

Useful Websites

www.BeeEd.org.uk

www.kendalbeekeepers.com/

www.bwars.com

www.bumblebeeconservation.org

Bee Facts:-

In summer a bee lives just 6 weeks

In summer a honeybee hive contains 60,000 bees

In her life, a bee 'makes' just one teaspoon of honey.

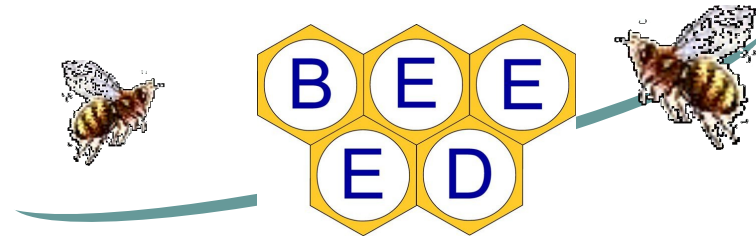
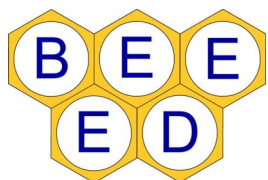
The queen honeybee can live for about 5 years.

It takes the energy from 5kg of honey to make 1kg of wax

A queen bumblebee hibernates alone through the winter and then starts the nest off again in the spring.

A honeybee dies after she has stung you, she will only sting as a last resort to protect herself or her nest.

We all depend on bees to survive so
LOOK AFTER BEES AND THE ENVIRONMENT



BeeSpy



www.BeeEd.org.uk

Bumblebees



White tailed bumblebee
(The tail must be pure white, no orange or brown hairs). Short tongue.
This is *B. lucorum*.



Common carder bee
Mostly ginger hair, with some black hairs, long tongue so it likes tube flowers.
This is *B. pascuorum*.



A bee with yellow hairs on its face. This means it is a male bee. Males also have hairy back legs. This bee has a clear white tail.



A bee with shiny back legs. This means this is a female bumblebee; she may also have pollen in her pollen baskets.



A bee's tongue.
This is a long tongued bee. The tongue does not go into the mouth but folds under the bee.
This is *B. hortorum*.



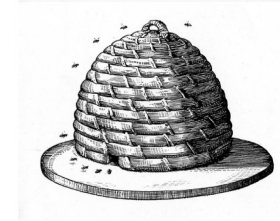
A bumblebee with dark brown wings.
This means this is a cuckoo bee, it lays its eggs in other bees' nests.

Date seen.

Bee History



Saint Ambrose is the patron saint of bees and beekeeping. He lived 16 centuries ago and was Bishop of Milan in Italy.



A skep was the traditional beehive until the mid 1800's but many were used much later in the UK. It could be roofed with a hackle.



Winnie-the-Pooh and the Bees are known to most people. Lots of beekeepers might agree -'You never can tell with bees'!



Lots of businesses have pictures or models of skeps. This one is obviously outside a bank but you might see a similar pub sign.



Bee boles are where skeps were kept when lots of houses and farms had bees. Honey was the only sweetener before sugar.



A skep similar to this on a building, often still a shop, shows this was once a 'Coop' shop. The ethos is that everyone works for the common good.

Bee Products



Runny honey is usually clear and golden. The colour and texture of honey depends on which flowers the bees have visited.



Honey comb can be eaten whole. It is more expensive because it takes a lot of energy (honey) for the bees to build the wax.



Beeswax blocks are made to store or sell the wax. Beeswax is used to make candles or polish., face and hand creams. It is also used to make tablets.



Honey for sale. If you can find it buy honey from a local beekeeper; that way you will taste your local honey and support bees and pollination near your home.



Set honey is thick and sugary. Whether it is set or runny depends on what types of flowers the bees have collected nectar from.



Honey pots often look like beehives or skeps. You might also see a honey dipper for runny honey.

Date seen.

Honeybees



A honey bee is a slim, medium sized bee. They have orange/brown stripes and 4 wings. They are less furry than bumblebees.



Honeybee hives are kept in an apiary. They may have flat roofs like these Nationals or WBC hives have sloping roofs



A queen bee is cared for by the workers, she lays eggs and sends out chemical messages. That control the activities of the colony.



Comb in a honeybee colony is made of beeswax and propolis. It forms the cells for the baby bees, the food and the 'floor' that the bees live and walk on.



A beekeeper wears a protective veil and bee suit to protect from bee stings. Beekeepers also use a smoker and smoke to calm the bees



A honeybee with pollen on her hind legs in her pollen baskets carries pollen into the hive. These 2 bees are feeding each other nectar.

Solitary Bees and mimics



A solitary drone (male) bee asleep in a flower. He uses this as his bedroom, the flower closes when the sun goes in & protects him.



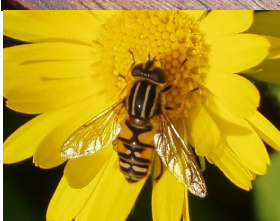
A solitary bee with pollen on her legs. Only bees carry pollen on their legs and bees always have 4 wings.



A solitary bee making her burrow. Some of these little bees can dig a metre into the ground! They lay their eggs in the tunnel.



A wasp has black and yellow stripes, a signal that warns predators of danger—the wasp's sting. Other insects mimic wasps & bees but some cannot sting.



A hover fly. Although this is black and yellow it has no sting, it is mimicking wasps that can sting. Flies always have 2 wings.



A bee fly. This little fly is furry and has a very long tongue so it looks like a bee. It visits primroses and Pulmonaria in spring.

Date seen.

Bee Friendly Flowers

Date seen.



Pussy Willow. Early pollen (protein) is vital for bees to feed the babies as the nest expands rapidly in the early spring.



A flower with a landing platform for the bee. This is a dead nettle, it will not sting you. The bee reaches down into the flower for nectar.



A 'tube' flower, this is sage. Tube flowers are visited by longer tongued bees who can reach down the tube for nectar.



A 'single' flower. This rose is 'single' because it still has a mass of anthers which provide pollen. Single flowers are best for bees.



A composite flower. These flowers are made up of many individual tiny flowers. You will see the bee probing each flower.



Snowdrops are one of the first flowers in spring. Single snowdrops provide bees with nectar and pollen at a critical time of the year, food is in short supply.