



Bannside and District Beekeepers  
registered charity NIC107483

## Annual Report 2022 - 2023

### Contents

Introduction.....	0
Secretary's report.....	1

### Introduction

Bannside and District Beekeepers became a registered charity in June 2020 with the principal objective of promoting and furthering the craft of beekeeping.

It is one of 14 local associations connected to the Ulster Beekeepers Association. Bannside and District beekeepers operate under their constitution adopted on 24 Feb 2016.

#### Public benefits

The most direct benefit to those taking part in any of our activities will be the health benefits of working outside in the fresh air coupled with the manual labour associated

with these activities. When honey is harvested along with pollen and propolis the health benefits will be added to for the like of hay fever sufferers. Friendships with our fellow participants will be made that will last for a lifetime with every support offered to any that may need it. The benefits can be demonstrated by the general health and wellbeing of all who take part in the activities of our program.

The beneficiaries of the charity will be the school children, scout groups and any groups that we interact with who will learn of the importance of bees and the other pollinators in our ecosystem There will be no private benefit to anyone involved in our activities.

Our group gives talks on beekeeping and other pollinators to schools and scout groups in the Mid and East Antrim Council area, we also have talks and demonstrations for groups in the Portglenone area. Everyone is welcome to attend our monthly meetings or visit us at our apiary.

### **Secretary's report**

It was difficult to imagine a world where we would be living a new normal after Covid-19, and it has been another eventful year post lock-down for Bannside Beekeepers.

A lot of local beekeepers lost their bees over the winter months, and it was difficult to obtain new bees for some.

This year our apiary was supported by a small number of people through the season.

There has been a lot of developments with the club, now that we have our new club house club house at Killycon Road. Tim has given up a lot of his spare time to add the finishing touches to the club house and apiary, and we are now established in our routine of monthly meetings on the last Thursday of the month.

### **Trustees**

- |                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| • Chairperson         | Tim Dowie          |
| • Secretary/Treasurer | Tracey Mitchell    |
| • Committee Member    | Stephen McAllister |

### **Membership**

Currently membership stands at 11 (Individual) members.

The renewal subscription for a full member is £10 per year. This includes UBKA Insurance. Membership subscriptions are due for renewal on 1<sup>st</sup> April annually.

### **Capitation and Insurance**

Bannside and District Beekeepers are a Beekeeping club affiliated to the Ulster Beekeepers' Association by payment of an annual capitation fee. The club will pay a capitation fee of £8.00 to the Ulster Beekeepers Association for every club member.

This provides insurance to Bannside and District Beekeepers and its registered members in carrying out beekeeping activities.

### **Training**

Due to Covid restrictions The Intermediate Course training was re- scheduled to run on Zoom, second year training will resume in September 2022. Unfortunately, nothing has yet been confirmed with CAFRE for continuation of the course, so our members are still waiting to continue with their studies

The club had proposed to fund further training courses for members. There were no new club members ready to undertake the Introduction to Beekeeping course.

One club member has expressed interest in studying for the Proficiency in Beekeeping (Intermediate level) and the club has lodged the expression of interest with CAFRE.

The club are keen to promote beekeeping and are looking at running an informal introduction to beekeeping in the summer months, as well as opportunities for talks and demonstrations for groups in the Portglenone area.

### **Club Apiary**

The club bees are being inspected by Tim Dowie, at present there is one hive.

In addition to the club bees at the Apiary, the club is also keen to promote other pollinating insects.

In October Stephen entered a competition run by U105, and the club won £250 to buy trees or wildflower seeds to give to schools visited for talks and demonstrations. Steph and Tim have sourced a supplier and we hope to have these sometime in May 2023.

### **Club Meetings**

The club has now settled into the new club house at Scroggy Moss

The club meet monthly at the club house in Scroggy Moss. Average attendance is 5 members. At the June meeting the club discussed the June dearth, and discussed ways to care for bees during this period of poor weather that we had.

### **Social Media**

The club continues to use a *WhatsApp* group chat for members and its Facebook page to stay in touch and promote the club.

[Bannside & District Beekeepers - Home | Facebook](#)

**Tracey Mitchell**  
**Secretary/ Treasurer**