



APRIL NEWSLETTER 2016

Topics: Easter Time, Featured product: Diatom, Our local weather forecast, Special Offers, New Products & Services
Pekin Bantams, Evening Beekeeping Course, Diatom Powder, Bird Boxes, Chimney Sweep

Easter time

We have finally had a few days when it's started to feel like spring, the daffodils and primroses are trying their best to remind us it is nearly Easter, but most days still feel very winter-like and the fire is still very much alight.

The year is marching on incredibly fast though, our barn is well stocked with hybrid hens again and our little bantam chicks have grown so fast they are now fully feathered. Our geese have started laying and Perkin (the Gander) has become very protective! So it's back to the fun routine of spending time each evening trying to convince him to go to bed peacefully!



From April we will have our Bantam Pekins for sale again, all vaccinated and guaranteed hens (cockerels also available), there will be an even better selection of colours available this year so look out for more details on website or pop into the shop to have a look. We are also now taking orders for quail and call ducks.

Our new Beekeeping course is now just a few weeks away so don't forget to book your place if you are thinking of keeping bees, this informal (but informative) evening is great for anyone considering keeping bees or even if you would just like to know more about them.

This month's product feature:



Diatom Powder

Diatom (DE or Diatomaceous Earth) is a natural multi-parasite control powder that has been used for centuries on animals to help combat infestations of mite, lice and fleas.

It is generally used by regularly scattering a thin layer on the floor and nest boxes of the poultry house. Used throughout the hen house it also removes moisture and so help maintain a dry environment for your hens. Diatom can also be used to directly powder your poultry or as a general supplement by adding to the feed (5% or a healthy sprinkling)

Diatom is a naturally mined, mineral product made up of millions of microscopic fossilized diatoms. When crushed to a fine powder it feels similar to chalk powder, but when viewed under a microscope the fine particles resemble shards of broken glass. Being sharp in nature they pierce the protective membrane on parasitological organisms causing them to denature.

Diatom is 100% natural, odour free and harmless to animals and birds.

Now on special offer, please see below:

Our local weather forecast



After a chilly March we seem to be ending first with a few days of spring and then over the Easter weekend some unsettled but warmer and wetter weather.

Early indications for April suggest that the progression of frontal systems from the Atlantic may well ease after Easter with high pressure having more of an influence again. This would probably mean less unsettled, though still rather changeable weather at times. As often the case in April, large variations in weather type and temperature may occur from day to day.

We normally get a good spell of proper spring weather in April which will bring out the primroses, blossom and hopefully our bees too. I haven't looked in the hive yet and will wait for some really warm weather before doing so but the bees in our chimney have certainly been active.

We'll be introducing pigs to our orchard again this spring and the chickens seem to have got into a great laying rhythm with nearly a full house every day.

On the fishing front our local angling boats will start to see plaice and some early bass caught (although there is a ban on landing bass – we have to put them all back); that's if we get a spell of calm weather.

Here's hoping for a warm spring!! www.sussexanglingmedia.co.uk

Special Offers, New Products and Services



Pekin Bantams

Available from 1st April:

Pekin Bantams are a very docile friendly bird, they make a perfect pet for young children as they are easily handled and love a cuddle. They also make an excellent broody and mum to their chicks, looking after their young until they are able to fend for themselves. Pekins are a small and rounded bird, their shape often called a 'tea-cosy'. The hens can lay up to 180 small pale cream eggs a year.

Our hens will be approximately 10 weeks old, vaccinated and guaranteed hens. £30.00 each

[http://mantelfarmshop.co.uk/epages/950003783.sf/en_GB/?ObjectPath=/Shops/950003783/Categories/Poultry For Sale/%22Pekin%20Hens%22](http://mantelfarmshop.co.uk/epages/950003783.sf/en_GB/?ObjectPath=/Shops/950003783/Categories/Poultry%20For%20Sale/%22Pekin%20Hens%22)



Evening Beekeeping Course - Just a few weeks away

Our next course:

'The basics of beekeeping' Friday 15th April 7pm – 10pm £66.00

To book: Simply reserve a place in our shop or visit the training page on our website:

[http://mantelfarmshop.co.uk/epages/950003783.sf/en_GB/?ObjectPath=/Shops/950003783/Categories/Training Courses Events](http://mantelfarmshop.co.uk/epages/950003783.sf/en_GB/?ObjectPath=/Shops/950003783/Categories/Training%20Courses%20Events)



Diatom Powder – Special Offer

Diatom is an organic product used as a dusting powder or feed supplement . It assists the control of parasites and can help to control unpleasant odours.

350g tub normally £3.45 now £2.50 - April only

2kg tub normally £ 9.95 now £8.00- April only



Bird Boxes

Buy 3 of these wonderful bird boxes for only £10!

We have rediscovered our passion for giving birds somewhere cosy to live. Put one in your garden to encourage birds to nest.



Chimney Sweep

With the winter dragging on, we have just had our chimney swept again, and can highly recommend our local sweep from Bexhill: Rik Barker

Rik provides a very friendly, professional and clean service, we have used him for many years to sweep all our chimneys here and he never grumbles at the state of our very old well used rayburn!

Contact: Kleensweep – Rik Barker 01424 219944 or 07966 473003

Easter Opening Hours

We will be open as usual on Good Friday 10am – 4pm,

We will be closed on Easter Sunday



With best wishes from all at Mantel Farm

www.mantelfarm.co.uk