



# Chalfonts Beekeepers' Society

Registered Charity No. 1121231

## Committee Annual Report, 28 November 2023

The Committee present their report together with the financial statements for the twelve-month

financial period ended 31st August 2023. The Society is a registered charity and the Committee have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities issued in March 2005.

### Reference and Administration Information

Charity Name: Chalfonts Beekeepers' Society

Charity Registration No: 1121231

Registered Office and Principal Address: Thatches, Welders Lane, Chalfont St Peter, Bucks SL9 8TU

### Committee:

The committee members in office at the date of this report are:

Officers:

President

Sarah Peterson

Chairman

Gillian Jones

Secretary

Kate Shawyer

Treasurer

Peter Cardoe (co-opted on in April 2023)

Apiary – Training

Jim Liness

Education

Steve Troll

Events

Dorothie Jones

Membership Secretary

Jane Butterworth

Trading

Mike Walters

Webmaster/Social Media

Giles Kenwright

Beginners Representative

Jilly Ellson

All committee members receive no fees or emoluments other than the reimbursements of expenses. The officers and general committee members are also Trustees for the purposes of charity law.

### Structure and Governance

The Society is a registered with the Charities Commission as a 'not-for-profit' charity to advance the education of the public, including members of the Society, in the craft of beekeeping.

The management of the Society is vested in a Committee comprised of four officers of the Society namely, President, Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary, plus not more than seven additional members, all of whom shall comprise the Trustees. Four Trustees at Committee meetings comprise a quorum.

The Trustees are responsible for preparing their report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations. The Trustees have reviewed all policies for the year and have put in place a revised safeguarding policy and a revised Data Protection policy.

### Year in Review



# Chalfonts Beekeepers' Society

Registered Charity No. 1121231

As with all clubs throughout the UK we have had our ups and downs this year. On the upside, despite our only being able to attend four fetes this year all other numbers within the club have risen; membership, exams passed, visits to our apiaries, different training sessions held at the apiaries, and we even made a small profit.

On the downside, we were told earlier this year, by the owner of the land where our Training Apiary is sited, that he was to sell all his assets and we await notice of the new owner. On the upside we understand that they are very amenable to our staying. Also, we were informed that our yearly fees to Chesham Council for the license at our Observation Apiary will also rise per year but by a very small amount after renegotiation.

We made a permanent change to our speaker programme with the January and February meetings moving to Zoom. This seemed to be a popular move.

Because of our keen beginner's group, Jim and his team have been kept very busy teaching not only those starting out beekeeping but also providing training in other beekeeping topics to other members of the club, twice a week.

Our Apiary at Chesham had a complete redesign and is now open to our more experienced beekeepers as an Observation Apiary covering topics such as alternative varroa treatments, observing bee behaviour within the hive and using different types of brood cover.

I mentioned that we attended only four of the six fetes we usually attend this year to educate the public and sell members honey, but our sales were exceptional, surpassing any taken previously, meaning both the club and those members who sent honey benefited.

Other members of the club have been invited into schools and adults education events to talk about various aspects of beekeeping.

Our annual Honey Show was held again at the Chalfont St Giles Show with enough entries to be able to be awarded a Blue-Ribbon.

One downside I would like to address is the extra work taken by the members of the main Committee who have needed to pick up the extra work when members of our Management Committee have given notice or stepped down for personal reasons. A lot of this work are not daily tasks and can often be done from home without attending any extra meetings. We ask for more of you to consider taking up the roles that we have within the club.

We look forward to holding our biennial Auction in 2024 and to seeing the club continue to flourish.

This is my last Club meeting and AGM and I thank you all for your support during my tenure, but I especially want to thank the whole of the Committee for working with me to have the club run as smoothly as it does, for the benefit of you all.

## Speaker's programme:

We decided this year to retain talks on Zoom, just for January and February to avoid members having to drive out in the dark nights. It also meant that we could get



# Chalfonts Beekeepers' Society

Registered Charity No. 1121231

speakers from further afield. This has proved popular, and we shall be doing the same again next year.

