



# THE IPSWICH & EAST SUFFOLK BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

First Founded 1880, A Charitable Incorporated Organisation No. 1183025

## 2020 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, it is important that you should make arrangements to look into a colony of honey bees in the season before the course starts; we can help with this; please ask. I cannot emphasise too strongly that there is no substitute for the practical experience of opening an active colony with an experienced beekeeper. You might try being stung too!**

This year the course will run on five consecutive Monday evenings from 2<sup>nd</sup> March 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 accompany this. Sessions include an afternoon handling lovely quiet bees on 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> April - you choose which - and a grand final all-day session from 10:00 a.m. on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April. Please put these dates in your diary!

The fee for our Course is £50.00. For those at the same address, we offer two for the price of one but you get only one set of notes. If you are keen to take the course but can't afford the fee, please ask - both waivers and reductions are possible. 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 essential - 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)* by David Wootton.
- *"Bees at the Bottom of the Garden"* by Alan Campion
- *"Beekeeping: A Seasonal Guide"* by Ron Brown.

We suggest you buy yours from **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; in 2019 we had to refuse some late applicants.**

*Jeremy has been keeping bees since 1985 and is a BBKA Master Beekeeper, currently one of only two in Suffolk. James is a Genetics graduate (BSc Hons, Leeds), a professional breeder of pigs & poultry, who is now in 1<sup>st</sup> season keeping bees and a BBKA Qualified Beekeeper; he teaches Physics & Biology at Thomas Mills High School, Framlingham.*

*As far as we know, Easton & Otley College does not currently offer an introductory course like ours at the Otley campus.*

Those intending to keep bees in Suffolk are strongly advised to join one of the six beekeepers' associations allied to the Suffolk BKA. Membership provides £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. See: [www.suffolkbeekeepers.co.uk](http://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 a disability which requires some special consideration, please contact one of the course tutors:

James Ferguson: 07484 646315; [james@synaps.co.uk](mailto:james@synaps.co.uk),  
Jeremy Quinlan: 01473 737700; [JeremyQ@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:JeremyQ@tiscali.co.uk).

### Enrolment Form

Name(s) .....

Address & POSTCODE .....

Telephone ..... Email .....

- Please book me/us a place on your 2020 "An Introduction to Beekeeping" course.
- I have made a transfer of £50.00 to the Association's bank account No. 10570028, sort code 20-44-51. Or, I enclose my cheque (payable to I&ES BKA), or cash, for £50.00.
- 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. Please delete this if it does not apply.*

Signed ..... Date .....

**Please send this form to Jeremy Quinlan at: The Old Rectory, Dallinghoo, Woodbridge IP13 0LA.**