



South Clwyd Beekeepers Association - Cymdeithas Gwenynwr De Clwyd

Affiliated to the Welsh Beekeepers Association Registered Charity No 509872

Beekeepers' Beginners Course 2017

South Clwyd BKA has run a successful beginners course for many years. The venue is **Coleg Cambria, Llysfasi, Ruthin Road, Ruthin LL15 2LB** which is located just south of Ruthin

Nigel Brierley will be Course tutor (e-mail) nigelbrierley@talktalk.net. It would be helpful if you would keep a note of Nigel's Telephone number should you have any queries following each session or to notify him if you are unable to attend any session. **Tel 0151 648 5179**.

The course is suitable for those who want to start beekeeping, and those who have recently started. It is divided into 10 sessions. Please ensure you mark these dates in your diary. Whilst it is possible to attend individual sessions it is obviously preferable to complete all of them. The course includes several hours the apiary, and all students will have hands on practical experience with the bees. Beekeeping clothing is provided for those who don't have their own.

At the end of the course you will have covered all the essential elements of beekeeping to allow you to confidently start beekeeping. and potentially undertake the Welsh Beekeepers Basic Practical exam if you wish to do so.

Beginners Course Basic Learning Aims. 2017 will include in detail

- 1.0 Manipulation of a honey Bee Colony**
- 2.0 Equipment.**
- 3.0 Natural History of the Honey Bee.**
- 4.0 Beekeeping.**
- 5.0 Disease, Poisoning and Pests**

The association has a commitment to have bees available from their members for sale, at a lower than commercial rate, to those new beekeepers who want to take up the hobby. It is important to buy bees locally and not from a supplier elsewhere, to avoid issues relating to disease or the introduction of inappropriate bees into the area.

The Cost of the course is £80 (£40.00 for juniors under 18). The attached syllabus will give you some idea of the content of the course. Timings in the apiary will be subject to the weather.

Dates for 2017

Monday 6th March evening – classroom 18:30 - 21:00 Llysfasi

Monday 20 March evening – classroom 19:00 - 21:00 Llysfasi

Tuesday 4 April evening – classroom & apiary 18:30 - 21:00 Patchwork. Ruthin

Monday 24 April evening – classroom 19:00 - 21:00 Llysfasi

Saturday 6 May afternoon – apiary 14:00 - 16:00

Saturday 13 May afternoon – apiary 14:00 - 16:00

Monday 15 May evening – apiary 18:30 - 21:00

Monday 22 May evening – apiary 19:00 - 21:00

Tuesday 6 June evening – classroom 19:00 - 21:00 Patchwork, Ruthin

Monday 19th June - classroom 19:00 - 21:00 Llysfasi

Session 1. *Introduction to Bees and Beekeeping*

Introductions of Course, Students, building fire safety etc.

Outline of each Session

History of beekeeping

Value of honeybees / pollination.

Bee colony make up.

Bee products

Session 2. *Hives, frames and equipment.*

Protective equipment – and clothing.

Bee Space

Types of hive. Hive Parts and their uses.

Bee Space

Frames and spacing

Other Tools.

Session 3. *Introduction to the Honey Bee Colony*

Practical.

Wearing protective Clothing.

Lighting a smoker and use of a smoker...

Making Frames (practical) **Bring a small hammer**

Session 4

Practical in the apiary and Feeding and Keeping Records.

Types of Feeders

There different uses

Mixing and Mixes of Sugar Syrup

Alternatives to sugar Syrup.

Record Keeping

Session 5.

Summer Management.

Weekly Inspection

Technique of opening and closing hives.

What are we looking for?

Identification of occupants.

Marking the queen. Why and how

Closing a hive.

Moving a hive

The five questions to ask and answer.

Session 6.

Swarm Management and Weekly Inspection.

Inspection of hives as previous week.

Is there a difference from Last week?

Record Keeping

Looking for signs of swarming.

Actions to take.

Session 7

Extraction and Summer Management.

Clearing the Bees from a Super

Uncapping and extracting from the frames.

What to do with the wax.

The refractometer.

Session 8.

Weekly Inspection including

Pests and Diseases in the Apiary.

What to Look for

Inspecting hives for pests and diseases.

Prevention and treatment.

Testing for nosema.

Session 9 . Theory and Inspector Pests and Diseases. Bee Inspector.

Session 10

- The Beekeepers' Year'.
- Student review.

HOMEWORK WILL BE SET AT THE END OF EACH **SESSION**

Reading Resource.

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Guide to Bees Honey by Ted Hooper

This updated edition of the world's best-selling guide to beekeeping, by Ted Hooper, deals in a clear and concise way with all aspects of the craft. Ideal for anyone wanting to start in the craft as well as a revered reference book for the experienced.

Guide to Bees and Honey includes information on all you need to know, including how to avoid swarms, plan re-queening, or provide the colony with winter stores. It features key information on Varroa and is highly illustrated throughout. Fully revised and updated, this new edition of 'Guide to Bees and Honey' also presents expert advice for readers who plan to maintain a few hives for personal recreational use, as well as those who want to expand an existing colony into a commercial venture.



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Beginners' Beekeeping Course 2017 Registration Form

To guarantee your place on the course, please complete the registration form below and return it to me **Christine Finegan, 5 The Limes, Chester Road, Rossett, Wrexham. LL12 0DB, (tel 07843201662)** together with your cheque for £80 per person (under 18 years old £40) made payable to "**South Clwyd Beekeepers Association**". Please continue on a separate sheet if there is more than one person and there is insufficient room for all the details

Name.....

Address.....

Postcode.....

Tel Number.....

Email.....

I enclose cheque £ (£80 per adult/£40 under 18 years)

I agree to my details being passed to the National Bee Unit for inclusion on the National Bee data base.

Signature _____

Print. _____