

Hexham Beekeepers in 2023

Our plans for beekeeper training at HBKA apiary and also theory sessions in Wall Village Hall



Plans for our Beekeeping Season 2023

- **Last indoor meeting – Tuesday April 04 - Swarm Control -**
Ian and Sue Robinson Wall Village Hall 7.30pm
- **Beginners sessions** – theory and practical for absolute beginners and those who have attended before and want to come again
- **Workshops** – for those that already keep bees and would like to improve their skills

Plans for our Beekeeping Season 2023

- **Queen Rearing** – both simple and more involved methods
- **Basic Assessment revision sessions** for those who want to take the assessment in 2023 but also open to those who would like to refresh and improve their knowledge
- **Ad hoc working party** sessions to keep the apiary bees up to date

Beginners Sessions - Frame Making

- Practical frame making at Wall Village Hall on Sunday 02 April at 2pm
- We need lots of frames for the apiary each season
- Good way to find out how to make them – practical session
- Get to know other new beginners and some of your demonstrators



Theory for Beginners

- Wall Village Hall on Wednesday 26 April at 7pm
- We will cover:
 - Some basic bee biology including lifecycle of workers, drones & queens
 - How the colony works
 - A year in the hive
 - Equipment for the bees
 - Equipment for you
 - Handling bees
 - How our practical sessions run

Beginners' Practical Sessions at the Apiary

- Open to any member of HBKA. If not a member, one session free then we expect you to join our association
- Hands on practical sessions
- You will be handling frames of bees in small groups with a demonstrator
- You need to bring wellies or boots that cover your ankles and a pair of washing up gloves eg Marigolds - not black
- New additions to the organising team this year are Mike Higgins and Wendy Gregory

Dates for 2023

- Session 1 – 21st May
- Session 2 – 11th June
- Session 3 – 25th June
- Session 4 – 2nd July
- Session 5 – 16th July
- Session 6 – 23rd July
- Session 7 – 30th July
- Session 8 – 13th August
- Session 9 – 20th August

- All sessions start at 2pm
- We have bee-suits to borrow if needed
- If bringing your own bee-suit please make sure it is clean
- We supply all other equipment except your wellies & gloves

Workshops

- New for 2023
- Important to continue training for those who are keeping bees but want to improve their skills.
- Trial for this year to see how popular and useful these sessions are.
- Going forward we'd like suggestions of topics to cover

Planned Workshops for 2023

- Shook Swarm - 14 May - Practical hands on session
- Queen Rearing – 3rd and 4th June - Both simple and more involved methods
- Queen Marking – 9 July - Practise handling and marking drones

Ad Hoc Working Party Sessions

- Informal sessions to keep the apiary bees up to date and ensure jobs are not missed
- Can't always get everything done at Sunday Beginners sessions
- Often run on Thursday afternoons (occasional Saturdays) usually at short notice
- For people who have a couple of hours to spare and want to get involved with a bit more hands on beekeeping
- Ideally for those who already have bees. Maybe 2nd/3rd year beekeepers
- These are not teaching sessions as such but you will learn lots

Basic Assessment Revision

- 2 evening sessions (in Wall Village Hall) plus 1 practise session at apiary for those wanting to do exam
- Potential Dates – depending on numbers who can attend
 - 1st session Tues 9 or Wed 10 May
 - 2nd session Tues 16 or Wed 17 May.
- Open to those who have been keeping bees for at least a year
- We will cover the whole syllabus in 2 evening sessions
- No obligation to take the assessment
- Practical session for those entering for the assessment – date to be arrange to fit assessment date

Agricultural Shows in our Area

- We attend a number of shows in our area
- We always need volunteers to man the stand for a few hours
- You only need to be enthusiastic about bees & be able to talk to people
 - **County Show Children's Education Day - Thu 25 May**
 - **Northumberland County Show - Sat 27 May**
 - **Slaley Show - Sat 12 August**
 - **Bellingham Show - Sat 26 August**
 - **Blanchland Show - Mon 28 August**

Showing Honey at Agricultural Shows

- We are trying to encourage this to keep the honey classes alive in the small shows. All the shows on the previous slide have honey classes
- It costs very little to enter and the classes vary from show to show
- Often there is a beginners class
- It's fun and you may learn things about your honey
- You may even win your entry fee back and a certificate or a cup if you're lucky
- Classes are in the show schedule – you do need to enter in advance
- You can enter the same jars of honey at all the shows!

Queen rearing course timetable 2022-23

Saturday 3 rd June: AM	10:00-12:30	Theory session: Selection of breeding colonies Small scale techniques Non-specialised mating options Introduction of new queens (where necessary)
Saturday 3 rd June: PM	13:30-15:30	Practical session: Apiary based review of small scale techniques
Sunday 4 th June: AM	10:00-12:30	Theory session: More advanced theory
Sunday 4 th June: PM	13:30-15:30	Apiary based review of advanced techniques with demonstration of methods

What we will cover 1

- How to get better bees
- How to select donor and queen rearing colonies
- Techniques for creating queen cells. Small to large scale programmes.
Including simpler
 - selected natural QC
 - Miller techniqueIncluding more advanced
 - cupkit
 - grafting
 - punch techniques.

What we will cover 2

- The calendar
 - Colony preparation for raising queen cells
 - Techniques for managing built queen cells
 - Mating options including apidea nucs
- * We will talk to participants about the possibility of additional skill training in areas like cup/kit, grafting, punch techniques

Next steps

- We will put out an email asking for expressions of interest
- First come first served: it is a free course to HBKA members
- It will be modular but we would like anyone coming to practical to come to the paired theory
- The more advanced may be easier after the less advanced but we recognise the time commitment
- Location will depend on level of interest for each section