











# WOLF CHRONICLE

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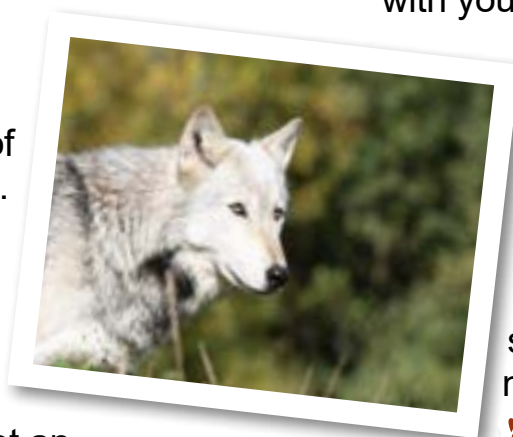


## From the Editor

### Dear Members

I am sure that you have had a fun filled summer and hopefully visited your favourite wolves at the Trust that who are beginning to grow their thick winter coats.

Wednesday open days 11am - 4pm are really popular with lots of different activities that you can enjoy including crafts, a nature trail and in the summer holidays the marquee where you can handle snakes, spiders, a bearded dragon and all sorts of other creepy crawlies. The children's walks have been fun and Mai especially loved going out with the children. She howls all the way round to let an



anxious Motomo know where she is.

Michelle Paver held a creative writing day which was very popular. Torak was named after the hero in her books of course. I expect that you will be thinking about Christmas soon. The wolves will

have their usual Christmas trees waiting to be decorated with crackers made by children on the Christmas cracker event. Hopefully Tala will not uproot and run off with the Beenham's tree again this year!!

Thank you for continuing to support us and with your help we have once again raised a lot of money for the projects abroad that work so hard to keep our wolves' cousins safe in the wild. Life is very harsh for a wolf in the wild and they really do need our help. I hope that you enjoy this issue and please send in letters or stories so that I can put them in the next magazine.

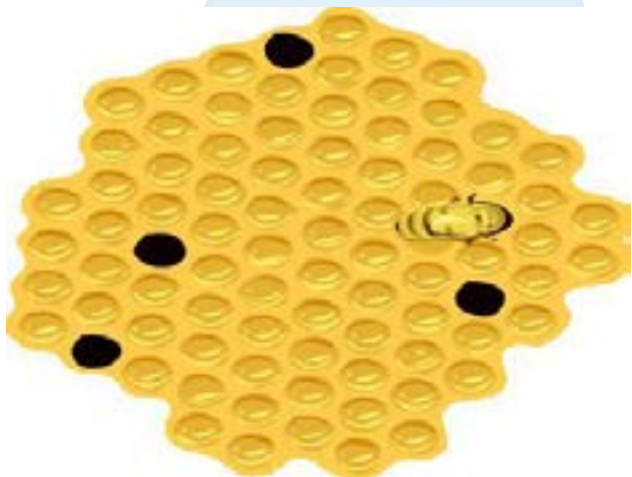


# HOW BEES MAKE HONEY

There are many different types of bee, but only the honey bee can make honey. I am sure that you have all seen bees buzzing round flowers in your gardens looking for nectar. Some flowers have more nectar than others, so they look for those. Interestingly, bees cannot see red flowers! Once it finds a good patch of flowers that it likes, the bee flies back to the hive and does a special bee dance to other bees in the hive that pass the information on to more bees until they all know where the nectar is so that they can collect it too.

The bee sucks the sugary nectary water up using its tongue which is hollow like a straw—the proper name is a proboscis.

Once the nectar is inside the bee's stomach, the sugar part of the nectar (called sucrose) is turned into different kinds of sugar (glucose and fructose). Some of the glucose then gets turned into an acid so that any bacteria are killed and don't get into the honey. That is why honey can last for up to 3,000 years at least.



The bee then moves this watery honey mix from its stomach, into its mouth, The bee flicks the honey in and out of its mouth on its tongue evaporating most of the water, before inserting it into the honeycomb in the hive. The mixture becomes thicker and turns into the honey we know. To protect the honey, the bee then seals the honeycomb with wax. The temperature in the hive is regulated by the bees using their wings as fans.



