

A Forward by Roy Pink who was responsible for the VIBEZ (Ventilated Intermediate Bee Entry Zone) concept for wood hives.

At first sight the Zest appears cumbersome and, contrary to the designer's background, an architectural eye sore. However, once passed all the coffin jokes, we found the Zest hive surprisingly easy to work with. Initial assumptions about using heavy frames were allayed when it was discovered the frames (being double brood depth) could be pivoted on one corner for inspection, the working height is perfect for manipulations, especially if you suffer with a bad back or are just a habitual leaner! Bill's determination and drive can be very addictive when working through a problem. His ability to 'stick with it' enabled him to finally arrive at the very impressive triple cross bar frame, even the bees toe the line and use the cells in each section appropriately! With an eye on economics, I believe a plastic frame is now being developed for cheaper production/recycling. But the main attraction for me has always been the top entrance and ventilation system. Preventing the flue effect and so reducing the need for extra heat via honey consumption in one fell swoop, is a master stroke that beekeepers can implement extremely easily within their own hives. Once beekeepers accept and become familiar with top ventilation (perhaps gained using a B.S. National VIBEZ conversion) the question of hive material arises. Bill makes a convincing argument against wood preferring a porous cement block that retains daytime heat, carrying this through the night within the hive. I think the question of what material (damp wood vs. insulating cement) has been answered. The question now is how it is best implemented. Bill has taken huge strides forward in developing the use of new materials within beekeeping. The improvement in the bee's confidence within their environment is displayed through faster expansion, no nosema, less varroa, good temperament and general good health throughout the colony. Bill has pushed the ZEST project along at such a pace. I'm definitely one beekeeper keen to see what this next edition will bring to the table for discussion.

Roy Pink

fish.r.pink@btinternet.com

A Preface by the Author.

The ZEST venture started with a stumbling attempt to make a bamboo bee hive frame for use in those countries that had plenty of it, mostly poor ones.

It widened into reconsidering everything about beekeeping from the internal frames, the external envelope and queen rearing. A cursory inspection revealed that the planet wide bee keeping system and its artefacts were multiply flawed.

Such a realisation brought with it the burden to speak, not with words written on the wind, but committed to paper for clarity, reference and judgement. It is a manifesto for bee health. It is more readily accepted by those beginner beekeepers inclined carry no historical baggage or financial commitment to a flawed tradition.

There has been a recent doubling of beekeepers in the country caused by the ecologically minded seeking to assist honey bees in a better environment. This can be applauded. This book is to assist them and their bees. .

The ZEST hive is democratic. Anyone can have one. It is cheap, appropriate and amenable to a more self-sufficient way of life. It is a living sustainable system, not a product. It can be entirely D.I.Y., but plastic frames, partition boards and queen excluders are available from the ZEST hive Co. Ltd. If wanted.

