

SOUTH EAST HERTFORDSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Introduction to Beekeeping Course

Provisional Syllabus for 2026

Sunday 8th March 2-4pm

SESSION 1 The Honeybee – Life cycle, Protective clothing, Stings, Getting Started with Beekeeping

- Identifying bees, wasps, and hornets
- Three castes of the honeybee and their function, life cycle and life expectancy
- The stages/timings of development of Workers, Drones and Queens
- How to get started with beekeeping
- Protective clothing, bee stings and how to treat them

Sunday 15th March 2-4 pm

SESSION 2 The Hive and its Construction

- Components of a hive and their function
- Types of hive – advantages/disadvantages
- Frames –types, spacing and top/bottom bee space
- Siting the hive factors to consider
- Constructing frames and installing foundation

Sunday 22nd March 2-4pm

SESSION 3 Managing the Hive and Bees

- Annual cycle in managing the colony – inspections, adding/removing supers, feeding
- Undertaking a hive inspection – smokers, hive tools and how to use them
- Temperament of bees
- Recognising the different cell types at different times of the year
- Swarming – reading the signs, prevention, collection, re-hiving

Sunday 29th March 2-4 pm

SESSION 4 Bee Pests and Diseases and Honey Extraction

- Husbandry and hygiene, pests, and diseases
- Prevention and treatment
- Break time honey tasting a chance to sample different local honeys from different locations.
- Honey extraction – how to extract honey, bottling and labelling other products

SESSION 5 Apiary Visit 1 (date to be confirmed)

Sunday 2-4pm

- How to light a smoker and open a hive
- Demonstration of the use of tools, equipment and handling the bees
- Inspect and recognise eggs, larvae, workers, drones, the queen, capped brood
- Recognise capped stores, unripe honey, pollen

SESSION 6 Apiary Visit 2 (date to be confirmed)

Sunday 2-4 pm

SESSION 7 Date to be confirmed in August

- Preparing bees for winter

South East Hertfordshire Beekeepers Association is a local branch of Hertfordshire Beekeepers Association and a member of the British Beekeepers Association covering Hertford, Ware, Stanstead Abbots, Hoddesdon, Broxbourne, Cheshunt, Goffs Oak, Cuffley and surrounding areas