In its whole life, a single bee only produces about one and a half teaspoons of honey, but they live in really big groups, which means collectively they can make a lot of honey. Honey can taste quite different depending on the flowers the bees have been collecting nectar from. Different flowers give different flavours. Get your parents to plant some bee friendly plants in your garden so that you can watch the bees collecting the nectar. Do remember not to get too close or touch the bee as they can have a painful sting.

Written by Wendy Brooker





# KEEPING BEES AT THE UKWCT

On Friday April 29th, the Trust excitedly welcomed a nucleus of Buckfast honey bees into one of two donated hives. Having recently been sent on a beekeeping course in the Cotswolds, long-time senior handler Pat Melton and I were eagerly waiting throughout the afternoon. When the bees arrived we instantly went from working with 14 animals (ten wolves, two tortoises and two pygmy goats), to working with a possible 5014 creatures! As the name suggests, the Buckfast honey bees were originally bred at Buckfast Abbey, by Brother Adam, who took over the monastery's bees in 1919. Brother Adam wanted hardy and disease resistant bees, so set out using crossbreeding to try and achieve this goal. During his many years of patient experimentation, breeding different bees from all over the world (travelling some 100,000 miles in search of the perfect bees in his lifespan!) he achieved the now famous Buckfast bee, which is kept by many beekeepers globally.

A nucleus of bees is a small group of up to around 5000 bees including a queen. They are usually sold by beekeepers and bee breeders specialising in certain characteristics. Once the nucleus arrived on site and had rested for 30 minutes, it was time for Pat and I to don the bee suits for the first time, to move them into their new brood box (this is the larger box on a beehive at the bottom) and give them time to get used to their new home. Watching the bees crawl in their hundreds on each removable frame, as we moved them from the box to the hive, was an incredible feeling. You instantly lose any feelings of nervousness or anxiety and are filled with curiosity and awe. The bee is as misunderstood as the wolf in many ways.



Turn over for more!

Wikipedia





The Buckfast bee is a very docile breed of bee. Out of a possible 5000 stings, I have only received one and the fault lay squarely at my feet. Walking under the tree near the hives after checking their water supply, I felt something hit me on the head. I naturally assumed this was a stick from the tree and picked it up out of my hair, squashing the poor thing in the process. Looking down at the crushed bee and feeling a stinging nettle sensation in my finger, I realised the bee had stung me in an act of desperation and self-defence. If my giant fingers had not killed it, the act of stinging me would have done. A bee will only sting if it is threatened; people hear horror stories of bees stinging and killing people all the time but this fear is irrational, unless of course, you happen to have a reaction to the sting. It has been known for some time now that honey bee numbers have been declining throughout the UK. The honey bee is one of the world's leading pollinating species thought to be responsible for pollinating up to one third of the human diet alongside other pollinating insects.

It is no secret to say losing honey bees could potentially be catastrophic to humankind. We don't expect a huge amount of honey being made by the Trust's bees over the next few months; however, we are very pleased to have given the bees a comfortable place to thrive on site.

Written by Mike Collins Wolfkeeper

This was the Trust's 1st harvest of honey from the hive. The tastes vary from the nectar the bee's get, so this was from the rape seed oil flower. The leftover honey was left outside & within a few minutes was covered in honey bees & was dry as they had sucked up all the honey.

The 2nd lot of honey was collected the following week and as the bees were getting nectar from wild flowers it tasted a lot sweeter.



Honeycomb : Francesca MacIlroy

Turn over for more!



## LGD PROJECT

The photograph below shows French sheep being protected in the southeast of the country by livestock guardian dogs that can help keep wolves from the flocks. In 1992 wolves were migrating from Italy into France and shepherds were losing sheep. This created conflict between the farmers and the wolves.

CanOvis is a research project founded in 2013 to ascertain the effectiveness of livestock guardian dogs (LGD). A great deal of research using GPS collars to track the movements of the LGD's and sheep has already been conducted. The ultimate plan is to improve the training of the LGDs to make them more efficient.

Over the next four years different methods of training and positioning the dogs with the flocks will be tried and tested.

The UK Wolf Trust has donated £8,000 to this project since 2014 to help provide extra information to help the researchers with the analysis of the data collected.



## MICHELLE PAVER RETURNS

Michelle Paver returned to the UK Wolf Conservation Trust for one of her popular creative writing workshops. The young aspiring authors listened to Michelle Paver give a talk on how she became an author and what gave her inspiration for her writing. Furthermore Michelle gave tips and ideas on how the children could develop their own stories. One of the highlights was going on a wolf walk with our Canadian wolf Mai, and observing how she explored her surroundings. At the end of the day Michelle read through the children's stories and gave them feedback on what aspects she found most interesting or exciting. Finally the children had the chance to meet Michelle one to one and get their books signed.



