

Summary of Pinner & Ruislip Beekeepers Assoc. for 2021.

During a second year of lockdowns and restrictions, Pinner & Ruislip have once again managed to keep some semblance of normality in beekeeping, although as happened during 2021, there have of course been areas where for a second season we have had to postpone or cancel activities.

Thanks again to Alan Husbands, we have held a beginners course on Zoom, and taking all the precautions, later in the season some mentoring has been possible. This year we have booked a hall to have face-to-face tutorials assuming no further restrictions. In the P & R area, there is certainly a demand from the public to acquire beekeeping knowledge.

Many early swarms were collected, thus preventing any nuisance to the community. We consider this an important part of our duty as beekeepers, not only to prevent any possibility of beekeeping being restricted in urban areas as happens in parts of the USA, but as an opportunity to meet and educate the public in the way bees and nature in general play a dependent part in all our lives.

For the second year running, we did not have our honey show and we are very aware that care must be taken to ensure that they do not end permanently.

The apiaries have been well maintained, and thankfully, we have not had either of the foulbroods. All hives on Association sites have been treated with the appropriate Varroa control medications.

Honey yields have been very disappointing this season, with colonies building up too late for the main flow. Sales of honey have been made to a very appreciative public at the apiary gate using a card reader.

As happened last year, members have been able to purchase equipment at the Corbell centre using the card reader, and indeed this is the preferred method for membership renewal.

We enter 2021 with 76 members, social members and associate members of which 48 are active beekeepers. We also have a full beginner's course with a waiting list for places. This gives us hope that beekeeping will continue to flourish despite the difficulties which climate change, loss of habitat and pandemics throw at us.

Christopher Beale.