

# G-BUZZ

Spring 2023 | G-Hive Newsletter | Ed. 6

GLP 



-  **Spring Hive Update**
-  **G-Hive UK is growing!**
-  **We're celebrating World Bee Day!**
-  **Spotted at Magna Park Lutterworth...**

Welcome to the Spring G-Buzz newsletter where we bring you all the latest developments from GLP's network of honeybee apiaries.

Did you know that approximately 75% of crop plants require some degree of animal pollination, including many of our everyday fruit and vegetables? Pollination is also hugely important in maintaining habitats and food sources for our local wildlife. Of all the insects, bees are the most prolific pollinators – meaning they play an incredibly important role in our local environment. Clever bees!



## Spring Hive Update:



Honeybee colonies are at their weakest coming out of Winter so the beginning of Spring is all about the colony building up its numbers.

The Queen has started laying more eggs and worker bees feed them larvae pollen and honey helping them grow into an adult bee.



Our job in Spring is to make sure the honeybees have the optimum conditions in order to build strong healthy colonies. We sterilise and clean the hives, and re-mark the Queen Bees.



We also heft the hives – this is when we lift the hives to check their weight, this tells us whether they have enough food stored in the hive to keep them going until pollen and nectar is more plentiful.

Lastly, we do any essential repairs to hives, check our equipment is all in working order and generally get ourselves prepared for the season ahead.

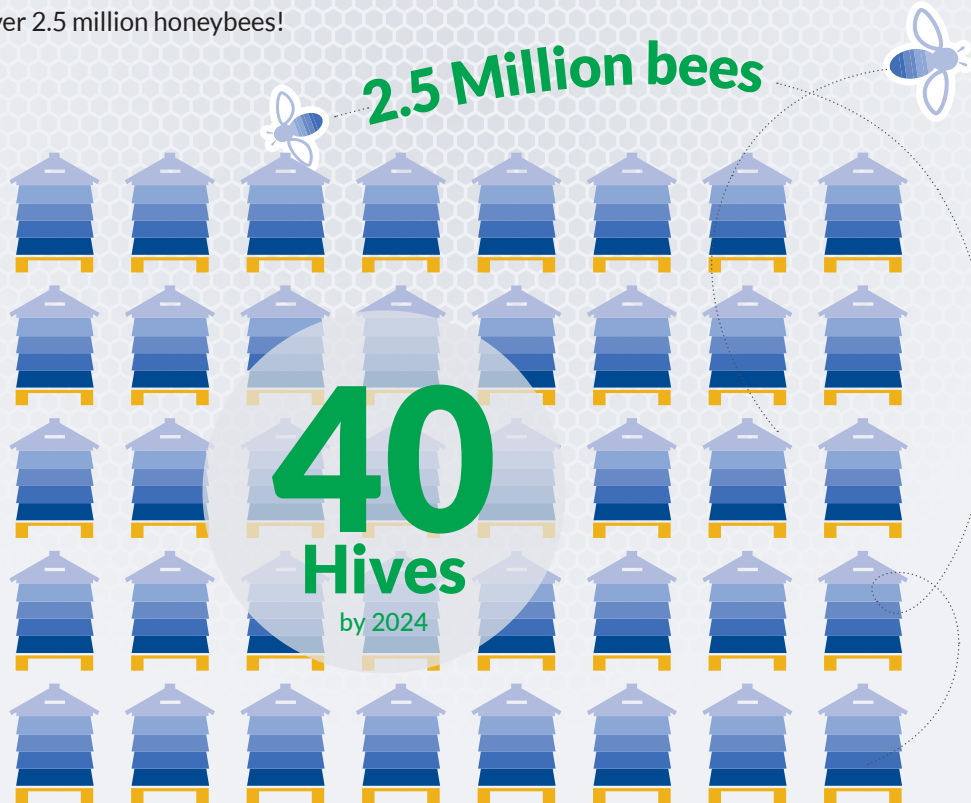


# G-Hive UK is growing!



At the close of 2022 GLP's G-Hive initiative had an impressive total of 24 hives across 6 independent apiaries. In the height of Summer this equates to just over 1.5 million honeybees! We're proud that our network of apiaries not only improves biodiversity across our sites, but also helps boost the declining population of honeybees globally, which is why we're excited to be expanding again in 2023 with new apiaries planned on several new GLP sites in the UK.

A new four hive apiary has been installed this Spring at G-Park Milton Keynes next to Willen Lake and another apiary at Magna Park Lutterworth South is soon to be completed. The plan is to increase by another 16 hives in total across 4 new sites over the course of the year making a total of 40 hives - UK GLP sites will then be host to over 2.5 million honeybees!



## EDUCATION

# We're celebrating WORLD BEE DAY!



We love sharing our knowledge about honeybees and pollinators and teaching the next generation why they are such an integral part of most ecosystems.

As part of our World Bee Day celebrations we'll be hitting the road this Spring visiting schools local to Magna Park Lutterworth. We'll be spreading the word about the importance of bees and how we should all be creating and maintaining thriving habitats for our precious pollinators.

**DID YOU KNOW THAT IN ORDER TO PRODUCE A KILO OF HONEY, BEES MUST VISIT OVER FOUR MILLION FLOWERS, FLYING ABOUT 110,000 MILES IN THE PROCESS? THIS IS THE SAME DISTANCE AS FLYING AROUND THE WORLD 4 TIMES!**



**IT'S  
WORLD  
BEE DAY  
20TH MAY**





# Spotted at Magna Park Lutterworth...

This Mallard hen and her ducklings were spotted nesting just by the entrance of Bittesby House, Magna Park Lutterworth.

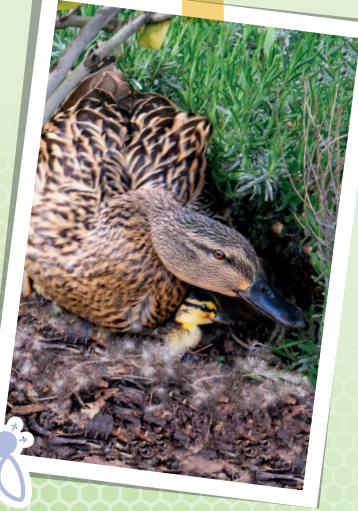


Photo: Paul De-Santiz

Thirty-five volunteers from Unipart, Bleckmann, BSS, Great Bear, Unipart, Primark, Syncreon & Cross Counties Radio all took part in a perennials planting session this Spring with just under 2,000 *primula vulgaris* and *primula veris* (Cowslip) planted in total! Both flowers provide an early source of nectar for various insects including bees, beetles and butterflies such as the brimstone.



## What a fantastic effort!



## ...Bees are great navigators?

They use the position of the sun to know where they are and where they need to go back to, to find their hive.

# Did you know...

## ...Honeybees create wax?

Special glands on the abdomen of the worker bee make wax, which it uses to build the honeycomb.

**B E E S  
H A V E  
F I V E  
E Y E S ?**

...Bees have five eyes? Each bee has **two large compound eyes** and **three smaller ocelli eyes** in the centre of its head.

**30**

...A honeybee in flight beats its wings 230 times per second and can reach a speed of around 30 kilometres per hour?





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