



2018 An Introduction to Beekeeping

"The best introductory beekeeping course in Suffolk!"

The aim of the course is to allow those with no previous knowledge or experience to start keeping bees successfully. **This is a very short course so, if you take it and wish to keep bees, you can't afford to miss a single session.** To underpin the instruction, within reasonable limits, we offer advice and assistance afterwards.

Since most of the course will take place before bee colonies can safely be opened, there isn't much opportunity actually to handle bees so **you should try this in the season before the course starts**; we can help with this. It is important you try being stung too!

This year, the course will run on five Monday evenings from 26th February between 7.30 and 9.30pm. This is the classroom, theoretical, part and will be held mostly in the Dallinghoo Jubilee Hall. The dates and brief details are listed in **the course calendar** which should be attached. These include an afternoon handling bees and a grand final all-day session from 10:00 a.m. on a Sunday.

The fee for our Course is £50.00. If you are keen to take the course but are in straightened circumstances, talk to us; we may waive the fee. For those at the same address, we offer two for the price of one (but you get only one set of notes). The handouts provided will not cover all you need to know. While you may borrow books from either public libraries and/or this Association's, you will need one of your own to refer to when uncertain what to do. **At least one general book on beekeeping is a necessity - start reading and absorbing this as soon as possible.** Two books are better than one as each will have a different viewpoint. We recommend:

- BBKA's *Guide to Beekeeping* (2nd Edition)
- Clive de Bruyn's "*Practical Beekeeping*"
- "*Guide to Bees & Honey*" by Ted Hooper
- Haynes "*Bee Manual*" by A & C Waring

- *Bee Keeping - A Novice's Guide* (2nd Edition) by David Wootton.
- "*Bees at the Bottom of the Garden*" by Alan Campion
- "*Beekeeping: A Seasonal Guide*" by Ron Brown.

These are best obtained from booksellers. We suggest **Northern Bee Books**, Scout Bottom Farm, Mytholmroyd, Hebden Bridge HX7 5JS; [Northern Bee Books](http://www.northernbeebooks.co.uk). You will also need a notepad; A4 is suggested since this is the size of the handouts. We also have some good introductory DVDs and videos in the Library; please borrow them. **If you are thinking seriously about taking our course, please do not wait until nearer the day but get in touch now; places are limited. A few years ago we were fully booked six months in advance and had to refuse the late comers.**

[Otley and Easton Colleges are now one establishment; beekeeping courses run only at Easton near Norwich.]

Those intending to keep bees in Suffolk are strongly advised to join one of the six Suffolk Beekeepers' associations. Membership gives you £10M third party insurance cover via the British Beekeepers' Association and a ready source of advice and help. You are most welcome to attend any Suffolk beekeepers' meeting. Details of these appear in our Newsletter - this is sent to those who apply - or see: www.suffolkbeekeepers.co.uk.

Any beginner's course can only be the beginning of your education in the complex arts of bee husbandry – you should plan to continue to study. If you are not eager to continue to learn, we course tutors will have failed!

If you have any queries or have a disability which requires some special consideration, please contact one of the course tutors:

James Ferguson: 07484 646315; james@synaps.co.uk,
Jeremy Quinlan: 01473 737700; JeremyQ@tiscali.co.uk.

Enrolment Form

Name(s)

Address & POSTCODE

Telephone Email

- Please book me a place on your **2018 An Introduction to Beekeeping** course. I enclose my cheque (payable to I&ES BKA), or cash, for £50.00. *If preferred, a transfer to our bank may be made; see details below.*
- I should like to take advantage of your 'two for the price of one offer' and there will be two of us from the same address together on the course. *Please delete this if it does not apply.*
- I agree that my details may be made available to the other members of the course. *Please highlight (or put in brackets) information that you want us to withhold.*

Signed Date

Send this form & your cheque (payable to the I&ES BKA) to Jeremy Quinlan at: The Old Rectory, Dallinghoo, Woodbridge IP13 0LA. Or, if more convenient, transfer to our bank account: 10570028, sort code 20-44-51.