However, we do feel the 'social' side of meeting in person is important so we will continue to try and entice you to leave home! A new experiment was a 'hands on' workshop where members could participate in making honey ferments. Places for this were soon fully booked.

Talks given this year were: -

September 2022	Bill Fisher and Sue Carter	Making Mead
October 2022	Shirley Richard & Meaghan Bond	From comb to candle - live demonstration
November 2022	AGM with Quiz	
December 2022	No Meeting	
January 2023	Kevin Thorne (Zoom)	Things that beekeepers worry about but don't need to.
February 2023	Wally Shaw (Zoom)	The role of swarm control in beekeeping.
March 2023	BQT of CBS experts	Instead of Sara Robb who had Covid.
April 2023	Angela Kirk	Honey ferments workshop
May 2023	Lynne Ingram	Honey fraud
June 2023	Bill Fisher and Sue Carter	Preparation for showing honey & wax.
July 2023	No Meeting	
August 2023	No Meeting	

Other local clubs were invited to the talks by Wally Shaw and Lynne Ingram, and we will continue to do this for important topics.

It is difficult to strike the balance between what different members want, depending on where they are in their 'beekeeping journey' and on their individual interests. We try to make the talks appropriate for the time of year, but if you have any suggestions of topics or speakers you would like to hear about, then the Committee would love to hear from you and will try to accommodate your requests. A questionnaire has been sent out to gauge your opinions. Please do fill it in.

More science and research? More practical beekeeping? More green issues? It's your club!

## Membership:

as of 7/23, Total 214 members

Breakdown

Registered	170
Partner	14
Junior	2
Country	4
School	1
Associate	0



# Chalfonts Beekeepers' Society

Registered Charity No. 1121231

## **Education:**

### ***Taster Session and Beginners Course:***

Both the session and the course were run successfully during late 2022 and 2023. We welcomed 28 people to the taster session in November 2022 and of those 11 went on to join 18 others to make a beginner's course of 29 attendees.

The beginner's course had high attendance throughout, resulting in high apiary attendance and nine new beekeepers, many of whom are active members of the Club and one of whom went on to win awards at the Chalfonts Honey Show.

### ***Developing Beekeeping skills:***

This was run over four zoom sessions followed by apiary visits focussing on practical second year tasks such as swarm prevention/management, uniting hives and honey extraction.



# Chalfonts Beekeepers' Society

Registered Charity No. 1121231

## **Exams and assessments:**

2022 was a strong year academically.

- Seven beekeepers achieved their Basic Assessments.
- Five beekeepers achieved their Bee Health Assessments.
- Six took and passed their Module 3 exams and one achieved Module 8 and their Advanced Theory

## **Other**

We also ran "Swarm collection" and "Winter prep" zoom calls, both of which will be repeated in 2024.

## **Apiaries:**

### **The Training Apiary**

The Amersham Training Apiary has had a successful summer with 119 visits from Beginners Course attendees and over 400 visits in total. Everyone says they learn something new when they visit the Apiary. We ran sessions for Beginners and Experienced Beekeepers. The sessions included Developing Beekeepers Skills, Raising Queens, Swarm Control, Drone Laying Queens and Workers, and Winter Preparation. We hosted training sessions and examinations for Bee Health and Basic Assessment.

We ran a successful Honey Extraction and Wax Preparation Day where attendees learned about extracting and bottling honey, wax preparation, candle making, preparation of comb and chunk honey. All participants were shown how to prepare products for shows and encouraged to enter the CBS Honey Show.

A special thank you to the volunteers who come along to the Apiary rain or shine and crack on with the tasks associated with running a Training Apiary. They create a great atmosphere, and everyone has fun, the Apiary couldn't run without them - what a team! Thank you.

