

RDBKA Introduction to Beekeeping for Beginners' Course 2017/18

A comprehensive evening course of 10 x 2hrs sessions, from **7.30pm-9.30pm every other Tuesday (mostly!) at Colburn Church Hall**, starting on 28 Nov 17, 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.

Session 1 28 Nov 17	Introduction	What is a honey bee? Importance of Beekeeping Local and national support Equipment
Session 2 12 Dec 17	The Colony	Queen, workers, drones Division of labour within the hive Individual lifecycles
Session 3 9 Jan 18	The Hive	The bees' nest Hive components Supers Making Frames
Session 4 23 Jan 18	History	Origins of bees Honey hunting, skeps, Langstroth WBC, Smith, National, and Nucleus
Session 5 6 Feb 18	Beekeeping Year	Preparation for winter Spring Management Summer build up Harvesting
Session 6 27 Feb 18	Queens	Queen rearing Mating process Marking and clipping
Session 7 13 Mar 18	Swarms	Reason for swarms (causes, natural, history, primary & casts) Swarm control Swarm prevention Swarm collection

Session 8 27 Mar 18	Pests/Diseases	Pests Brood diseases Adult diseases Varroa Statutory requirements
Session 9 10 Apr 18	Bees, Plants & Hive Products	Pollination, nectar, & honey Local forage crops Wax, propolis and pollen Selling Honey
Session 10 24 Apr 18	Getting Started	Association membership Sources of equipment and clothing Setting up an Apiary What happens next?
2 x Teaching Apiary sessions (dates tbc)		'Putting it into practice!'

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