

East Suffolk Greenprint Forum and Transition Woodbridge Film Screening

9 March 2015

More than Honey: Narrated by John Hurt, filmed and directed by Oscar nominated Markus Imhoof

This event was organised by Transition Woodbridge, supported by Friends of the Earth and hosted by the East Suffolk Greenprint Forum.

The documentary 'More than Honey' looks at bees and their role in our economy, cultural heritage and wellbeing. It is challenging as it combines coverage of traditional forms of bee keeping with coverage of industrial scale utilisation of bees across the world, the scale of the deaths seeming proportional to the scale of the operations. It shows bees being bumped around in packages, transported long distances, being crushed as their honey is taken. Yet it also shows the people that rely on the bees for their income (beekeepers, movers and farmers) and for pollinating vast swathes of almond trees in the USA. It shows the risks if bees go, focusing on one region of China which was so decimated by pesticides that bees were wiped out and workers are now paid to pollinate crops by hand. It highlights the risks to bees as they are currently understood:

- 1) An increase in the prevalence of the Varroa destructor mite in hives
- 2) Damage caused by fertilizers and chemicals
- 3) A decline in pollen rich plants to provide food
- 4) Stress from transport, interaction with humans and other bees and rough handling.

What it doesn't do is suggest any positive action. This is why it was very useful to have beekeepers, representatives of Friends of the Earth, and botanists in the room.

Key points for sharing:

- 1) This is a film worth watching but it may be helpful to have beekeepers in the room to answer any queries and to suggest positive actions that can be taken. If you are watching at home alone and want tips on what to do you could follow these links:
www.bbka.org.uk
<http://www.friendsofthehoneybee.com>
<http://rotatingtechnology.co.uk/BeeginnersFAQ/Starting/A%20Vegans%20view%20of%20beekeeping.htm>
<https://www.rhs.org.uk/science/conservation-biodiversity/wildlife/encourage-wildlife-to-your-garden/plants-for-pollinators>

2) How you can help:

- Plant: comfrey, borage, vetches, single dahlias, hellebore, hawthorn, sweet chestnut, lime, marigolds, damson, calendula, ivy, snow drops, crocuses, or just get native bee friendly wild flower mixes.
- Encourage brambles.
- Get the habitat right for bees (different species like different homes) either by leaving tussocks of grass, wood piles etc. or by making special ones:
http://www.bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces/bee_home/
http://www.bumblebee.org/nestbox_plans.htm

Bees that particularly need our support are solitary bees, mason bees and bumble bees.

- Support campaigns to help pollinators
e.g <http://www.foe.co.uk/page/great-british-bee-count-about>
<https://www.buglife.org.uk/campaigns-and-our-work/campaigns>

Attendees

1.	Alexis Smith
2.	Amanda Aufenast
3.	Andrew Cassy
4.	Andrew Nunn
5.	Andy Connelly
6.	Audrey Evelyn
7.	Betsy Reid
8.	Bob Axford
9.	Carol Steptoe
10.	Cathy Smith
11.	David Greenacre
12.	Deborah Pratt
13.	Hilary Whyard
14.	John Nayler
15.	John Pratt
16.	Jon Wilkins
17.	Julice Hartley
18.	Linda Wilkins
19.	Liz Mark
20.	Michael Friend
21.	Miriam Burns
22.	Pat Williams

23.	Phil Gore
24.	Sally Fletcher
25.	Sue Owen
26.	Terry Mason
27.	Val Sherwan