

Richmond and District Beekeepers' Association

Introduction to Beekeeping Saturday 31st May and Sunday 1st June 2025

A weekend on the theory of beekeeping, combined with practical “hands on” experience.

To be held in the Field Centre at Foxglove Covert Local Nature Reserve,
Catterick Garrison, Richmond.

PROGRAMME

(subject to change due to weather)

SATURDAY

- 09.45 Rendezvous at Cambrai Barracks gate on Ava Road, Catterick Garrison
- 10.00 Cars drive in convoy to the car park/visitors centre in Foxglove Covert.
- 10.15 Welcome to RDBKA (Role, Membership, Courses, Teaching Apiary)
- 10.20 Talk: Bees and the Beehive. (Evolution, bees natural history, hive development, types of hive, demo hive).
- 11.15 Break: Coffee/tea will be provided
- 11.30 Talk: Beekeeping Equipment (Protective clothes, gloves, boots; beekeeper's 'box of tools' - explanation and demo; frames and foundation).
- 12.30 Lunch: bring your own picnic, hot drinks provided.
- 13.30 Practical Session: Introduction to the bees in our Foxglove Apiary (hives, parts, classic inspection, eggs, larvae, brood, worker, drone, queen spotting, frame handling) (frame making if inclement).
- 15.30 Break: Coffee/tea with a follow up Q&A/discussion.
- 16.00 Departure

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SUNDAY

- 09.45 Rendezvous and car convoy, as for Saturday
- 10.15 Talk: Beekeepers' year (Typical monthly workload, physical effort required and cleaning requirements).
- 11.15 Break
- 11.30 Talk: My First Year - 'Thoughts and Experiences'
- 11.45 Talk: Basic Beekeeping Techniques (Swarming, swarm control and disease (varroa only)).
- 12.30 Lunch: bring your own picnic, hot drinks provided
- 13.30 Practical Session: Manipulating Bees. (Classic inspection, observation, handling, Q&A).
- 15.00 Break: coffee/tea with a follow up discussion
- 15.15 Review/Q&A Kevin Kinchin, Chairman RDBKA.
- 16.00 Departure