# Trust Wolves



At 10 years old **Mosi & Torak** are aging gracefully. They still enjoy watching the comings and goings of people from the top enclosure with Torak, having mellowed in old age, taking as much of an interest in visitors as his more gregarious partner Mosi.

As spring and summer brought warmer weather, the wolves shed their soft winter undercoats which had kept them warm to -50 degrees during the colder weather. Many a bird's nest on site has a warm wolf fur lining!

Torak is looking very sleek and regal and you can see all his strong muscles on his shoulders and legs clearly. Mosi never seems to lose all her fur, so doesn't alter much and still retains her beautiful tail. Recently Mosi wasn't in the mood for dinner and would take a piece of meat and bury it, before returning to take another from the person feeding her. What she didn't realise was that Torak was watching her carefully, and the moment she was distracted by a new piece of food, was digging up and scoffing the meat Mosi had just buried. Needless to say, he didn't have much of his own dinner that day!

Mosi made up for her lack of appetite a few days later when she caught a pheasant that had been silly enough to fly into the enclosure. She guarded her prize carefully, even sleeping with it tucked under her head before eating it. Torak was wise enough not to get too close to that meal when he saw Mosi's bared teeth!

Mosi and Torak's enrichment walks resumed after the breeding season and they thoroughly enjoy them. On a recent walk they were taken on a different route which culminated in the stream that runs along the bottom of the valley behind the Trust. It was a muddy journey which the wolves didn't mind, although it was a challenge for the handlers who had to keep up with their charges while sinking ankle deep into the mire. It was worth it when we reached the stream as Torak dived straight in and went for a swim – luckily it was narrow enough that his handlers didn't have to go in with him! It's not often our wolves encounter water that is deep enough for them to have a proper swim and Torak really enjoyed it. Mosi wasn't tempted and watched from the bank although she eventually went for a ladylike paddle.



Turn over for more!



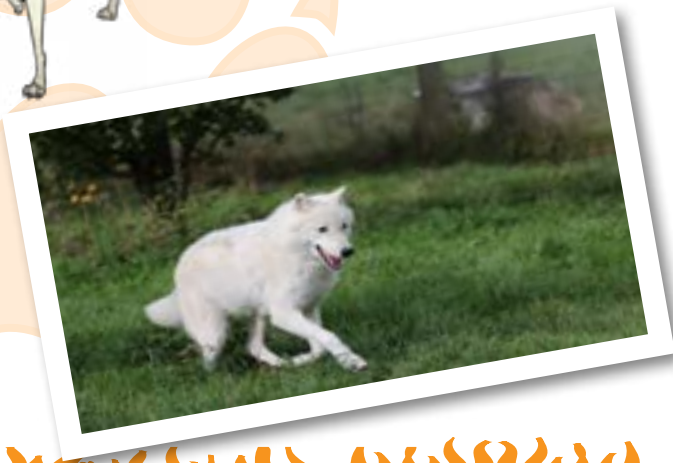
# Trust Wolves

Although the Arctics moulted huge amounts of their soft grey undercoat this summer, they still retained a full coat and beautiful tail. They are stunning animals.

They had to be moved into Mosi and Torak's side enclosure whilst we did routine maintenance in their enclosure and this proved to be good enrichment for both packs. **Sikko** loved fence running with Mosi and **Pukak & Massak** often joined in. They were quite happy to be next to each other and often laid together either side of the connecting fence.

The next plan for the Arctic's enclosure is to put a heavy post into the ground and hang meat and other treats high up so that they wear their long nails down trying to reach it. When they were put back into their enclosure Pukak dashed in first to see if any food had been left, followed closely by Sikko. Whenever stuffed melons or coconuts are put into the enclosures for enrichment Sikko always takes hers into the trees out of sight of her brothers.

Massak waited as usual and then trotted in to smell all round to see what the humans had been up to. They will follow every footprint made by the handlers and investigate anything new very closely. Massak has made a shallow area under the platform in the enclosure so that he can lie out of the hot sun, so Pukak has taken to sitting on the platform above him almost as if to say "I am the dominant one". However, this dream is soon burst when Massak wakes up and dominates Pukak just to remind him who is the boss.



