MBBKA Report for the Bucks County AGM – 18th February 2023.

Membership
MBBKA membership remains constant. At our last AGM in October 2022 membership stood at 250.

Finances and Apiary Development
The Association is on a sound financial footing. The most significant outlay last year was legal fees for the re-writing and updating of our constitution which has accepted at the AGM and approved by the Charities Commission. We do hold a significant reserve in our apiary development fund which has been built up in response to the Hampden Field housing development which includes the land on which the apiary sits. Planning approval for the development has now been granted, the sale of the land has now gone through and our new landlord is Taylor Wimpey. We have had initial discussions with the project manager and whilst they say they are keen to keep us within the development a suitable alternative location has yet to be agreed.

Association Meetings
Our monthly Association meetings returned to the Church of the Good Shepherd. Initially attendance levels were down on the zoom numbers but this did recover as the year went on. The practical summer meetings were once again held at the apiary and these were very well attended.

Our honey show was once again held on a Saturday morning with the show open to the public in the afternoon. It was well attended both in terms of honey show entries and members of the public who were very happy to be able to purchase a range of local honey.

Education, School Visits and Fairs
The beginner's course was fully subscribed and was held in-person at the church of the good shepherd. We were able to hold the full face to face practical sessions from May to July and these were very well attended; 2022 saw a first in that we had to cancel one session due to the heat!

Four candidates attended the training sessions for the BBKA basic assessment all of whom passed with a credit or distinction.

A successful queen rearing course was held at the apiary, several of the more challenging colonies were re-queened and new colonies will hopefully come through the winter to provide either colonies for sale or to re-queen/replace any winter losses.

No school visits took place in 2022 as, despite repeated calls for a volunteer, we didn't find anyone willing to act as the school's co-ordinator.

Local fairs were held again last year and Mid Bucks attended 5 events over the summer months and supported the County stand at the Bucks County Show.

Helen Palmer
For Mid Bucks Beekeepers
8th January 2023