### **The Observation Apiary**

The year started with a full inventory of the equipment at the Chesham apiary. A 'B-Box' hive (Italian urban hive) was donated to the apiary in July but is not in use yet.

Only one colony survived the 2022-23 winter (4 frames of bees - colony 1.) Two colonies were sourced from the Amersham apiary (colonies 2 & 3). Our Apiary Manager donated a swarm of laying workers which was re-queened with a mated Queen donated by a member (colony 4). In addition, a member donated a swarm (colony 5).

Activities at the apiary focused on observing bee behaviour inside the hive in relation to time of year: space management, comb building, swarm management, laying patterns and the ratio of drone/worker brood.

We focused on varroa assessment using alcohol/icing sugar/CO2 methods as well as tray and drone brood assessment. In the end, only one colony was treated chemically, and the other four were treated technically (icing sugar coating).

We experimented with different types of brood cover (crownboard, plastic screen, hessian fabric).

We tried foundation-less frames in brood boxes and supers: lots of cross combing in supers!



# **Chalfonts Beekeepers' Society**

Registered Charity No. 1121231

We did not harvest any honey as three of the five colonies were too young to produce any substantial crop although they all have plenty of stores for winter.



# Chalfonts Beekeepers' Society

Registered Charity No. 1121231

No Queen rearing was carried out, but we did re-queen a colony of laying workers successfully.

Two colonies were strong enough to swarm but didn't. One colony swarmed and our bait hives failed to attract a swarm.

All sessions were attended by at least six club members, sometimes eight. All sessions also comprised of discussions on topics raised either in the BBKA newsletter or the Beecraft magazine.

It was our first season of being an 'Observation apiary'. In 2024 we hope to try to observe much more, including perhaps behaviour outside the hive.

## Events

### ***Fetes and Fairs***

This year we only attended four events instead of our customary five or six. This was due to a breakdown of communication with Little Chalfont Village Day and Farnham Common Orchard Day cancelled on us at the last minute.

We attended the following: -

- Hyde Heath Village Fete
- Feast of St Peter
- Chenies Manor Plant Fair
- Chalfont St Giles Village Show

All the events were well attended, and we didn't get rained on. Just over £5,000 of members' honey was sold, of which 10% was retained by the club.

As usual, we would like to thank our stalwart team of helpers. Some were our regular team members, many of whom stayed all day from early in the morning until the very end. We were glad to see however that there were several new volunteers this year, so thank you even if it was only for an hour or two at one event.

We would like to see many more of our 200+ members stepping up for next year, especially if we are selling your honey! It's not arduous, can be fun and takes the strain from our core team, many of whom would like to be stepping back a bit! No experience is necessary, even if you haven't kept bees yet. All welcome.

Special thanks to those who towed the trailer to and from events. We would like to hear from anyone else who can do this for us, so if you are a caravanner or have a horsebox for instance, please do get in touch. If we have enough people, you will only have to do one event per year.

Thanks too to Jim Liness and Sue Carter who provided observation hives on the day and to Tanvir Mukhtar for transporting and storing all your honey between events. We are looking for someone to fulfil this role next year.

This is your club, and we cannot put on these events without your co-operation.

### ***Chiltern Open Air Museum Green Festival***

As well as selling honey, our remit as a club is to educate the public about bees and beekeeping. One of our members keeps bees up at COAM and was asked if we could provide some information about bees for this new event they were organising.



# Chalfonts Beekeepers' Society

Registered Charity No. 1121231

We did not do honey sales at this event, but an interesting day was spent with the public talking not only about bees and beekeeping but also about the importance of wild pollinators. We hope we will be invited back next year.

## ***Denham, Gerrards Cross and Chalfont's Community Sustainability Event***

This indoor event in Gerrards Cross turned out to be more of a 'networking' opportunity with other organisations, rather than engagement with the public. Thanks to those who turned out to make our table look attractive and 'engage' with everyone. We probably won't attend again.

