

MICK VERSPUIJ

BOOMTREEBEES, BUNCRANA, DONEGAL



THE STORY

Meet Mick, the Buncrana Bee Man. Raised in Holland, Mick's love of nature inspired him to study Forestry and Landscape Management, a path which eventually brought him to Galway. After working as a gardener on an organic farm, he became increasingly aware of the vital role that bees played.

In 2012, Mick inherited two beehives from a friend who had sadly passed away and threw himself into his new passion. Starting out with very little knowledge of the intricacies of beekeeping, he is now an expert in his field, adopting techniques which were used in the Middle Ages to keep his bees healthier and happier.

"The old hives are designed for beekeepers not for bees"

he explained. And so rather than using conventional square hives, Mick creates beautiful log hives by carving out cavities inside sustainably sourced trees. The environment of these hives mimics the bee's natural abode.

"I supply the house, sow the flowers, and interfere as little as possible."

The two colonies he inherited from his friend have now multiplied to 220, and are pollinating plants all over Ireland.

Through Boomtreebees, Mick's mission is to rewild the native Irish honey bee, with particular focus on teaching younger generations about their importance.

"If I can get just one person a year interested in conservation and habitat creation, then I'll be happy."

THE WHY

"Our native honey bee is under severe threat of habitat loss due to the changing landscape. I hope to inspire people to change and to reconnect with their environment."

THE HOPE

"Watching honey bees adapt is inspiring. We can learn from them."

THE CHALLENGE

"We have to stop cutting corners when we talk about helping nature rewild. Deadwood and leaves are so important for wildlife. Dedicate a corner of your garden to being a little messy."

THE RECOMMENDATION

BOOK - *The Lives of Bees* by Thomas D Seeley.

To find out more visit boomtreebees.com or follow Mick on Instagram @Boomtreebees

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I create habitats rather than keep bees.

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PRODUCTION

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