

Harrow BKA Report to the Federation of Middlesex Beekeepers Association 2021

- 2021 was dominated by Covid-19; the vaccination rollout coupled with social distancing and masks seemed to keep the virus in check for most people.
- Beekeeping continued as normal, but 2021 was again a difficult year for some Association activities, as many members continue to show hesitancy to meet face to face indoors whilst the pandemic continues.
- 2021 turned out to be a particularly poor year for nectar and hence availability of honey for sales in Southern England. The weather was very changeable (wet) and cool during the nectar gathering months.
- Committee meetings reverted to normal monthly frequency using Zoom. We ran our trading shop on the tried and tested socially distanced click and collect basis. Covid compliant loan equipment procedures also continued. Our Swarm Collection and Advice service had a bumper year collecting the highest number of swarms since records started with fifty-two swarms collected and forty-one passed onto members. Either it was a swarmy year for bees or some beekeeper's swarm control methods are not effective.
- Zoom was again used for our education sessions, initially every Sunday and thereafter every two weeks and they continue to be remarkably successful. We held a successful Beginners Course, which was held online with some hands-on at the Apiary (outdoors). We also resumed our Basic beekeeping assessments.
- We held our 2021 Honey and Beekeeping Show in conjunction with Harrow in LEAF's Annual Show at Headstone Manor on August bank holiday Monday. Beekeeping Show entries were well down, but not so the numbers of the public who attended the event. The public certainly demonstrated a pent-up demand to go out.
- Our membership numbers remained about the same during 2021, but by year-end, renewals late on in 2021 for 2022 had reduced, due to people moving out of the area.
- In July, our association hive inspectors with help from Tom Bickerdike (our seasonal Bee-Inspector) conducted an inspection of all colonies on HBKA sites in the borough and found our hives to be in good condition with no foul brood. Tom complimented on the good state of our hives.
- A project was undertaken to replace a large old wooden shed at Hatch End with a more secure new galvanised steel shed, funding was provided via a generous donation in memory of Judy Earl, past member, Trustee and Committee member.
- The November AGM was held by Zoom and ran smoothly, but again left a few committee posts unfilled, action has been taken to try to rectify this situation. Our thanks go to all those members who have given their time to ensure that HBKA continues to thrive in these challenging times.

Rod Parker
HBKA Chair
6 February 2022