



Report No.1 - July 2012

The BCOG Committee wanted to have bees for some time and liked the idea of sustainable natural beekeeping. Approval from Bridport Town Council was granted, and a working party created a fenced-off area behind the apple cordons. The handmade horizontal top bar hive soon followed; all that was needed were the bees.

They came down from Gloucester on Sunday 15th July and I managed to find a break in the rain on Monday to transfer them to their new home.

About 3000 bees settled into the hive and the stragglers hanging around outside discovered their way in through the periscope entrance after about 20 minutes. Initially they could smell the queen through the mesh floor and they wanted to take that direct route in, but slowly the queen's pheromones drifted down the periscope and then they were in! I have used a periscope entrance to give the bees a bit more room to defend against intruders - most likely wasps.

I went back in the evening to make sure all was OK and the bees had sorted themselves out into their roles - nursing, wax production, cleaning up, guarding and foraging. I watched them come and go on Tuesday and saw pollen in the baskets on their legs, a very good sign that they are settling in happily.

The recent sunshine has produced loads of activity and a bar and a half of new comb. I visit the bees regularly and welcome interested observers who wish to visit the bees. To arrange a visit, please use the contact form on the website.

Jim Binning
Beekeeper