

Apiary report for APAA AGM 2024

The allotment bees came through Winter as 3 vigorous and healthy colonies. Throughout this season, the bees have thrived and have even produced a modest excess of honey - despite some changeable weather(!).

In late March, Adam Williams took over from Gio Esposito as apiary manager, on behalf of the North London Beekeeping Association (NLB). Gio oversaw some challenging times at the apiary caused by several cases of a statutorily notifiable honey bee disease, European Foul Brood (EFB). Gio's handling of the situation is commended by NLB and Gio continues to be an active part of the Ally Pally team of beekeepers. This is the first year since then that we have seen a full recovery and return to full strength for the bees.

We have a regular team of 8 NLB volunteers, including 2 recent graduates from the NLB beginner beekeeping course and 1 Ally Pally plot holder. Inspections take place weekly on Saturdays between 0930-1230. The volunteers are a dedicated bunch, united by a fascination with honey bees and eager to further develop their skills and knowledge about these amazing insects. The history of the Ally Pally apiary site is as a teaching apiary and this tradition is being proudly continued! We require all volunteers to have taken the beginner training course with NLB at the Kenwood House apiary before handling bees at Ally Pally. Some members are pursuing beekeeping qualifications through exams set by the British Beekeeping Association. There is a strong culture of mutual support and learning at the apiary.

Three NLB volunteers ran an information stand at the recent allotment open day, talking to visitors about beekeeping and showing people the hives. There were also some jars of honey from last Autumn's harvest that proved very popular!

We continue to be vigilant for sightings of the invasive, Asian Hornet. Asian Hornet is a non-native species and could have a serious impact on our insect population, including honey bees. There was a confirmed sighting in Hackney in 2023 and this year is the first that an over-wintered queen was discovered in the South West of England. There is an information poster with details on how to identify Asian Hornets on the poster board at the foot gate entrance. Adam will be available to distribute more information leaflets after the

AGM. We need your help to look out for Asian Hornets and to report any sightings to the National Bee Unit. There is an app called 'Asian Hornet Watch' available via the app store which can help to identify and report Asian Hornet sightings.

We would like to host an NLB members teaching session on Saturday 7 September between 1000-1200 to focus on winter preparations for bee hives. The number of attendees would be limited to 15 people and the session would be led and supervised by Adam Williams and the NLB Association Secretary.

If anyone would like more information about the bee hives they can get in touch with Adam via hivesmanbees@gmail.com or on 07851 873 673.

We are proud and privileged to be keeping bees in such a fabulous location and are fortunate to be surrounded by people who are also interested in preserving and nurturing spaces for nature in an urban environment.

Adam Williams, North London Beekeepers