Turn over for more!

Sikko: Fran MacIroy, Pukak: Trevor Goddard, Massak: Mike Collins





# Trust Wolves

Tala, Tundra and Nuka celebrated their fifth birthdays on 3rd May. The cooler than usual spring delayed their moulting cycle and by the end of June all three were looking distinctly shaggy as their soft warm winter undercoats were shed. The wolves' moulted fur is kept separately in named boxes to put in bottles for adoption packs.



Tala and Tundra are content with their pack roles and Tundra has become more confident. On walks she can be persuaded to climb up on the big log in the bottom field and pose for photos with Nuka and Tala. Photographers need to be quick; if Tundra thinks Tala is receiving too much attention she will call an end to photos and firmly 'remind' Tala who is boss! Nuka is good at intervening to calm down squabbles and has been seen in the enclosure dragging Tundra off Tala by the tail!



On our regular walks, all three Beenhams love to roll on smelly things: tractor diesel oil drips, badger and fox poo. The water trough in the top field is a regular attraction, holding two wolves at a squeeze. Nuka and Tala splash water over each other with front paws - very amusing. Tundra prefers the smelly green water in the bottom of a smaller trough. Handlers often end up wet from splashing or from the wolves shaking themselves dry when 'bath time' is over. The weekday enrichment activities include various hessian sacks with old straw from the goat stables, citrus fruit peel, coffee grounds - great smelly playthings to fight over or roll on. Wolf keeper Mike and the work experience students blew bacon-scented bubbles recently. The wind was in the wrong direction and only a couple of bubbles made it into the enclosure. The wolves watched intently with very puzzled expressions - which no doubt provided some enrichment even though it was not what was originally intended!







# Trust Wolves

**Motomo** has enjoyed fence-running to annoy the Arctic wolves in the adjoining enclosure. He loves winding Massak up; if he stops running along the fence Massak will sometimes continue for another 15-20 metres before realising and running back the other way. Pukak will join in and often **Mai** will lope along as well. Motomo has been seen jumping over Mai if she gets in the way.

Mai and Motomo's enclosure needed routine maintenance work doing so they had to be moved to another enclosure whilst the work was done. Motomo took this in his stride and soon made himself at home under a shady tree whilst Mai jumped up on a platform to watch her human friend's work. There were plenty of new smells for them to investigate and possibly food buried by the previous occupants.



Their enclosure work started with the long grass being cut, low tree branches removing and the unstable den which partially collapsed in the heavy rain storms was made safe. A new platform was built so that Motomo could sit regally and keep an eye on what was happening on site with special attention to the food room! They were then put back in to sniff all round where the humans had been and enjoy the new platform and newly trimmed enclosure.



# QUIZ & BEE JOKES

Can you come up with an animal for each letter of the alphabet?

A \_\_\_\_\_  
B \_\_\_\_\_  
C \_\_\_\_\_  
D \_\_\_\_\_  
E \_\_\_\_\_  
F \_\_\_\_\_  
G \_\_\_\_\_  
H \_\_\_\_\_  
I \_\_\_\_\_  
J \_\_\_\_\_  
K \_\_\_\_\_  
L \_\_\_\_\_  
M \_\_\_\_\_

N \_\_\_\_\_  
O \_\_\_\_\_  
P \_\_\_\_\_  
Q \_\_\_\_\_  
R \_\_\_\_\_  
S \_\_\_\_\_  
T \_\_\_\_\_  
U \_\_\_\_\_  
V \_\_\_\_\_  
W \_\_\_\_\_  
X \_\_\_\_\_  
Y \_\_\_\_\_  
Z \_\_\_\_\_

Q. What do you call a bear without ears?

A. A Bee!

Q. Where do bees keep their money?

A. In a honey box!

Q. What is a bees favourite sport?

A. Rug-Bee!

Q. what T.V station do bees watch?

A. Bee Bee C one!

Q. What does the Santa Claus bee say?

A. Ho hum hum !

Q. why do bees hum?

A. Because they have forgotten the words!

Q. What did the bee say to the other bee when they landed on the same flower?

A. Buzz off!

Q. who writes books for little bees?

A. Bee-trix Potter!

Q. What does a bee do his hair with?

A. A honeycomb!

Q. What letter makes honey?

A. B







# Book Reviews



## Bees and Wasps

by James Macclaine

A clear and simple introduction to the world of bees & wasps for the Usborne beginners' series.

