High Wycombe & District Beekeepers' Association

Affiliated to the British Beekeepers' Association
Registered Charity No. 299638 www.hwbka.co.uk

Annual report to the Bucks County BKA to the AGM, to be held 4th December 2024

Membership

Current membership numbers are around 160, however we are in the middle of our renewal period.

Finances

Our finances remain on a firm footing.

Training

The association ran a successful beginners' course with 24 attendees. Practical sessions took place in our training apiary in Saunderton. All beginners were given the opportunity to use their full quota of practical sessions and could attend more if they wished.

Five candidates passed the basic assessment, which was taken at our association apiary. One person passed module 4 and one person passed the BBKA General Husbandry and achieved Qualified Beekeeper.

Apiaries

Our training apiary in Saunderton has seen a bumper year of activities thanks to Graeme our Apiary Manager and Colin Turnbull, who oversaw the well-designed online application process for apiary sessions. Members booked sessions to see demonstrations on topics that included oxalic acid sublimation method and queen rearing using the Ben Harden method. We were able to offer 5 completed nucs to beginners or novices and gave 2 mated queens away. We also have two other apiary sites which can be used temporarily by members if required. Colin has since passed away.

Swarm Collection

We had 43 active members of those 41 were willing to collect a swarm. 2 members asked for a swarm if available but were unable to collect themselves. 15 members held the phone for a week or more, we had 100 calls in total.

Community

Bookings at schools, nurseries and scout groups were taken until the end of May, during this time we reached out to 478 people. We also attended a number of fetes, shows, Wycombe celebrations and Pann Mill. A beekeeping day was held at our apiary for interested members of the public. A family beekeeping experience voucher was donated as a raffle prize to a local Nursery School. The family who won this raffle prize had an amazing experience at the apiary.

Meetings

Our monthly meetings continue to be held at Trinity Church, we have had a variety of speakers. Our monthly Tuesday night 'developing your beekeeping' talks have been helpful to beekeepers new and old.

Communication

Our website and newsletter continue to be our main lines of communication to our members. The monthly newsletter comes out on the first of every month and keeps the association up to date. We also have a WhatsApp group where some of us can share information and ask questions.

Chris Barefield
Chairman
15 11 2024