

REIGATE BEEKEEPERS



A Division of the Surrey Beekeepers Association

Founded 1879

Charity No. 1026386

Website :- www.reigatebeekeepers.org.uk

Chairman's Annual Report 2017 - Summary

2016/17 was successful in many ways, very enjoyable but also tinged with sorrow.

Finances are strong
Membership is strong
Activities have increased
Member involvement in activities increased
Honey harvest was good.

Overall the weather suited plants (fruiting ones particularly) and thus the bees.

During the autumn and winter, the 2016 Honey Show was great, the Winter Team worked long, hard and in the cold and wet, and the new venture into Pop-Up Stalls sold lots of honey and our Beginners Course exceeded our notional maximum of 25 members of the public.

Spring started with the Annual Auction and Spring Bee Health Clinic, which again attracted a lot of support. The Swarm Collection Team began rescuing numerous escapees. New curriculums for the various levels of training were presented by the Education Team including post training talks in the Pavilion.

Sadly, in May our Immediate Past President, Malcolm Broatch died. Malcolm's contribution to the well being of RBKA was enormous in so many ways. We will miss him greatly.

The summer started with the delivery of a 4th Storage Container. The Pavilion hosted several activities in addition to the weekly Training Sessions, for examples, a Walking Club, a Film Crew, and RBKA's Taster Day and in August another Bee Health Clinic.

Also in August, over 550lbs of honey was extracted from the Divisions supers reflecting on the excellent work carried out by our Apiary Managers. The End of Season Supper, despite being thrown a short notice venue problem, was held at The Surrey Oaks pub and was a huge success.

Behind the scenes there were other enthusiastic members who regularly oversaw a variety of projects such as our Newsletter, our Web Sites, our Kitchen facilities, Pavilion Cleaning and Grass Cutting and of course the work done by the Division's Committee Members were all carried out superbly.

In addition to the projects I have mentioned, many other members gave their time and effort to other items of work.

To one and all of those who contributed to a notable year, a hearty thanks you very much.

Andrew Buchanan
1st November 2017