The UK Wolf Trust has two colonies of honey bees now, so I thought a book about bees would be interesting so that you can understand how bees live and how honey is made.

The text is easy to read and the illustrations are vivid and colourful and give visual explanations about bees and wasps. There are some really cute little cartoon inserts too which give "useful to know" facts.

The book contains a wealth of information directed at younger children, but much of it will be even new to adults. I certainly learnt a lot from it! It is the sort of book parents can keep as a reference to refer back to and help to answer questions as children change and mature. This book is available from Amazon for £4.99 or any good book shop.



## Zoe's Rescue Zoo- The wild wolf pup.by Amelia Cobb.

The enchanting Rescue Zoo series of books are aimed at 5-8 year olds and are about a girl called Zoe who lives at the rescue zoo owned by her great-uncle Horace who is an explorer and animal expert. Zoe has a big secret-she can understand what the animals are saying and can talk back to them! Together they have great fun when the grown-ups aren't around.

During Halloween her great-uncle comes home with a rescued little wolf cub, but the little cub won't stop howling! Is he unhappy or is it something spookier? Is he missing his pack maybe.

Zoe's uncle tells her that the cub's pack has been found safe after running from a fire that has destroyed their home & agrees that they can live at the zoo too, but how can the money be raised to fly them over? Zoe has a plan and the little cub helps her. £5.99 from UKWCT shop.





# Fund Raising



Poppy Barlow is a 10 year old fan of wolves and a Junior Member of the Wolf Trust from Macclesfield in Cheshire. Poppy decided to raise money to help wolves by putting all her small change into a wolf decorated box she had designed and made and collected an amazing £5.64.

Poppy's favourite wolf is Mai and she was thrilled to be able to go on a walk with her on the children's wolf walk day. She was able to watch Mai enjoying rolls on smelly patches of field and howling back to Motomo who wanted to know where she was.

Poppy first became interested in wolves at a very early age after watching a documentary about them on T.V. This started a passion for wolves and over the years she has learnt everything she could about them.

Poppy loves the way they howl, the dynamics of a pack and how it helps them to survive and how the whole pack nurtures the new cubs.

Well done Poppy, thank you for your donation and we hope that your interest in wolves and conservation continues to grow.



Bonnie Davies visited the Trust to attend Michelle Paver's Creative writing workshop. She presented Michelle with her artwork donated to the Trust & also by collecting spare change from friends, family & herself had raised a magnificent total of £21.92. Thank you Bonnie for your fund raising effort.

Georgia Sarmezey (9yrs old) from Northampton came to a 'Visit Wednesday' with a donation of £1.33 which she had raised by drawing wolves & selling the pictures to friends. A marvellous achievement Georgia.

The Trust is very grateful for these donations from Poppy, Bonnie & Georgia.





## Wolf Pack Dynamics

Wolves are social animals that live in groups called packs. These vary in size from two individuals to as many as twenty animals. Like all groups they are successful if they live by certain rules and these make up the dynamics of the pack. Each pack will behave slightly differently from other packs due to living in different habitats, hunting different prey species, different amounts of prey animals available for them to hunt and different individual wolves, each with their own characteristics and behaviour. The typical types of pack are usually split into 2 categories, first is a simple pack. The simple pack consists of the two breeding wolves and the cubs they have each year, usually after a year the cubs tend to leave the breeding pair.

This usually happens when only small prey is available or if the size of the prey animals can't support a large group of wolves, such as rabbit, rats and mice. The second type of pack is called a complex pack and consists of what people today tend to think of as a standard pack, this is the breeding pair and their young for up to 3 or even 4 generations. This means some wolves may stay with their parents until they are 3 or 4 years old! This happens when there is a lot of prey available and the size of the prey can support many wolves such as elk and bison. All packs will have one male and one female that are usually called the dominant pair, also known as the mating/bonded pair.



The dominant pair will be the ones that attempt to breed every year, on rare occasions packs may have more than one breeding pair, if an unrelated wolf joins the pack. The pack size increases year by year eventually causing younger wolves to leave, attempting to find unrelated mates of their own and to start their own pack.

