# High Wycombe Beekeepers' Association

Annual report to the Bucks County BKA for the AGM, to be held 12th February 2022.

**Membership**
Membership numbers have remained steady with159 Active, comprising Registered 127, Partners 16 Country 10 Local 6 and 35 awaiting membership pending the close down at the end of January. In addition, we currently have 12 persons booked on our beginners not yet entered on ER2.

**Education**
The Association started the 2021 the beginner's course completely on line, but were able to move to socially distanced practical sessions at our Saunderton apiary. No visits were necessary this year for those already with bees and who were unable to attend apiary sessions. In addition, we ran tutorial groups for Modules again online and Basic Assessments online and with apiary meetings. Our thanks to all of those who took an online session or gave their time at the Saunderton apiary sessions.

We continued to advertise the many webinars and talks given online and several of our members watched the sessions organized by our Bucks County Chairman and committee, the feedback was that they were very informative and well run.

**Apiary**
Our training apiary in Saunderton was in use more this year and we have purchased more equipment; it was able to host the beginners and basic assessment training and was maintained to a high level by our Apiary Manager Graeme Summers with a small band of helpers. We have been given a further 5 year license to use the site courtesy of the West Wycombe Estate. We have also taken out a renewable yearly license for two sites from the Woodland Trust in the south of our area.

**Swarm Collection**
Swarm calls were received from the early April to late September with one in October, we have also recued a wild colony from a felled tree, which is being quarantined at one of the Woodland sites, it will be interesting if it survives the move to see what it is like in the spring, there were the usual calls about bumble bees (many passed to and managed by Clive Hill), wasps and hornets, but much advice was given from what flowers to grow, to what is involved in keeping bees. Our thanks to Sarah McGowan for coordinating the swarm line after the sad loss of Bill Bendyshe-Brown in January and also to our members who held the phone and their work in making the swarm collections.

**Community**
Our normal beekeeping taster day and public open days were reduced from previous years but we were able to hold some public events and attend some schools and community events, our observation hives were used for these.

**Meetings**
Our monthly meetings normally at Trinity Church were mainly held online with travel distance not a problem, we were able to ask some very good speakers from further away, many who were used to the online format and we organized pre-talk sessions

on GTM where necessary, meetings were well attended throughout the year with the online sessions drawing a slightly different audience than those who attended the hall. We went back to hall meetings towards the end of the year and also held some online with a an audience in the hall.

The "Developing Your Beekeeping" monthly meetings have been maintained successfully, open to all members, but primarily aimed at new beekeepers in their early years. The topics are more seasonally themed, with mainly Association members presenting them.

**Social**
Unfortunately, our apiary barbeques and summer tea party did not go ahead this year, we hope that they can be reintroduced this year, with a work party and barbeque expected in March at the apiary.

**Finance**
Not holding meetings in person has of course affected the finances of the various hall owners and we have incurred increased charges for their use this year.
We have a healthy balance, and were therefore able to keep the membership subscription the same, as we have for several years. We have 2022 also purchased equipment for use at the apiary and for online meetings.

**Communication**
Our website which has recently has been overhauled and additional features added, our monthly newsletter and regular emails continue to be our main lines of communication for the general public and our members. The volume of emails has increased greatly to advise our members of the many online opportunities provided by beekeeping organisations.

Philip Clarke
Chairman
February 2022