WCBKA Apiary

Code of Practice

The aim of the Chy Vellan apiary is to be a resource:

* to promote the importance of beekeeping
* to provide members with information and hands on experience to enable them to be good beekeepers
* through regular meetings, to allow the exchange of information and ideas.

Car parking: Cars should be parked tidily and considerately in the field adjacent to the apiary, and not in the farm yard, being mindful that Chy Vellan is a working farm.

Dogs are not allowed in the apiary.

Everyone visiting the apiary must be appropriately dressed (See Safety/Dress Code) and, if working at or near hives must wear full protective clothing. Disposable gloves will be provided.

* Only the apiary smokers and hive tools shall be used.
* Members, visitors and guests must sign the attendance book.
* Information about allergies, and any medication which might adversely affect reaction to a sting shall be made known to a member of the Apiary Support Team (AST). If a member possesses an Epipen because of the risk of severe reaction to bee stings, that person should inform the member of the AST. It is the responsibility of the person possessing the Epipen to carry it on his person, to decide whether to use it and to administer the injection himself.
* The apiary should be kept clean and tidy at all times.
* The bees kept in the apiary will be from a quiet and easily manipulated stock of known history and ownership.
* Anyone who receives a sting should inform a member of the AST who will record it in the Accident Book. Anyone leaving the apiary early after having received a bee sting must inform a member of the AST. A first aid kit will be available.
* Members & visitors will be shown how to remove a sting by scraping it with a finger nail or hive tool.
* Hives should be approached from the back or side, never from the front.
* As bees do not like loud noises or vibrations, visitors should be quiet and sensible in the apiary, and will be expected to handle bees in a calm and gentle manner, avoiding unnecessary movements over the hive.
* As bees do not like perfumes, hair products and after shave, visitors should avoid using them before they visit the apiary.
* If necessary, visitors will be shown how to light and use the smoker. All hives should be smoked before opening.
* Visitors will be shown how to lift heavy honey boxes and should not attempt to lift full boxes of bees or honey on their own.
* A bucket of washing soda solution will be available for cleaning hive tools and other pieces of equipment and for rinsing gloves between colonies.
* Smokers must be emptied of fuel safely, and allowed to cool before being put back in store.