High Wycombe Beekeepers' Association

Annual report to the Bucks County BKA to the AGM, to be held 6th December 2023.

Membership
Our current membership is about 170. At our AGM in October Chris Barefield was elected chairman, and we now have a strong committee.

Finances
Despite increased costs all round, especially for hall hire, our finances are in good shape.

Training
The Association ran a successful beginners' course with 24 attendees, which is a good number to allow more personal attention in the practical apiary sessions. Practical sessions took place at our training apiary in Saunderton.
Regarding BBKA exams, two members passed module 3, two passed honey bee health certificate, one passed the basic assessment, and one attained the Intermediate theory certificate.

Apiaries
Our training apiary in Saunderton has been well attended throughout the season. We have an able and enthusiastic apiary manager and team so we are getting maximum benefit from the apiary. The on-line member's apiary booking system proved very useful.
We have two other small apiary sites which can be used temporarily by members if required.

Swarm Collection
We took an average number of swarm calls this year. The use of "WhatsApp" was very helpful when there were difficulties finding an available collector. Most members wanting swarms were satisfied.

Community
Our keen coordinating team organised presentations on various aspects of beekeeping to schools, scouts and guide groups, adult clubs and societies. They also attended village fetes and fun days on behalf of the Association.
A beekeeping open day was held at our apiary for the public. This was less well attended than previous years. Our "taster day" was even less popular and it has been noticed that interest from the public for these events have been steadily falling over recent years

Meetings
Our monthly Friday meetings at Trinity Church have continued with visiting speakers in attendance, and Tuesday "developing your beekeeping" has also been quite popular with the members.

Communication
Our website and monthly newsletter continued to be our main lines of communication with the general public and our members. Our monthly newsletter continues its regular and informative output. A new social media group has been formed and is working effectively.

Paul Hurley
Vice-Chairman
29.11 2023