Chalfonts Beekeepers' Society Report
Bucks County Beekeepers Association AGM
6th December 2023

As with all clubs throughout the UK we have had our ups and downs this year. On the upside, despite our only being able to attend four fetes this year all other numbers within the club have risen; membership, exams passed, visits to our apiaries, different training sessions held at the apiaries, and we even made a small profit.

On the downside, we were told earlier this year, by the owner of the land where our Training Apiary is sited, that he was to sell all his assets and we await notice of the new owner. On the upside we understand that they are very amenable to our staying. Also, we were informed that our yearly fees to Chesham Council for the license at our Observation Apiary will also rise per year but by a very small amount after renegotiation.

We made a permanent change to our speaker programme with the January and February meetings moving to Zoom. This seemed to be a popular move.

Because of our keen beginner's group, Jim Liness and his team have been kept very busy teaching not only those starting out beekeeping but also providing training on other beekeeping topics to other members of the club, twice a week.

Our Apiary at Chesham had a complete redesign and is now open to our more experienced beekeepers as an Observation Apiary covering topics such as alternative varroa treatments, observing bee behaviour within the hive and using different types of brood cover.

I mentioned that we attended only four of the six fetes we usually attend this year to educate the public and sell members honey, but our sales were exceptional, surpassing any taken previously, meaning both the club and those members who sent honey benefited.

Other members of the club have been invited into schools and adult education events to talk about various aspects of beekeeping.

Our annual Honey Show was held again at the Chalfont St Giles Show with enough entries to be awarded a Blue-Ribbon.

One downside I would like to address is the extra work taken by the members of the main Committee, who have needed to pick up extra work when members of our Management Committee have given notice or stepped down for personal reasons. A lot of this work is not daily tasks and can often be done from home without attending any extra meetings. We ask for more of our members to consider taking up the roles that we have within the club.

We look forward to holding our biennial Auction in 2024 and to seeing the club continue to flourish.

This is my last year as Chairman and I thank you all for your support during my tenure, but I especially want to thank the whole of the Chalfonts Committee for working with me to have the club run as smoothly as it does, for the benefit of all the members..

Gillian Jones
Chairman, Chalfonts Beekeepers' Society