## ***Bucks County Show Aylesbury***

We took our trailer as usual to this large public event, where we helped to man the Bucks County Beekeepers stand under the direction of Mid Bucks Beekeepers. Our new gazebos definitely add a touch of professionalism to the pitch, and we won first prize in the Non-Agricultural Stall category. Well done everyone.

As well as these events, our members have been out and about giving talks to schools, old peoples' residencies, and other community groups. If you feel you are able and would like to share your knowledge in this way, then we do have a speakers list so please get in touch.

## **Trading Report:**

This year the bulk of the sales made have been honey jars, frames, and foundation. Again, there has been a noticeable reduction in the number of hives, hive parts or tools sold this year. Mike believes the loss of so many colonies over the winter and the increase in the price of equipment is one of the main reasons for the drop in sales this year. The price of jars and fondant has increased greatly and getting reductions for bulk buying is getting increasingly difficult. Thornes are considering whether to continue their concessions to beekeeping societies as profit margins get tighter. As a club, we are considering whether to continue our in-house trading arm and may instead look to negotiate direct discounts for club members from popular retailers such as Thornes. We would still try to maintain a stock of popular items such as jars, fondant, and wax foundation to have readily available for club members however and will seek feedback from members in the New Year on any changes.

The increase in sales of 12oz and 8oz jars compared to 1lb jars shows that some members are recouping the higher cost of producing honey by selling in smaller jars but at a similar price to the larger jars.

## **Financial Review:**

This year we broke even – the society made an overall surplus of £196.

The sales of members' honey and hive products, e.g. wax candles, fudge and marmalade, at local fetes and fairs, increased substantially to £7,713 compared with £4,726 last year; payments to members for honey sold at local fairs increased from £3,537 to £5,318. This has provided a net income to the club and a healthy income to the members who sold their products on the club stand. Capital expenditure this year has been minimal at £180. After including a 25% deduction for depreciation, the current





# Chalfonts Beekeepers' Society

Registered Charity No. 1121231

fixed assets now stand at £1,766 which includes all re-saleable items, including the club trailer and various pieces of extraction equipment that members can borrow.

Trading turnover this year has been about 2% less than last year; down by £159. The value of stock held has fallen by £3,435.

Gift aid reclaims will be submitted to HMRC to the value of £1,360 in the next month or so. I must advocate the importance to your society of this charitable feature and urge all members who are able to include the gift aid statement with their membership renewals to do so: without these we would have faced a further in-year loss.

The current status of our financial holdings is a healthy one. We currently hold liquid assets of £22,061; that includes trading stock of £5,454. The overall book value of the Society has increased slightly by £196 and on 31st August was £24,374.

## Future Strategy

In line with the objectives of the Society the Chalfont Beekeepers plan to continue to educate the public and new beginners, develop existing beekeeper's husbandry skills, support the undertaking of formal study in the BBKA education system and encourage junior beekeepers to take up the craft.

## Annual General Meeting

The 2024 Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Society will be held on 26 November 2024 at 7.30pm. Venue to be confirmed.

Approved by the Committee on Tuesday 14 November 2023 and signed on its behalf by

