

# Bill's pain tonic is just the bee's knees

By

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BEE farmer Bill Flynn turned to his beehives in desperation when his daughter Jennifer developed an arthritic hip.

He decided to treat her condition with a substance well known to beekeepers for its healing properties.

It was a momentous decision for Mr Flynn, for his daughter and for thousands of arthritic sufferers around the world.

## Pain

The unenticing, reddish-brown scraps he collected from inside the hives emerged as an extraordinarily effective means of curbing the pain of stiff joints.

And the chance discovery has earned Mr Flynn and his



Flynn: Rewarded

bees the thanks of thousands of people.

His remarkable remedy is called propolis—a sticky, antiseptic resin used by bees to seal and clean the insides of their hives.

After Mr Flynn described in the Sunday Express last February how he had successfully treated his daughter, the response was instant.

The normal trickle of letters to his bungalow at Longfield, Kent, turned into a flood—10,000 to date, from places as far away as America, Australia, Japan and Zambia.

So, sitting at their modest

## Arthritis victims queue up for tonic

dining-room table, Mr Flynn, 65, his wife Iris, two of their daughters and two of their nine grandchildren set up a small family industry. They worked a 10-hour day.

Every letter and telephone call was answered, and now nearly a million propolis capsules have been sent out.

Silver-haired Mr Flynn, a retired accountant, is proud to show visitors his bulging files containing messages of thanks.

## Reward

"My wife replies to them all," he said, opening a cupboard door to reveal stacks of mail.

Many of the grateful correspondents mention that as well as easing their arthritis, the treatment acts as a general tonic.

"We're not in this to make a fortune," said Mr Flynn. "All these thank-yous are our biggest reward."

Indeed, he has been approached by a chemical company wanting to take over the product. But he refused. "They would price it out of the market for ordinary people and pensioners," he said.

"We decided to send out the propolis by mail from here. We are covering our costs."

Mr Flynn has two million bees in 400 hives in the area, but such is the growing demand that he now also organises supplies from other bee farmers in Britain.

Little research has been done in this country, but scientists in Eastern Europe have carried out tests to prove the healing properties of propolis.