

North London Beekeepers Annual Report 2022

The year started with the beginners course which took place in February with theory sessions on Zoom followed by practicals at our Kenwood apairy in April. 25 people enrolled on the course, taking part in 6 theory sessions and 4 practicals. Attendance was strong in the first half of the course, with the majority of learners attending all theory sessions. The cohort was diverse in terms of age, gender and heritage — confirming that the beginner's course is a great way to widen access to beekeeping and to reach people from all backgrounds.

In February, as part of our “Beekeeping from around the World” series, we heard from Richard Noel about beekeeping in Brittany. The Hive Hour was back in March, with John Hauxwell chatting about spring preparation and swarming, while in April we had a stand in the “Biodiversity and Rewilding” zone at a Sustainability Evening hosted by UCL Senior School, to mark Earth Day.

A fabulous spring shed party started the season officially followed by monthly members days, practical and taster sessions, the annual honey show and various events. We brought our new observation hive to Highgate Fair in the Square, a great day after a three year hiatus and an opportunity to sell our honey, talk to the public and answer many bee questions.

In September, we had a stall at the York Rise Street Party, an annual neighbourhood get-together with food, drink and entertainment, organised by residents of Dartmouth Park. Lovely weather ensured a great turnout, helping us to sell plenty of honey and Ally Pally cut comb — a very successful conversation piece! The winter talks got off to superb start with Dr Lars Chikkta sharing insights from his new book ‘The Mind of the Bee’ and Sean Hearn talked about Warre hives with plenty more still to follow in the new year.

It was with great sadness that we heard that Mary Ogle had passed away on the 17th January 2023 aged 96. Mary had been one of the longest-standing members of NLB, joining North West London Beekeepers (Middlesex) as it was then, in the 1970s. Mary was Treasurer of NLB and of the Middlesex Federation and also assisted with teaching beekeeping and ran the Honey Show for a number of years. She was a scientist and an academic with a strong character and with a wide range of interests including beekeeping and microscopy. She built her own Dartington Long Hive. Mary was a keen gardener and members of NLB enjoyed numerous Summer Parties in her beautiful garden.

Lastly after three great years as NLB's Chair this will be my last as I will not be standing for re-election. It has been a wonderful experience to be part of NLB and help run the association during some of its most challenging years. Along the way I have met some lovely people and looked after many bees in the process but now is time to change things up again with some fresh faces and new ideas.

Many thanks to the committee, our members and everyone who has helped be a part of NLB this year. Looking forward to the new year and a new beekeeping season.

*Kelly Moore
Chair NLB
January 2023*