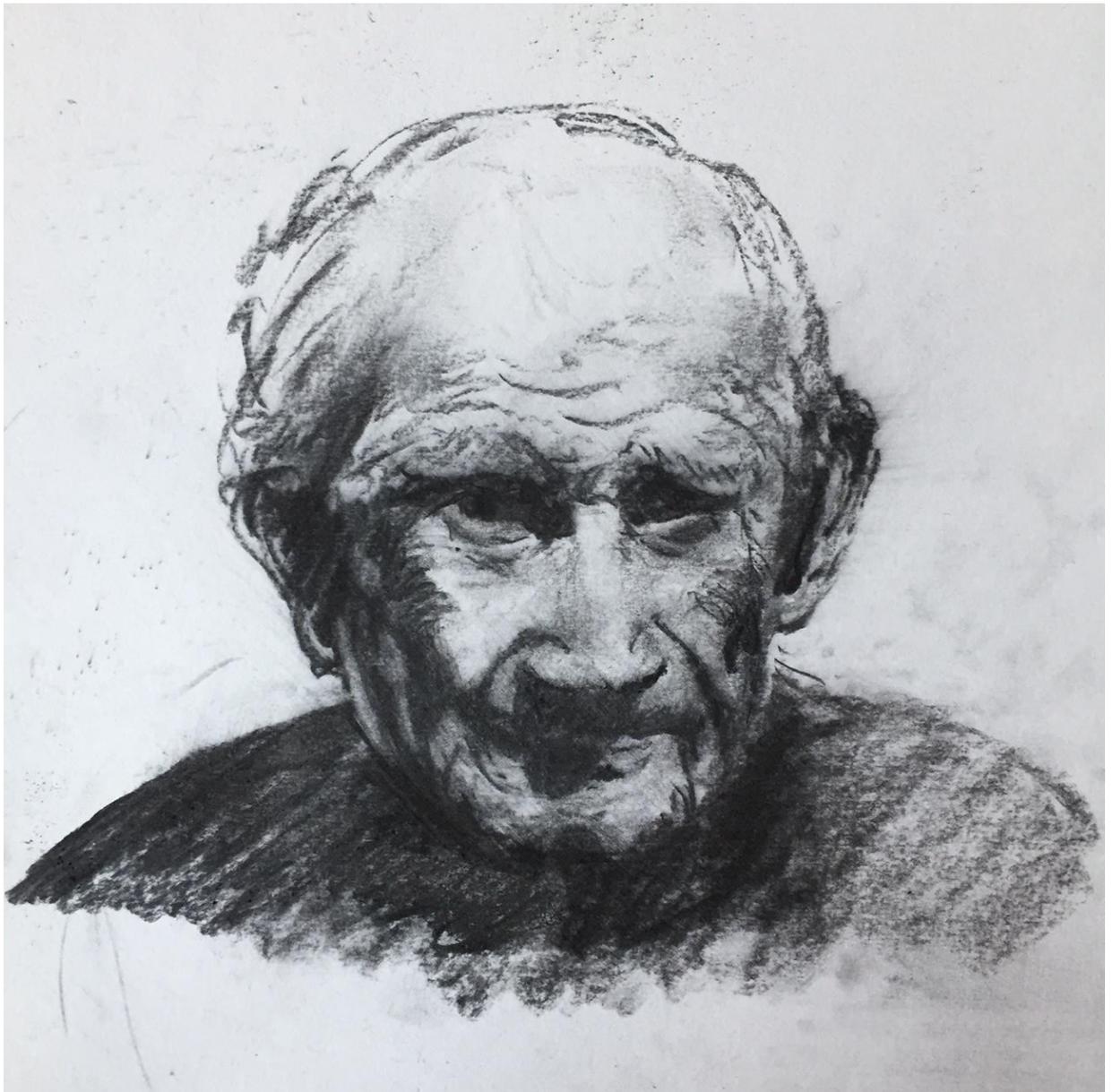
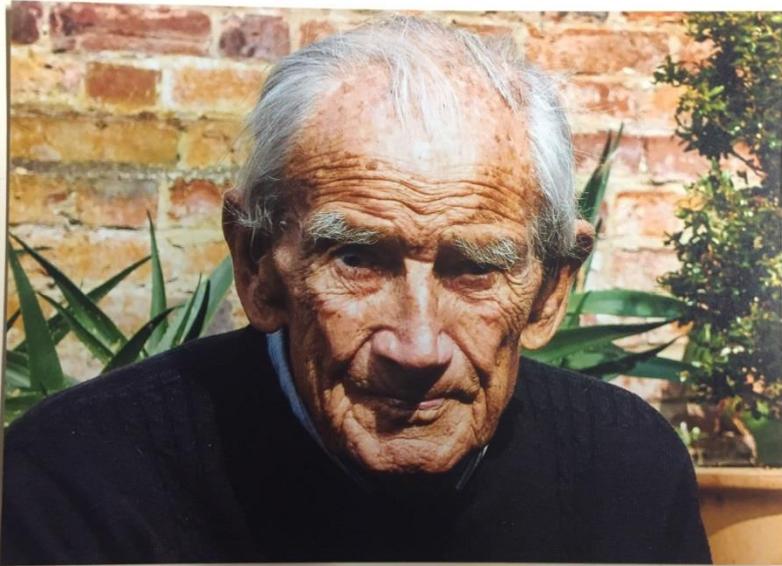
No one owns it. It can be free. Take it. Use it. Have fun.

Bill Summers

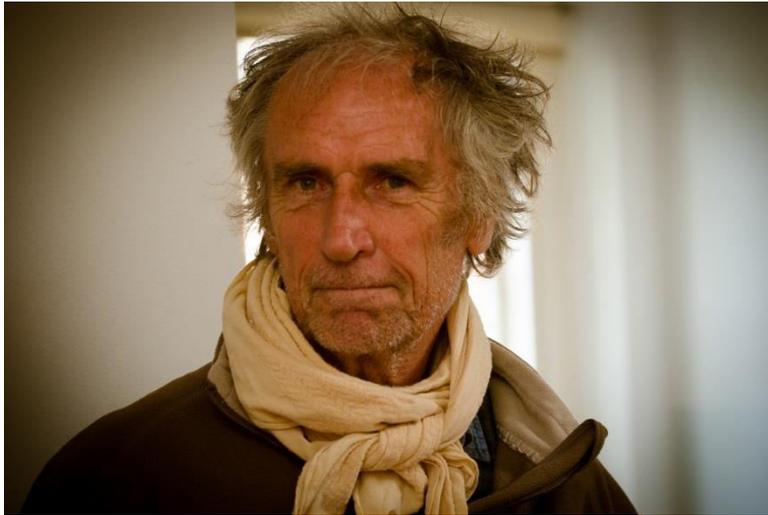
Contributors and Collaborators in 2017

Dave Durrant. and Judy Challoner have been important contributors to the ZEST mission over its period of development.

In memory of
William Bert Summers
Born 29 February 1920
Died 21 October 2014



To go on the back cover



Bee keepers require a user friendly hive that helps the bees keep warm in Winter, stops them over heating in the summer and reduces the risk of varroa and bee related diseases. It must be economical to buy, easy to construct, have minimal maintenance and storage issues, be a hive that is sustainable, that gives the bees space to grow colonies quickly and to have ample frame area for honey storage.

I have looked at every possible beehive on the market at the moment (Oct 2014) and there is only one model that delivers these attributes.

Bees need a ZEST for life.

Tim Eggins