

Chairman's Report 2022

I am pleased to say, it has been another good year for DBKA. We have had a DBKA presence at a number of local shows across the year, to promote our work with bees, and let the community know what we do, and we also had two excellent Open Days at the Denes Apiary, both opened by the Mayor of Darlington, and both very well attended.

A number of members have successfully achieved BBKA assessments and examinations this year, and we will be celebrating their achievements with them following the AGM, whilst once again, the Beginners Course, and Bee Experience days both proved extremely popular and successful. Thanks go to all who contributed to the training and organisation involved.

Negotiations are complete, and we are just awaiting the final official confirmation from Darlington Borough Council (DBC) regarding a lease on the Denes Bowling Green having been ongoing since 2019. Once the lease is received, we intend to make headway in further developing the site to include permanent toilet facilities, and educational training accommodation.

The Banks Moorhouse Windfarm is working well, with bees on site, and providing DBKA with a second apiary to supplement the teaching Apiary at the Denes, and where Queen raising can take place.

The Denes Apiary site as always, continues to look impressive, due to the hard work of those who undertake gardening, and maintain the apiary enclosure and equipment - thanks go to all who take on this work, putting in a lot of effort across the year, making such a difference. All Members will be made very welcome if they come along on a Tuesday morning to join in and help out with gardening, which is very important for the bees, so why not come along.

Honey/honey sales, go from strength to strength, with customer and repeat customer numbers continuing to grow. The bees as usual, have done us proud, and so have those who have processed the honey, enabling us to make it available

As always, I would personally like to thank the current Committee for their continued hard work and support throughout the year. I will be stepping down from the Committee at the end of this AGM, after 8 years membership of the Committee and 3 years as Association Chairman, and I am sure you will join with me in wishing the incoming Chairman, Officers, and Committee, every success for the future.

Annette McGaughey - Chairman