

SOUTH EAST HERTFORDSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
Introduction to Beekeeping Course
2025

Sunday 9 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
- Protective clothing, bee stings and how to treat them
- How to get started with beekeeping

Sunday 16 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 23 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 30 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 – when to remove supers, how to extract honey, bottling and labelling

SESSION 5 Date to be confirmed

Apiary Visit 1

- 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 Date to be confirmed

Apiary Visit 2

SESSION 7 Date to be confirmed (August?)

Caring and preparing bees for winter