Guildford Division Report to the 2026 SBKA AGM

We can report a very successful year both financially and educationally despite the unusually hot summer.
Thanks to the dedication of our apiary manager and the team of helpers, we ran our usual winter beekeeping theory course and follow-up practical, both of which were fully subscribed and are again fully booked for next year. In addition our taster day in July had 19 subscribers.

Exam results were:

Basic Assessment: 3 members, all passed, one with distinction
Bee Health: 2 members, both passed;
Bee behaviour: 1 member passed
Bee management part 1: 1 member passed
Junior Cert: 2 members, both passed.

All participants passed, i.e. there were no failures in any of the exams.

As to events, we had a stall at the very successful Cranleigh Carnival, Cranleigh Wood Fair and Peaslake Fair, with record honey sales.

A dozen talks to schools or other organisations have been given during the year, at various schools, companies and other interest groups.

At both the fetes and talks we have been emphasising the importance of pollinators (not just honey bees) and also informing the public about the YLH.

Our Divisional Honey Show in October was very well attended and an attraction to families with young children. It received 123 entries. A plant stall as well as our honey stall did very well. To aid in the training of judges, in addition to a BBKA Show Judge, we had a trainee judge from Bedfordshire and a steward from Dorset.

Our Division's store has continued to increase in turnover and range of stock, and is very popular with members.

Repair of the roof of the rented barn at our apiary is currently awaiting a date from a contractor instructed by the licensor.

Peter Jones
Chair GBKA