

ENFIELD & DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION – CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
to Middlesex Federation 18th February 2023

I wish you all a Happy New Year and as 2023 is our Centenary year, we are planning several celebrations throughout to mark this prestigious event.

After covid it has been so refreshing to fully resume our “face to face” winter evening meetings at Capel Manor and encouragingly, membership numbers are a little up on last year standing at 88.

There have been a few changes to the Committee structure this year - the trading hut and honey show secretaries have handed over their jobs to new people; a new position of librarian has been made; the chairman did not put himself forward for re-election. As outgoing Chairman, I would like to introduce Ron Beckwith our new Chairman.

Our website and library, both such valuable assets, continue to be run, improved and up dated. Our Association's training apiary is in fine shape and the bees are doing well. Regular routine maintenance work has been carried out at our other Association sites, and we are raising a colony to put on a new apiary site when the weather conditions improve.

Our charity this year is again Noah's Ark, a most worthwhile local hospice for children. We raised £50 for them at our Christmas Social.

Our Secretary has recently obtained the BBKA Master Beekeeper award and two of our members, the BBKA basic assessment certificate. We were pleased to host members of Barnet Association to take their Basic assessment as Barnet apiary had EFB; this is a good example of associations in the Federation supporting each other.

Our events have included a session on preparing for Spring, an Asian Hornet update, a talk by a Honey Judge, a “mini” Honey Show and a fish and chips supper.

Respecting the mourning of Queen Elizabeth II, our annual Honey Show had to be re-scheduled as a “mini” Show at our October meeting. Also, because of bad weather, the Christmas Social was put on hold until our AGM.

Along with our planned Centenary Year celebrations, we are looking forward to - workshops on “Healthy Bees” - comb changing, swarm prevention and control methods; speakers on appropriate topics; the Honey Show and trophy presentations; and a Christmas social. Instead of a beginners' course this year, we are running Beyond the Basics sessions for all members, focusing on bee health, raising “nucs” and honey products.

There will not be any increase in our Association subscriptions, hive rents and hire charges for this year.

Thanks have been extended to all Committee members, helpers and volunteers who have dedicated their time and effort into keeping our Association running so smoothly and successfully over the last year. It has been a great piece of teamwork.

Finally, I wish you all the best with your bees and hope you have an even more successful and rewarding beekeeping year in 2023.

Duncan Fraser Chairman - 18th February 2023