The dominant pair (the parents) are the wolves which are in charge. They often have the most experience and are the best hunters, this means the cubs follow the adults and learn from them. Even when a cub is two or three years old, the parents are usually still the wolves who lead the hunt to bring down the prey. The pack will always bring food to the breeding female when she is looking after cubs as she cannot go out hunting for herself. After the dominant female has given birth the other members of the pack will also provide food for the cubs, this comes in the form of the cubs begging any adult and the adult regurgitating their own food for the cubs. Wolves have what we call a hierarchy in the pack, this means there is an order of most dominant wolf to least dominant wolf. Dominance is established early on in the life of a wolf cub, this includes siblings and the other relatives. The most submissive wolf in a pack will often change from year to year as new cubs are born. When it comes to feeding, the dominance order changes. If a wolf has food, it is up to that wolf to defend its food against all other wolves in the pack, even if it is challenged by a more dominant wolf. There will sometimes be squabbles over food but these tend not to be serious as any injury amongst the pack will make further hunting harder as they work as a team and a family.

Written by Linda Dennett  
Linda Dennett



# Events

## Visit Wednesday

Every Wednesday 11am - 4pm

Come along & see the wolves & at 2pm and watch the wolves being fed. Additional children's activities will be held during school holidays. Pre booking not required. Junior member free entry on production of entry ticket.

Adults £8, children 3-12 £5, under 3's free.

## 'Halloween Crawlies'

🐾 Tuesday 25th October 10.30 am – 1.30pm

A tour of the Trust seeing all 10 wolves & learn how they howl, they might even howl back to you. Watch the wolves being given enrichment, 'Quirks Animal Roadshows' will be in attendance with his bugs & snakes for children brave enough to hold one !!!! Halloween craft activities available. Pre booking required £10 per person. Junior Member £8.



