7th April 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in connection with a project that I have set up, The BeeLong Project, that uses Bees to increase awareness of Bees in the Community as well as provide a unique mechanism to deliver an opportunity to certain members of our Community.

I have been involved with or around Bees for over 40 years and over the past 10 years I have not only lost a number of my family members to cancer but I have found that an increasing number of friends have had Mental Health issues, have children with Learning Difficulties, and Bees have somehow provided a means of solace and of communication. What I have found is that the majority of people I talk to have some experience or knowledge of one or more of these issues and are extremely encouraging of the Project.

I have been a very surprised by the response and have now had contact with MIND, The Restore Centre in Didcot and Oxford, the local Mental Health Team, two Churches, and the local schools and have been placing hives (with bees) in homes. This provides not only a home for the swarms I catch, and the “splits” created from hives, but also an important means of communication for so many people that were otherwise struggling to become involved in the Community. I started the Project last summer and have been completing the paperwork to set the Project up as a Charity. I have had wonderful support from our local Wallingford Waitrose branch but I did not expect that I would have 8 hives out in April and 11 more applications.

I am in the process of contacting all the local wood merchants for wood so that individuals can construct hives, and paint them as well if they wish. What normally happens is that we have the hives painted by children who then come over and see the bees being transferred into “their” hives. What has happened is that the Project has overtaken me and the process is not established enough to support the demand for hives. I have been catching swarms already and split 4 hives but I have not only run out of time to build more hives but I am out of equipment.

There is no profit in this at all for and it is not for myself that I need equipment. I do not sell hives or bees, I merely catch swarms, help beekeepers, the Community and individuals in the spare time I have. I help out as much as is safe and feasible by removing bees from chimneys, roofs and hard to get to places and rehouse the colonies in homes and then teach the individuals how to handle and care for the colony. Some of the hives I get back, as in the case last week when a lady passed away from cancer, but in all cases I just ask that the individuals look after the bees and when and if they can contribute to the cost of the equipment. Until such a time, the equipment belongs to me, but this can take quite a while especially when people are off work and income is restricted, and now I am out of equipment.

I am writing to ask if your Company has any equipment in whatever state it may be, that you would be willing to donate to the project. The hives, catch-boxes/Nucs, can be defective, seconds or just sub-standard, I do not mind, I just need some equipment and some help.

I am willing to pay for any transportation costs and I guarantee that no equipment will be sold for profit, in many cases it will not be sold at all if I have not had to pay for it, but I just cannot cope with trying to source wood, and make everything up myself, even with the help of my family.

I normally use 14x12 hives but I honestly do not mind what comes my way, frames, hives, Nuc boxes, flat-pack, loose, assorted, I will use it all. I was looking to have 8 hives in the Project this year, but this is up to 19 already and I am actually taking two of my own hives out this week. I have six hives and a further 3 catch boxes with swarms, and 1 on a Church chimney! Four of these will be placed in homes once they have been split and swarming controlled.

I am asking for help in a very rushed sort of way but this is where I am at the moment. I hope that you can see the benefit of what I am trying to do and the worthiness of the project. I only ask for assistance where it can be given, this is not about money, just about providing what I have described above, so I really do not want people to be out of pocket or feel they have to contribute, just to do what can be done.

Thank you very much for your time and possible assistance.

Kind Regards

Filipe

Filipe Salbany

10 College Close

Cholsey

Wallingford

OX10 9QY

(h) 01491 652203

(m) 07919674307

[The BeeLong Project](http://beelongproject.weebly.com/)