

BUNGAY BEE HIVE DAY

Sunday 15th July, 10.30 - 4.30 @ Castle Meadow

Press Release



Festival Marquee, Castle Meadow | Sunday 15th July, 2012 | 10.30-4:30pm

Getting the whole town buzzing!

Bungay Bee Hive Day is a celebration of the honeybee and other pollinating insects along with the plants they love. Unique in the region and in its second year the event is organised by **Bungay Community Bees** as part of the Bungay Festival and aims to promote awareness and enjoyment of the essential relationship between people, plants and bees.

After the success of last years event which attracted around 1000 people Bungay Community Bees have invited **Heidi Hermann**, Founder Trustee of the **Natural Beekeeping Trust**, to talk about swarming - perhaps the most exhilarating event of a honeybee colony's annual lifecycle. The Natural Beekeeping Trust was formed in response to the critical situation of the honeybee which has led many beekeepers to question approaches to beekeeping that rely on chemical inputs and to seek to improve the wider landscape in which bees live.

Co-Founder of Bungay Community Bees **Elinor McDowall** said; 'We're very lucky to have the Natural Beekeeping Trust joining us on the 15th, it's the first time they've spoken in East Anglia and it's great opportunity for local beekeepers and those interested in bees to come and hear about this growing new holistic take on bee husbandry'.

Building on the theme of this years Bee Hive Day, which focuses on bees and their relationship with us and the environment, **Rose Titchiner** of Bungay Community Bees will explain how we can provide year-round plants and habitats for bees, pollinators and wildlife and introduce Bungay Community Bees' **Get your Garden Buzzing** project - a bee-friendly plant labeling scheme that can be used by any garden centre. Meanwhile there will be a **Bee and Flower Walk** around Bungay's diverse green spaces, readings, a screening of the highly acclaimed film **Queen of the Sun** and a panel discussion. **Waveney Beekeeping Group** and Bungay Community Bees will display hives, equipment and information to show how honey bees work and how they can be supported by beekeepers.

Information stalls and displays covering all aspects of beekeeping and pollinators will be complemented by those selling bee-friendly plants, seeds, bee-related crafts and of course honey! There will be an activities area where children and adults can make their own bug hotels, beeswax lip balm or get their faces painted and a quiet reading corner stocked with bee books and magazines and Bungay Community Kitchen will provide refreshments.

ENDS.

For more information contact Gemma

Email: bees@sustainablebungay.com

Telephone: 07540 724 395

Bee Hive Day is part of the Bungay Festival and is organised by Bungay Community Bees

Workshops, talks, bee crafts, children's and flower walk, plants for bees and much more



www.sustainablebungay.com



Notes for Editors:

For press information: Josiah Meldrum | josiah@provenance.co | 07976 941 613.

For further information about Bungay Bee Hive Day: Gemma Parker | enquiries@humblecake.co.uk | 07540 724 395.



Bungay Community Bees was launched in 2010 as a community bee-keeping project that aims to promote local pollination and manage hives as sustainably as possible. It runs as a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) scheme where members own 'shares' in the bees, hives and harvest, and can take part in the beekeeping year. This allows people to support honey bees without being 'hands on'. For those who want to be actively involved Bungay Community Bees funds training (with Waveney Beekeepers) and hives for up to two new beekeepers each year. Bungay Community Bees was the first CSA of its kind in the UK and has attracted worldwide attention when it began in 2010 and has been the inspiration behind Capital Bee in London.



The group has several apiaries in and around Bungay and, aside from beekeeping, has two sub-groups, Plants for Bees and the Outreach and Education group (which organised the Bee Hive Day). They give regular talks to raise awareness about the relationship between bees, plants and human beings, as well as encourage bio-diversity (colonies are made vulnerable to disease- especially the varroa mite - by the widespread use of pesticides and lack of bio-diversity in single-crop farming, as well as the the stressful nature of commercial beekeeping). Bungay Community Bees is grew out of and is part of Sustainable Bungay and regularly posts bee blogs here: www.sustainablebungay.com.

The Natural Beekeeping Trust (NBT) aims to promote awareness of sustainable beekeeping which is strongly orientated by the essential nature and needs of the bees. The founders of the Trust believe that encouraging bee guardianship as well as fostering an interest in organic/biodynamic agriculture and gardening will make a major contribution to ensuring the long term health of the honeybee.

Husbandry approaches advocated by the Trust are based on allowing bees to express their instincts fully through swarming, presence of drones, overwintering on honey as well as taking due care to support colonies' brood nest warmth maintenance.

NBT are based at Plaw Hatch Farm, a biodynamic farm in Sussex, where they are working on developing a "sanctuary" for bees, and maintain a "bee garden" in Ashurstwood, Sussex which is open to visitors by arrangement. They offer courses in natural beekeeping based on biodynamics, talks and workshops in other locations. The Trust also collects information and research, you can find out more here: <http://naturalbeekeepingtrust.org>



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