesday 25th February: Pub social

18:30-22:30 at *Old Doctor Butler's Head, 2 Masons Ave, Moorgate, EC2V 5BT*

Our monthly trip to the pub. Drink and dine in the historic surroundings of one of Moorgate's oldest pubs. Catch up with all the latest news over a pint in a nice food-serving pub.

Sunday 8th March: Monthly meeting: Microscopy/Nosema testing

11:00-13:00 at *Fairley House Junior School, 218 Lambeth Rd, Lambeth, London, SE1 7JY*

This month will be a practical session where we'll be diagnosing nosema in bees. If you'd like to test your bees, collect 15-20 flying bees, kill them humanely in the freezer overnight and bring them along. Followed by the usual hot drinks, cake and chat. After the meeting, we will have a couple of run-throughs of the Schools Food Matters presentations and logistics. Meetings are for members only, but you're welcome to come as a guest to find out more about our association.

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
- **Treasurer:** David Hankins, treasurer@lbka.org.uk
- **Secretary:** Natalie Cotton, admin@lbka.org.uk
- **Education:** Howard Nichols education@lbka.org.uk
- **Membership:** Aidan Slingsby, services@lbka.org.uk
- **Apiaries:** Tristram Sutton, apiaries@lbka.org.uk
- **Development:** Simon Saville, development@lbka.org.uk
- **Mentoring:** Elliot Hodges, mentor@lbka.org.uk
- **Events:** Martin Hudson, events@lbka.org.uk
- **Resources:** Mark McDonnell, resources@lbka.org.uk

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

