

Telling the Bees

Ideas and Themes from Workshop I – 21st July 2015

Tagged hives

- Individual beekeeper tells story to audience about modern beekeeping techniques

Virtual hives

- disclosing different content for different audiences
- each frame (as video/tablet screen) displays data, e.g. time lapse photography, moving through one month, enables stories to be told that couldn't be told physically
- connected by GPS to a real apiary to see live images - web cam
- has a real connection to place
- each frame different hive/colony and place
- could tell different global management stories

Honey dispensers

- showing different viscosity
- requiring different temperatures to be liquid.
- Honey - warm, show colours, viscosity, smell, taste, wax etc too:
- smell, touch, visual

how hexagon shapes form in wax

- showing how they are created
- possible with big frame and/or bubbles

Printed honeycomb

bath bombs/cosmetics/wax

- what do you do with your honey and bee products?

Bee suit

- a heads up display with a screen inside hood
- augmented reality, bee facts
- an electronic sniffer (drawing on the unfounded folklore that bees don't like black dogs)
- exploring bee vision and the colours they see

Lost smells/guides

- a story about growing up, and finding your way back
- wrong hive, bad weather, storm, rejection, hate (horses, great unwashed), dancing (bee communication)

Performance/walking tour with beekeeper

- pockets full of hive products
- attractive to experienced keepers as well as novices

Hive/bee security

- empty skeps or hive to provoke and tell story of why they are empty or how they are used for theft
- 'shop' - jars of propolis, then visit to bees - empty.
- Neighbours and their relationship to bees. "My bees are nice."

Soundtrack /soundscape

- Gentle humming, happy bees, happy noises, then fanning evening and birds, raised buzzing, noise stops, outdoor buzzing, plants.

Beekeeping suit - augmented

- individual in control of story (choose your own adventure)
- Do you choose to steal bees? Ask the beekeeper? Ask the bees? (aftercare - if you know the beekeeper).

Games

- 'How to get bees to work with you' somebody pays you for a sting – like monopoly. Somebody pays you for honey - hayfever/burn, somebody pays you for beeswax - polish, lip balm etc, somebody pays you for propolis - arthritis, cough sweets, soap, somebody pays you for royal jelly, etc.
- Quest - tools (hive tool etc.), in pockets of suit, tokens - smoker with clue inside, clearing boards.

Themes and words from the workshop:

Beautiful bees

Bee miles

Ownership: whose bees are they?