

Hinchingsbrooke Country Park

Summer 2009

Bees, wasps and hornets

There are about 260 species of bees in the UK!

Honey bees are gentle and sting only when frightened. They die once they have stung. We have two hives in the park - you can talk to the beekeepers on Sunday afternoons between 2pm and 3pm. Honey is collected over the summer, for sale at the Honey show in September.



Wasps have a taste for sugary food and will sting in order to get it! Their nests are made from paper that they prepare by chewing fibres from old wood. Wasps are actually quite beneficial to gardeners as each wasp nest will consume about 110,000 caterpillars and grubs during the early part of the season.



Hornets look like a very large version of a wasp, but with red/brown markings. They tend to live in hollow trees and eat other insects (including honey bees.)

Practical work

In between our many school visits, you might have noticed Rangers hard at work to improve and maintain the site. The camp site has been fenced and gated, though it won't be locked so you can still have a bbq or camp if you have permission. The very first footpath that we improved, way back in 1993 with a hard surface, has been replaced again and the mowers have been out ensuring paths are accessible.



Pedestrian access

The work to encourage visitors to use the footpaths and not the driveway to reach the visitors' centre is continuing. Better signs have been made and some of the trees will be removed to make it a bit brighter. A fence has been erected at the bottom of the drive to stop bike riders careering into pedestrians. We plan to have different sign boards too.



Do you know ...

The difference between a dragonfly and a damselfly?

Both belong to the same insect order *Odonata*, which means 'toothed jaw' because they have serrated mouthparts.



Damselflies have all four wings near enough equal in size and shape.

When at rest, most species hold their wings together along the length of their abdomen. Damselflies have widely separated eyes, projecting at the side of the head. They are usually small, delicate and quite weak at flying, so they stay close to the water margins or water surface.



Dragonflies have hind wings that are normally shorter and broader than their fore wings. When at rest they hold their wings out from the body, often at right angles to it. Their large eyes are closely positioned. They are usually larger, stronger flying insects that can often be found well away from water.

Thank you!

We are again working closely with the local Police Community Support Officers and the District Council CCTV mobile units to ensure that unruly groups do not have

large parties and leave lots of broken glass and rubbish. This has proved very successful and we have only had one particularly bad weekend.

Thank you to everyone who is helping to keep
The park attractive and safe.



Future events

Tuesday 18th August 2.00-3.00 or 3.30-4.30pm

Family Boat Race

Thursday 20th August 8.00-11.00pm

Batty Bar-b-que

Wednesday 26th August 10.00am-12.30 or 1.30-4.00pm

Den Building

Sunday 6th September

Honey Show noon -4.30pm

Wildlife Trust Plant Sale 2.00-4.30pm

Saturday 3rd October 8.00pm-late (new date)

Friends of Hinchingsbrooke Country Park Wine Evening

See events leaflet for further information and booking details

