

Barnes & Webb

Private Hive Rental Guidebook - 2014

3

Welcome

4

About Barnes & Webb

5 - 6

What We Offer

7

Additional Services

8 - 11

Frequently Asked Questions

WELCOME

Hello and thank you for expressing an interest in our hive rental service.

This guidebook gives you an introduction to who we are, what we offer and a frequently asked questions section. If you'd like to arrange a site inspection or if there's anything else not covered here you'd like to ask please give us a call on the number below.

ABOUT BARNES & WEBB

Barnes & Webb is a London based beehive rental company set up in 2013 by Chris Barnes and Paul Webb. We're passionate about bees and urban beekeeping and wanted to find ways of sharing this experience (and the honey!) with others. As important to us is helping to increase the honeybee population after the recent dramatic fall in numbers.

After working in New Zealand on a bee farm which offered a hive rental service to local residents this seemed like the perfect way to achieve those aims back in London.

We're now placing hives in outdoor spaces across the city, building an urban apiary which is giving people local honey, pollinated plants, the knowledge that together we're helping to increase honeybee populations and an up-close insight into the fascinating world of the honeybee.

WHAT WE OFFER

BEEKEEPING THE EASY WAY

The best part about our service is that you need no beekeeping experience whatsoever - we do all the work. However, if you want to learn more we can help with that too.

SO HOW DOES IT WORK?

We'll visit you to make sure there's a suitable spot for the bees and answer any questions you may have.

~

Then in the spring we deliver your healthy, honey producing hives.

~

You sit back and enjoy endless hours of your bees calming hum, watching them returning to the hive laden with pollen and of course enjoying the most delicious honey from your own garden.

No outdoor space too small!

Book your free site visit
and we'll assess and
recommend the best
place for bees.

WHAT WE OFFER

WHAT DO YOU GET?

Two or more working hives, regularly serviced



A share of all honey harvested, extracted and jarred by us,
available unlabelled for your own company branding



An option to get involved and learn about beekeeping



A unique way to reconnect with nature



The knowledge that together we're helping the honey bee
and our environment

RENTAL OPTIONS



£50
per/month *

Drone Bee Service
0% Honey (2 hives)



£65
per/month *

Worker Bee Service
20% Honey (2 hives)




£95
per/month *

Queen Bee Service
50% Honey (2 hives)


* A one off installation fee of £100 is payable when we deliver the hives.

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

EXTRA HIVES



2+
extra hives



4+
extra hives

If you would like and there is sufficient space we can install more than 2 hives on any given site. This has the obvious benefit of producing more honey, so if you would like more hives we'd be happy to discuss this with you (prices are available on enquiry).

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES



£25
per/inspection

If you'd like to learn more about bees and beekeeping, we can arrange for you can be present during inspections. This is limited to 2 people per inspection to avoid disturbance to the bees and last approximately 30 minutes. Suits and equipment can be provided.

FAQ

GENERAL

Where do you service hives?

Currently we cover the central and Greater London area but if you are located elsewhere please still get in touch and we'll send you updates as and when we expand our service area.

What is the ideal place for a beehive?

Bees like a sunny spot, ideally near a fence or screen which protects the hive from the wind and encourages them to fly up above head height when leaving or entering the hive.

My outdoor space is very small - is that a problem?

In essence, no outdoor space is too small. That said the beekeeper needs enough space (approx a 3 meter diameter) around the Hive to carry out the work. People have kept bees on balconies, so anything is possible. The only way to know for sure if you have a suitable space for beehives is to arrange a free inspection. **Email us**, or call 0208 985 2634.

What type of hives do you have?

Currently we only use National hives which are made of Cedar from sustainable forests. We're open to discuss other options if you have a specific request.

Why do hire pairs of hives?

Quite often a colony will need to have elements replaced and this is best done if there are 2 hives together. Also, the colonies can mate with each other.

Is there a minimum term to your contract?

We have a yearly contract with a break clause for us and our customers. Most people keep their bees for years as they soon come to enjoy them and of course the delicious honey that we harvest at the end of summer.

FAQ

What happens if I'm not in when you visit?

We will discuss your needs when we first deliver the hive and if necessary make whatever arrangements are needed to gain access to the hive.

Are there any laws regarding keeping bees?

There aren't any specific laws regarding beekeeping. We do have a contract which you'll need to read and sign but this is as much for your benefit as ours.

What if my neighbours complain?

To prevent this from happening we recommend that you inform your neighbours that you plan to have beehives before we install them. Usually a bit of enthusiasm and an explanation will bring them around. If you don't feel confident telling them anything directly then direct them to our website so they can read for themselves. If they complain after your bees have been installed, it's best to use common sense first, have a chat and ascertain what the problem is. Most disputes can be resolved with a kind word and a jar of honey, only in an extreme cases would we have to remove your bees.

BEES

What type of bees do you have?

Currently all our bees are Buckfast - chosen for their suitability for urban, backyard beekeeping. That said, once the queen has flown off and mated there can be no guarantee who she mates with so the pure Buckfast strain can end up being quite a mix. If any of our colonies become too aggressive or exhibit any other bad traits we will re-queen them as soon as possible.

Should I be worried about getting stung?

Unlike Wasps, Honey bees usually only sting as a last resort because they die in the process. We position your hive to avoid the bees flying across frequently used areas and if you're relaxed around them they'll generally leave you alone.

FAQ

I've got young children will that be a problem?

With young children, you should only need to tell them not to play too near the hives. If a hive was disturbed or worse knocked over this could cause the bees to sting. Children a little older who express an interest in bees can watch as we go through our inspections. We usually carry a spare veil for customers to get a little closer as we look inside the hives.

How about cats or dogs?

Cats and dogs seem to get on fine around bee hives, again we can't guarantee your pets won't get stung but if it happens once they're generally smart enough to avoid them in the future!

What do I do if I or someone I know gets stung?

The first thing to do is to remove the stinger by scraping it out with your fingernail or the blade of a knife then put some ice on it to help relieve any pain or swelling. You can then clean the affected area and apply an antibiotic ointment. Finally you can use an antihistamine to relieve any itching you might experience.

What can I do to help my bees?

There are lots of things you can do to keep your bees happy when we're not there. Firstly make sure they have access to water. They prefer shallow damp areas that they can stand on and drink from. So a small pot or dish with mud/gravel in it kept wet will suffice. Secondly you can make sure there's enough food in the near vicinity by planting wild flowers, or at the very least not pulling them up. A wild garden is not only good for bees but for many other animals too.

There are no bees coming or going from the hive?

Unless it's Winter when the bees are dormant this could be a bad sign. Your colony may be in trouble and you should get in touch with us as soon as possible and we'll come and investigate the problem.

FAQ

Will my bees swarm?

We spend the spring and summer doing everything in our power to prevent the bees from swarming. However, it's a natural process of the bees expanding and it's hard to prevent.

HONEY

How often will I get honey?

Beehives are normally harvested towards the end of August. All being well with your colonies you should receive your share of the honey in early September.

How much honey will I get?

You will get between 20% - 50% of all harvested honey. The weather, the health of your bees and the availability of forage have significant effects on the honey crop. In the first year the yield will not be as much whilst the bees establish the hive.

What kind of flavour will the honey have?

London honey is regarded as some of the tastiest honey you'll find and has won many awards in recent years. This is due to the huge mixture of pollen available to the London honey bee. This also makes it impossible to tell exactly what flavour your honey will have. In urban hives the bees forage in gardens within a 3 mile radius. Normally by the end of the honey season all London honey has sold out, so guard yours with your life!