Gillian Jones  
Chairman

**The Chalfonts Beekeepers' Society**  
**Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ended 31st August 2023**

	£	£	£	£
		2022		2023
<b>TRADING ACCOUNT</b>				
Total sales (less stock supplied to club Apiary)		7,504		
Total sales				7,345
Opening Stock	7,734		8,889	
Plus purchases	10,109		4,180	
Less stock supplied to apiary			(260)	
Less: Stock at year end	(8,889)		(5,454)	
Cost of Sales		8,954		7,355
Trading surplus		(1,450)		(10)
Other receipts (Interest)				11
Other payments (bank charges)				(60)
Net profit				(59)
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>				
Income				
CBS Subscriptions	2,046.00			
Member donations to CBS	804.15			
Donations to BBKA/BDI	132.15			
Subscriptions (BBKA, BQ, Beecraft, BDI)	5,327.45			
Subscriptions		8,310		8,013
Beginners course	1,716.00			
Other courses - DBS	420.00			
Courses		2,136		2,188
Gift Aid		2,535		1,360
Honey & Hive product Sales		4,726		7,713
Auction		3,557		0
Interest		1		28
Social		304		0
Miscellaneous				96
		21,569		19,397
Expenditure				
Postage, Printing and Stationery				222
Speakers	433			808
Shows and fetes	437			752
Software and subscriptions	1,417			367
Course materials & books	867			546
Library books & materials	70			50
Apiary Expenses	7,574			1,662
Subscriptions (BBKA, BQ, Beecraft, BDI)	5,921			5,601
BCBKA subscription				336
Social Events	0			205
Auction	2,292			0
Donations	0			0
Gifts and prizes	332			483
Bank Charges	94			78
Hall hire	836			1,565
Insurance	224			429
Honey Sales	3,537			5,318
Miscellaneous	214			131
		24,248		18,553
		(2,679)		844
Surplus/(deficit) before depreciation		(4,129)		785
Less: Depreciation of fixed assets		(725)		(589)
<b>SURPLUS/(LOSS) FOR THE YEAR AFTER DEPRECIATION</b>		<b>(4,854)</b>		<b>196</b>

**Note 1:** In the 2020/21 Accounts the Subscriptions (BBKA capitation, Bee Disease Insurance (BDI) and Magazine payments) were excluded as they were only being collected on behalf of third parties, and as a consequence were not considered part of the Charities Interests. However owing to consideration for Gift Aid reclaim they have now been re-incorporated and included in the 2021/22 accounts. Claims were submitted to HMRC for both years 2020/21 and 2021/22 and will be for year 2022/23 and the expected refunds are included in the Balance Sheet.

**The Chalfonts Beekeepers' Society**  
**Balance Sheet as at 31st August 2023**

	£	£	£	£
		2022		2023
<b>MEMBER'S INTEREST IN THE SOCIETY</b>				
Balance brought forward from previous year		29,026	24,177	
Gift Aid Refund		2,535	0	
(Shortfall)/Surplus for year		-7,388	196	
Prior year adjustment		5		
Balance carried forward to next year		<u>24,177</u>	<u>24,374</u>	
<b>REPRESENTING:</b>				
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		2,900	2,355	
Less: Depreciation		<u>725</u>	<u>589</u>	
		<u>2,175</u>	<u>1,766</u>	
<b>CURRENT ASSETS:</b>				
Cash	1,937		299	
Deposit account CBS	1,005		1,015	
Current account CBS	2,783		6,509	
Current account Trading	4,853		7,970	
Debtors	0		0	
Outstanding Gift Aid	2,535		1,360	
Stocks of equipment for sale	8,889		<u>5,454</u>	
		<u>22,002</u>	<u>22,608</u>	
Outstanding Creditors	0		0	
Net Current Assets		<u>22,002</u>	<u>22,608</u>	
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>24,177</u>	<u>24,374</u>	

I have reviewed the Accounts of the society for the year ended 31st August 2023, and the methodology behind their preparation, and believe that they represent a true and fair view of the Society's financial activity during the period and position as at the balance sheet date. A formal audit of the figures was not undertaken.



Adrian Andrews  
FCMA, CGMA

17 Nov 2023



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name  
**Chalfonts Beekeepers Society**

On accounts for the year  
ended

**31<sup>st</sup> August 2023**

Charity no  
(if any)

**1121231**

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Responsibilities and  
basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/8/2023.

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent  
examiner's statement

I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of The Chartered Institute of Management Accountants

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date: **8<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

Name:

**Adrian Andrews**

Relevant professional

**FCMA CGMA**



qualification(s) or body  
(if any):

Address: Foxcroft Bradcutts Lane  
Cookham Dean  
SL6 9TL

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.