

REIGATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Division of Surrey Beekeepers Association

Chairman's AGM Report For The Year 2017/2018

The financial position of the Division remains strong.
Membership reached 235 of which 180 were BBKA registered.
Attendance to our weekly training sessions throughout the summer months averaged 59.
Our Auction and Honey Show were great successes.
The honey harvest was very good.
Development of Henfold Copse continued.

After a somewhat variable spring, the weather was more to the liking of bees than for some years. However, not all colonies managed to provide bumper crops of honey.

RBKA's 2017 Honey Show in October was a success despite a drop in the 'Foot-fall' compared with 2016. During the winter months the colonies at Henfold Copse were nurtured to great effect by a very enthusiastic and hardy team,

Our 10 week Beginners Course (January through March) attracted 25 members of the public, 12 of them joining the Division; our Annual Auction, held in April, proved both popular and profitable despite one of the colder and wetter days of spring.

In March a 4th shipping container was installed at Henfold Copse primarily to store 'heavy machinery'.

In June a Taster Day was very well attended; in July the BBKA Basic Assessments were held, when every RBKA examinee was successfully and in August **Geoff Blay** qualified to become the 4th Master Beekeeper within RBKA.

In September plans were made to enhance and expand the car parking area within the Henfold Copse site during the 2018/19 autumn months so as to maximise the use of the venue particularly in the winter. This is now in hand.

Throughout the year many members volunteered to be involved in running many events ranging from the Auction, caring for the bees in Reigate's 4 out-apiaries, catering, courses, the Honey Show, maintenance of our apiaries

'house and grounds', manning our stall at Village Shows, mentoring, and a myriad of other tasks often carried out behind the scenes.

RBKA is very fortunate to have the support from so many members and is most grateful for their efforts particularly those of the Committee members who have worked well, long and hard.

Andrew Buchanan
Chairman
1st November 2018