



Blandford & Sturminster Newton Beekeepers Association

(A Branch of Dorset BKA affiliated to the British Beekeepers Association)

Training Contact: Terry Payne, Brookmans Farm Bungalow, Dunns Lane, Iwerne Minster, Dorset, DT11 8NG
Telephone 01747 811251 : Email twpayne@btinternet.com Web site: www.bsbka.com

An Introduction to Beekeeping for Beginners Saturday, 7th April 2018

During the course of the day, we aim to explain to you something of the nature of the honey bee and how it can be kept and managed.

We will describe to you the techniques involved in keeping your bees healthy and how you can look after them safely and in harmony with your family and your neighbours.

The benefits of keeping bees will be explained including the importance of pollination and an outline of how to harvest the honey and wax products that your bees will provide.

The cost of this day-long introduction course is £50.00, which includes the loan of protective top/ jacket and veil. However, you should wear thick jeans (denims) and bring with you wellington boots and gloves – Marigold washing up gloves are ideal.

A light lunch will be provided with Tea or Coffee on arrival.

The content of the day (Guide only - subject to weather)

Part 1 At The Church Hall, Shillingstone. (The hall is located off Blandford Road just opposite the road to Okeford Fitzpaine).

10.00am Arrival, registration and housekeeping with tea and biscuits.

10.30am A presentation of the natural history of the honey bee and an explanation of the problems that bees and the beekeeper face, together with the way in which they can be overcome.

11.30am An account of the different types of hives and equipment and an explanation of use, availability and cost. Some of these will be on display for examination.

12.30pm Break for lunch with tea / coffee and a general discussion with experienced members of the association on any areas that are of concern or need clarification.

Part 2 At the Apiary.

2.00pm Students will be escorted to the apiary near by where members will supervise and explain the use of protective clothing to ensure personal safety.

2.30pm Experienced members will supervise each group of students in opening up a hive to examine the bees and combs. The members will explain what is being observed and what it is expected to see and why. Students will be encouraged to handle the bees and combs themselves if they wish – but it is not compulsory!

4.00pm Tea / Coffee and a discussion on the days events to answer any further questions that arise.

5.00pm Close.

We are sure that the day will prove to be interesting as well as instructive, and new members are also assured of our continued help and support, together with a sociable framework of meetings throughout the year with a mix of lectures, presentations and practical apiary visits.

If you would like to take part in the Introductory Day or enrol for the Beginners Course please return your payment with the tear-off slip below to the BSBKA Treasurer, Robert Camping, at Yew Tree Cottage, Higher Row, Holt, Wimborne, BH21 7EB. Contact Terry Payne (details as in the header) if you have any questions about the day and to check that places on the Beginners Course are available.

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- 1) I wish to attend the Introductory Day and enclose my cheque for £..... (£50.00 per person)
 - 2) I wish to reserve a place on the 2018 beginner's course. I enclose my cheque for £..... (£150.00 per person to include the Introductory Day)

Cheques should be payable to **Blandford & Sturminster Newton BKA.**

Name _____ Address _____

Telephone _____ E-Mail _____