

## **RDBKA Introduction to Beekeeping for Beginners' Course 2018/19**

A comprehensive evening course of 10 x 2hrs sessions, from **7.30pm-9.30pm every other Tuesday (mostly!) at Colburn Church Hall**, starting on 27 Nov 18, run over the winter (Nov - Apr) in preparation for the forthcoming bee season, with 2 x additional practical handling sessions in May/June at the RDBKA Teaching Apiary.

This is a course primarily for those without bees, who are new to beekeeping and who are serious about becoming a knowledgeable, responsible and proficient beekeeper.

Everything a new beekeeper needs to know in order to establish and maintain healthy colonies in a controlled way.

<b>Session 1</b> 27 Nov 18	Introduction	What is a honey bee? Importance of Beekeeping Local and national support Equipment
<b>Session 2</b> 11 Dec 18	The Colony	Queen, workers, drones Division of labour within the hive Individual lifecycles
<b>Session 3</b> 15 Jan 19	The Hive	The bees' nest Hive components Supers Making Frames
<b>Session 4</b> 29 Jan 19	History	Origins of bees Honey hunting, skeps, Langstroth WBC, Smith, National, and Nucleus
<b>Session 5</b> 12 Feb 19	Beekeeping Year	Preparation for winter Spring Management Summer build up Harvesting
<b>Session 6</b> 26 Feb 19	Queens	Queen rearing Mating process Marking and clipping
<b>Session 7</b> 12 Mar 19	Swarms	Reason for swarms (causes, natural, history, primary & casts) Swarm control Swarm prevention Swarm collection

<b>Session 8</b> 26 Mar 19	Pests/Diseases	Pests Brood diseases Adult diseases Varroa Statutory requirements
<b>Session 9</b> 9 Apr 19	Bees, Plants & Hive Products	Pollination, nectar, & honey Local forage crops Wax, propolis and pollen Selling Honey
<b>Session 10</b> 23 Apr 19	Getting Started	Association membership Sources of equipment and clothing Setting up an Apiary What happens next?
<b>2 x Teaching Apiary sessions</b> (dates tbc)		'Putting it into practice!'

**Cost £70** - Please return completed **Application Form** to RDBKA Treasurer together with payment.