

## CBKA: Chairman's Report

As with previous years, details of membership and accounts for the past year will be covered by the Secretary and Treasurer.

It's been very much a year of continued growth in membership and an increase in both the range of activities that we as a branch of the KBKA are involved in and our visibility within the local community (more on this later).

From last years AGM (8 present, including officers and committee):-

### Objectives:

- Suitable memorial to founder member Peter Oldreive: not met.
- Locate new club apiary: met [Julian (Whitefriars) plus Michael].

### Wish list:

- Queen rearing: not met
- Wax workshop: not met
- Social Activity/Field Trip: possible visit to Shepherd Neame Brewery in December
- Repeat microscopy course or develop: Adrian's talk on flowers and pollen in Oct.
- More guest speakers: Michael Cooper, Asian Hornet, March.
- Bumble Bees: Dr. Nikki Gammans to give talk in March 2012.

Field Meetings: 6, including a first with local apiary meetings in May which worked well and a very successful repeat apiary tour in Sept with Michael Cooper our seasonal bee inspector.

Committee Meetings: Met 6 times this year.

Also, Kent County Meetings; Julian. **(Thanks to all)**

Special thanks to Vincent Wright, stepping down as Vice Chairman.

### Some other activities this year:

- Swarm Co-ordinator: Tried new system of rotation of swarm coordinators, using a mobile phone, plus swarm collectors. Not without its problems but a number of lessons learnt [David & Michael].

- Name badges: Still trying to find the best method to help everyone get to know each other [David].
- Bulk orders: e.g. honey jars [Vincent].
- New website [Adrian].
- Beginners courses: Spring & Autumn; 16 on each, continue to meet local needs and increase our membership [Julian].
- Attendance at Brogdale fruit festivals [Julian plus others].
- Ongoing successes with BBKA modules [Julian, Adrian] and also articles on pollen and flowers in the BBKA newsletter [Adrian].

### **New Phase of Development**

With completion of the first phase of the Whitefriars apiary project in particular in mind we are entering an exciting phase of development for Canterbury Beekeepers.

The base of our membership pyramid is very wide therefore we must ensure we continue with ongoing education and training of both new members, as well as for the smaller number of more established members, to maintain everyone's needs and interests.

Noteworthy that latest information from the BBKA shows that many members leave after just three years – why is this? [AGM item to follow up on this to ensure members have the opportunity to inform the committee what they want from the club].

There are all sorts of new opportunities to get involved with and we need more of you to get involved, for example:

- Involvement in our ongoing mentoring scheme.
- Creation of a new position of Publicity and Promotions
- Helping to maintain and develop the Whitefriars apiary
- Helping with increased involvement at various shows, e.g. Brogdale fruit festivals

It's your club and we need your input to help make the club a success.

Stuart J. Andrews  
2 Nov. 2011