

## Guildford Division Surrey Beekeepers' Association Chairman's Report 2017/2018

This is my first Chairman's report to you all and it has been a good, but quite eventful year.

We started out in December with another successful Christmas meal at the Drift Golf Club.

January saw us with a well attended "Beekeeper's Question Time". Also in the New Year and followed by two more sessions we had cleaning days at the apiary. Again, starting in January our sell out Theory Course began. The vast majority of attendees went on to do our Practical course held on both Saturday and, for the first time, on Wednesday.

By now GDPR reared its head, but with everyone's great response we managed to get through it!

In early summer we had a fantastic garden meeting courtesy of a member at his lovely apiary followed by scrumptious tea.

Two committee members have made several visits to schools to talk about bees. A very important part of why we are a charity.

Two members who are regulars at the Apiary attended a First Aid Training Course.

We haven't made as much progress as we would have liked with the Barn this year as we are waiting for a new 10 year lease from the owners. We need this before SBKA can approve expenditure on the Barn. We do have approval to go ahead with purchasing a composting toilet and we will be doing that in the New Year. This will be done as soon as we have moved the small shed from its current position. We are going to need help for all of this.

Then the Asian Hornet hit! I have no further news on the test results, but I will keep you all informed as soon as I do. In the meantime We are forming an AHAT (Asian Hornet Action Team) ready for the early spring. Two of our members are active in bringing this to the whole of SBKA.

The Division held an excellent "Taster Day" in July and many of those attendees have joined our 2019 courses.

All those who took their exams passed and well done to them.

Our extraction day in August was very well attended especially by those who hadn't extracted before. The Division own hives produced exactly the same amount as last year 98lbs. All sold to Birtley owners.

We have done several shows this year including Wood Street Village in sweltering heat and our usual major event the Surrey Hills Wood Fair in dreadful weather on the Saturday. So

bad the whole thing closed at 2.30 and we lost our marquee, along with several others, during the night!

All this and with regular weekly well attended meetings at the apiary.

We are putting a "MyDonate" page onto the website, and hope to have this up and running soon. We have also been approached by a distillery company to sponsor a beehive and we are in discussion about this.

Our membership has increased well and renewals are still coming in, but we are set to beat last year's numbers. They stand currently at 180.

I am VERY aware that without your help we couldn't do anything and I wouldn't be here. Thank you very much.

Marilynne Bainbridge  
Chairman  
Guildford Division