SEVENOAKS and TUNBRIDGE WELLS BEEKEEPERS

BASIC TRAINING – 2025

The basic training course for new beekeepers will cover the syllabus for the BBKA Basic exam. You do not have to take the exam, but the syllabus covers what you need to know to keep your own bees. There will be five classroom sessions, followed by practical experience at the branch apiaries. You will need a bee suit for the apiary sessions. We do have some available to borrow if you do not have your own. Please contact the apiary session leader with your approximate size to request a suit. We cannot guarantee to have suits available in all sizes. Please bring your own gloves and boots. Please do NOT bring your own hive tools.

The course will run during March and April 2025, and the classroom sessions will be in the committee room at Hildenborough Village Hall, Riding Lane, TN11 9HY. Classroom sessions will be between 7.30pm and 9.30pm. There is some street parking outside the venue, plus two free parking areas about 100m east of the hall. Please bring a copy of the BBKA Guide to Beekeeping Book, and a notebook and pen. There will be a health and safety talk where relevant to the programme content.

The programme is as follows:

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| DATE | TOPICS |
| Wednesday 12th March | Bee biology and general overview of beekeeping |
| Wednesday 19th March | Types of hive, essential equipment, frame making |
| Wednesday 26th Mar | NO MEETING THIS WEEK |
| Wednesday 2nd April | Varroa, integrated pest management, seasonal care |
| Wednesday 9th April | Other pests and diseases |
| Wednesday 16th April | Understanding swarming and colony reproduction |

The classroom activities will be followed by a series of hands-on practise at the branch apiaries. This will take place during the day at weekends. This is weather dependant and will extend through the summer so you can experience first-hand how colonies develop through the year.

The course will cost £75 per person. To book please contact Liz Birchenough membership@sevenoaksbeekeepers.org.uk Please be aware that spaces are limited to 10.