## Christmas Cracker

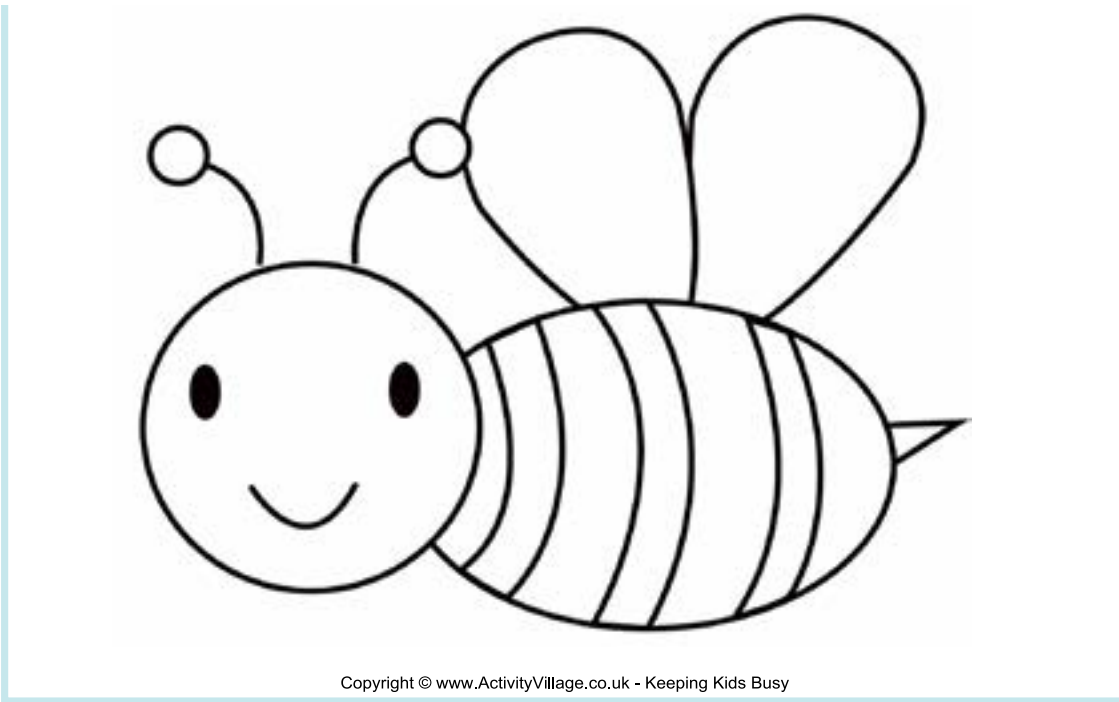
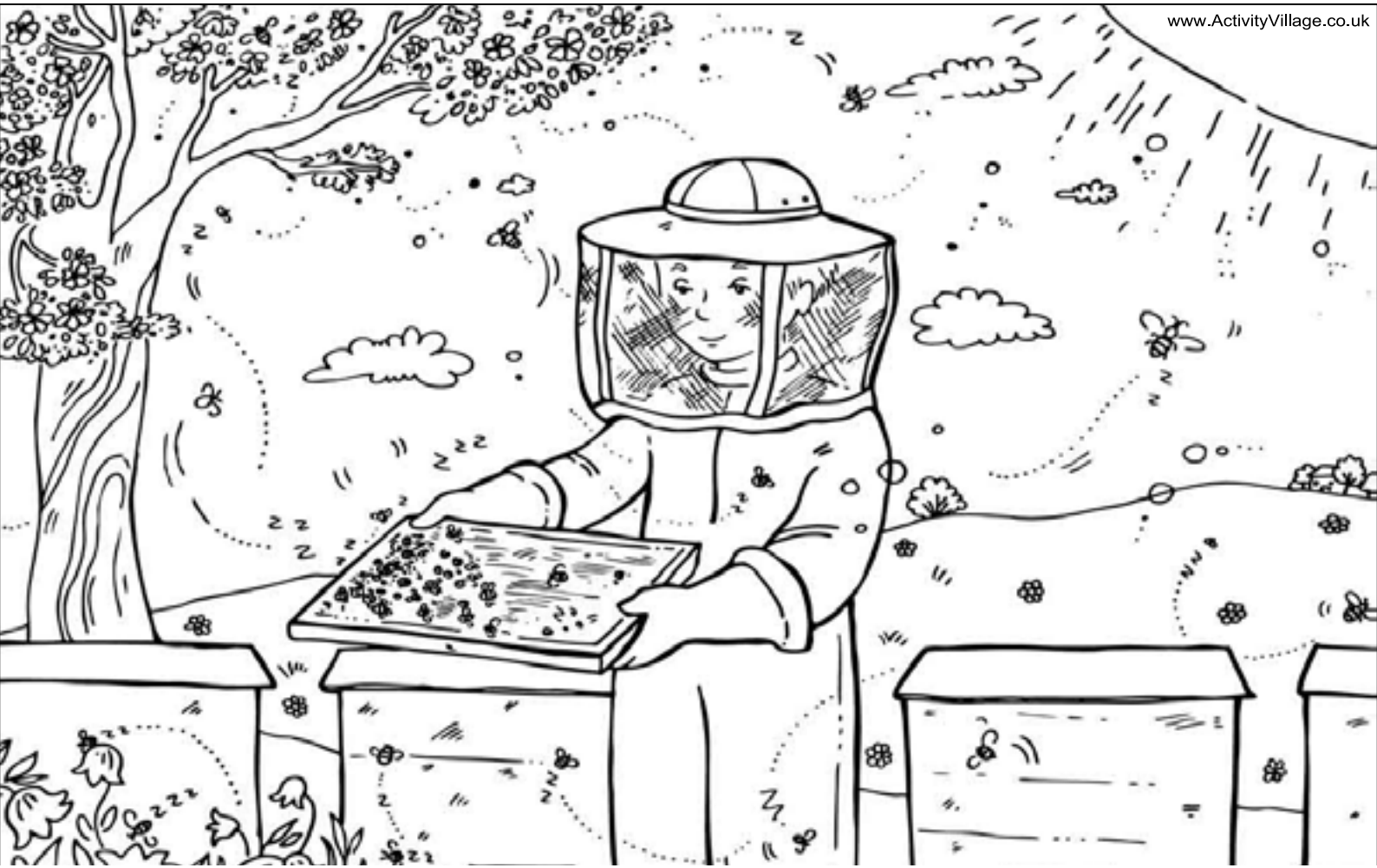
🐾 Tuesday 20th December 10.30am – 12.30

Come and help us get the wolves Christmas presents ready and join us in celebrating a very wolfy Christmas. We'll give them their delicious surprises early and you'll be able to watch them all enjoy the treats that you have prepared. You will also get to see them being fed. Pre booking required £10 per person. Junior Member £8.



# Colouring in pictures

www.ActivityVillage.co.uk



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