

Honey, I'm Home ...

Have you ever considered the value of the humble bumble bee and the apparent limitless benefits of honey? Now is your chance to find out more and learn how you could run a hive from home.

A Bee Keeping Day is being held at West Lodge Park Hotel, Hadley Wood on Saturday 25th June. Local bee experts Ronald and Mary Hunter will be explaining how the bees live, thrive and survive whilst also giving practical 'hands-on' guidance for anyone interested in bee-keeping.

"Honey bees are invaluable pollinators and they are becoming increasingly dependent on bee keepers and domestic gardens to survive, as their natural landscape is disappearing," said Ronald who is a member of the Enfield and District Bee Keepers Association. "We are very keen to pass on our knowledge and hopefully encourage more bee keepers in the area."

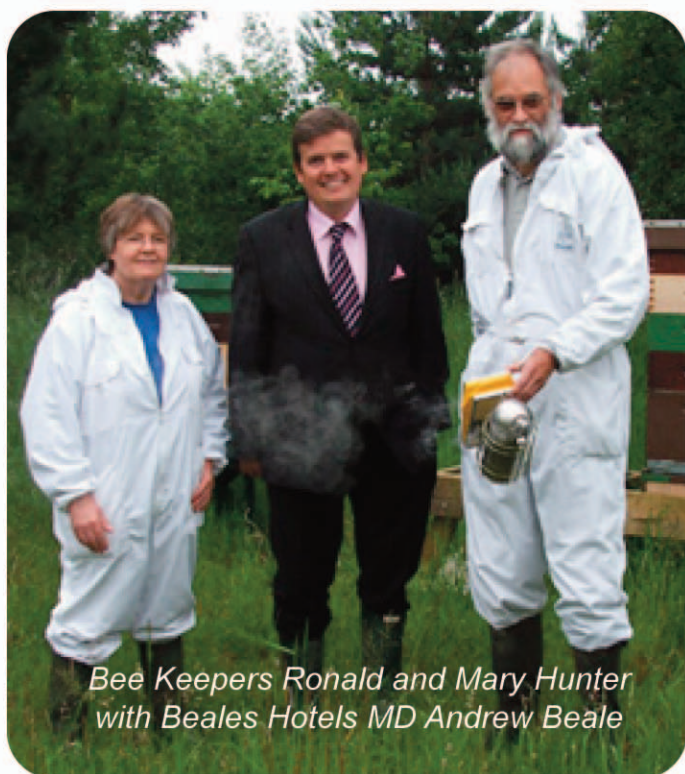
The average hive can hold 50,000 bees, who can produce up to 40 jars of honey a year. Used as a natural sweetener, honey has many other benefits including as a moisturiser and face mask, a natural antiseptic and mixed with lemon great for a sore throat!



However, according to news reports the UK bee population has seen a decline of 35%. Flying insects, particularly honeybees, are an essential element of the growing cycle for most fruits and vegetables. Which means the economic value of bees to the agriculture industry as pollinators is far higher than the honey and wax they produce.

West Lodge Park Hotel has its own bee hives, set within the beautiful 35 acre hotel grounds, producing honey for hotel guests. Managing Director Andrew Beale is an avid supporter of 'local food' : "We always strive to source the freshest, local ingredients for our restaurant and what better than honey made in our own gardens. Plus we are, in a small way, helping to support the bee population as well."

The Bee Keeping Day is being held on Saturday 25th June and will provide an introduction to bee keeping and a practical demonstration of frame making. A three course lunch is included in £75 per person cost plus an information pack, jar of honey and honeycomb to take home. Places are limited so book early by calling West Lodge Park Hotel on 020 8216 3900.



*Bee Keepers Ronald and Mary Hunter
with Beales Hotels MD Andrew Beale*