



Statement re Bee Stings

The recent episode of EastEnders on BBC ONE, which included reference to a death by a bee sting, should not cause viewers to be fearful of honey bees. Bees are reluctant to sting and do so only as a last resort protective measure. Further, the severe anaphylactic reaction which may follow a bee sting is extremely rare and death even more so.

It would be most unfortunate if reference to this remote event in a popular TV series were to damage the image of the honey bee which in recent years has enjoyed a very positive profile with the public. The public understands the vital role of bees in pollination and food production and not just being a source of honey. There is also wider understanding that swarming is a natural process by which bees set up a new colony and that whilst the event is dramatic to look at the bees are, in fact, quite mellow in their behaviour and can be re-hived quite easily by a beekeeper.

The BBKA urges the public to keep these rare events in perspective and looks to all who can to help the honey bee in its current difficulties in any way they can to help preserve this important natural pollinator, on which we depend.

Information about [bee stings](#) and [anaphylactic shock](#) can be found on the BBKA website.

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