



Hive of activity on the roof at White Lion Walk



On Monday 28th March, the Mayor of Guildford, Councillor Marsha Moseley, visited White Lion Walk shopping centre to officially launch the Centre's Bee Awareness campaign, which has been developed in an effort to raise awareness of the plight of the honeybee.

According to the nation's beekeepers, the English honeybee has been in serious decline over recent years and if this trend is allowed to continue not only will it contribute to a serious shortage of honey but it will also have serious implications on the nation's agriculture, with many producers relying on the honeybee to pollinate their crops.

In light of this, and in an effort to help the environment, White Lion Walk took the decision last year to introduce a new bee apiary on to the roof of the shopping centre. The hives are located in an area where they pose no threat to the general public or visitors to the Centre and the bees are able to go about their natural activities, producing honey and pollinating local crops, unhindered.

Centre Manager, Steve Cotney, commented, "As a result of various environmental changes over recent years, a large number of bee habitats have been destroyed resulting in a serious decline in bee populations in general, and the honeybee in particular. We wanted to try to help reverse this trend by providing a safe, secure and secluded environment for a bee apiary, using redundant space on the roof of White Lion Walk. In order to better understand what is required and to be able to provide a suitable environment to develop and grow the bee colonies, members of the Centre Management team have attended various training programmes as well as becoming members of the British Bee Keeping Association. It is hoped that this venture will prove doubly successful, not only helping the environment, but with the excess honey produced, over and above the bee's requirements, being sold to benefit local charities."

White Lion Walk intend holding a number of Bee Awareness days throughout the coming year, incorporating a variety of fun, themed activities for children, which will help educate them to the importance of our honeybees. Local companies will also be invited to participate in these events by offering them the opportunity to sell a variety of bee-related products, such as honey and candles.

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