

## PRBKA Report for 2022 for Federation

With Covid restrictions becoming easier we began to look forward to 'getting back to normal'. Members got back to visiting our Coppermill apiary to look at their bees on a Sunday morning as well as the Association hives, in a more convivial atmosphere than had been the norm for the past many months. The Corbell Centre also opened up again for coffee, chat and planning ahead and numbers visiting gradually increased as members began to feel easier with meeting face to face. Thankfully the public purchasing honey had by now got used to ordering and paying by card in advance online so they could collect their prepared order on Sunday mornings.

Volunteers continued to work at the Apiaries and the Corbell Centre keeping everything tidy and functioning.

Colony losses over the winter were not too bad and things picked up well during the year. Members ended the season with a very good honey harvest, which was pleasing considering the poor harvest from 2021.

Our Annual General Meeting took place in the middle of the summer in the lovely garden of our Treasurer so social distancing could still be maintained but we could meet face to face.

It was decided that we would not participate in any public events during 2022 but would begin again in 2023, subject to honey stocks, invitations to participate and enough members being willing and able to man the stall and exhibition hive.

It was a very busy year swarm-wise (for the bees as well!) with lots of swarming and many calls, with our usual group of 'swarmers' being ready to go at a moment's notice (well quite quickly anyway!) and Association hives as well as members hives were quickly replenished.

Our Beginners' Course took place in March in person in a spacious local Church hall, rather than via Zoom, which meant we were able to continue with social distancing but present in person. Practical sessions then took place at the Coppermill Apiary being carefully planned with limited numbers at any one time. Sadly this was the last year Alan Husbands would be running the course after many years of dedicated hard work. With the assistance of his wife, Maureen, the club has benefited hugely with many enthusiastic new beekeepers who are still going strong.

It was decided to resume our Honey Shows again and in 2022 this took place in October. We had little expectation of receiving many entries, expecting that members would not want to bother after the three year gap. However to our great surprise we had a large number of entries, even more than we had at the last Honey Show before the lockdowns, and could have applied for the Blue Ribbon. The Committee was greatly encouraged to find that members were ready and willing to 'give it a go' after such a long absence and were pleased to have such high quality exhibits. Bill Fitzmaurice kindly agreed to judge for us, bringing a colleague Caroline Geheran, along to help, and it took them a lot longer to judge than we had allowed for due to the high number of entries! Onward and upward for 2023!

We continue to benefit from many volunteers who help to keep everything running well and long may this continue.

Chris Beale, Chair