

Laurie Wiseman

We are sad to report that Laurie Wiseman, a well-known Suffolk beekeeper, died in early January after a brief illness.

Laurie was the backbone of the Leiston & District Beekeepers' Association (now Suffolk Coastal) for many years from the 1990s. He ran the branch apiary for a long time, helped keep the Association going when there were very few on the committee and taught many of us a great deal.

A few of us also have fond memories of a L&DBKA members' coach trip to France that Laurie organised. We visited a centre of apiculture, tested lots of mead, stayed overnight in a hotel and had a memorable dinner, and came back laden with fantastic French produce.

Laurie did a fantastic job of promoting beekeeping to the wider community; always at the Suffolk Show and the Schools Farm Day as well as local shows in the Suffolk coastal area. He often appeared in the EADT and even had a series on Radio Suffolk where he taught Lesley Dolphin about beekeeping 'live at the hive' over several episodes.

Laurie was chairman of the Suffolk BKA from 2002 to 2007, being presented with the Martin Rose Bowl in 2008. He then went on to become SBKA President from 2017 to 2019. Laurie also travelled to the BBKA's Annual Delegates Meeting to represent Suffolk every year from 2009 to 2019.

Laurie was still looking after nine hives until late last year and has passed them and his equipment on to Suffolk Coastal BKA for the benefit of members.

