



NORTH SOMERSET BEEKEEPERS

A Branch of Avon Beekeepers Association

Charity Number 271717

Our branch was formed in 1952 as the Blagdon, Clevedon and District Beekeepers. When North Somerset was created as a county our branch started to be referred to as the North Somerset Branch and we formally adopted this name in 2016 to reflect our membership area better. It has been a source of education, knowledge and friendship for beekeepers of all ages from North Somerset and surrounding areas ever since.

The branch has a teaching apiary just off the A370 near Brockley Combe. Our branch hives are kept there. Beginners can also keep their hives at this apiary in their first year. From April through to September regular Sunday sessions are held at the apiary for both new and experienced beekeepers to meet and explore the craft together.

We are an active branch with programmes of educational and social events throughout the year including a monthly meeting on a Saturday, regular talks and demonstrations at our teaching apiary in the summer months and study courses in the winter months.

If you are considering beekeeping we would recommend our INTRODUCTION TO BEEKEEPING COURSE. There you can learn about the theory of beekeeping in evening sessions from January to March, and then get hands on experience at our teaching apiary in the spring.

INTRODUCTION TO BEEKEEPING COURSE 2019

The Course: Held on consecutive Tuesday evenings
The Dates: 15th January - 19th March 2019
Time: 7.30pm – 9.30pm
Venue: Churchill Memorial Hall, Ladymead Lane, Churchill, BS25 5NH
Course Fee: £95

This course is aimed at those who would like to learn about beekeeping and perhaps take it up as a serious hobby.

It is run by experienced beekeepers who are members of our North Somerset Branch. The course will give you an understanding of bees, and what being a beekeeper involves. Amongst other things you will learn about how a bee colony is organised, what equipment you will need to get started, how to manipulate a hive full of bees and what you will need to do to keep your bees healthy and disease free. You will also receive a copy of the book, The BBKA Guide to Beekeeping (second edition). This book was co-written by a member of our branch, Dr Ivor Davis NDB and follows the syllabus for the course. The course was originally written by Ivor Davies for our branch and was subsequently rolled out nationally across the UK. Included in your course fee is ABKA (Avon Beekeepers Association) associate membership (normally £11). This covers you with our apiary insurance while you are handling bees but do not own any hives.

Having finished the course, you will be welcome to come along to the teaching apiary to gain “hands on” experience and meet up with experienced beekeepers. The apiary sessions run on Sunday mornings from April through to the beginning of September. If you then wish to set up your own colony of bees you can, if you wish, keep your hive at the apiary for that first year. There will always be helping hands at the apiary available to you and a designated mentor will be appointed for your second year.

If you require further information:

Our website: northsomersetbeekeepers.org
Course Secretary: Andy Scarisbrick
Email: westdown.cottage@gmail.com
Tel 01934 813125 Mob 07747 626875

Introduction to Beekeeping Course 2019

Application Form:

Name:

Address:

Email:

Telephone number:

- You can pay the £30 deposit by cheque.
Payable to: North Somerset Beekeepers
- Or by online bank transfer:
Lloyds Bank. Sort code: 30-99-51. Account number: 01839153
Please include as part of the reference:
a) Your name b) 'Intro'
- The balance of the course fee (£65) needs to be received by 30th November 2018

This is a very popular course and entry will be on a 'first come first served' basis

I wish to attend the Introductory beekeeping course at:

Churchill Memorial Hall 15th January – 19th March.

I enclose / have paid online a deposit of £30 (delete as necessary)

Signed:

Date:

Please send completed forms with enclosed cheque, if applicable, to:

Andy Scarisbrick, Course Secretary,
Westdown Cottage, Purn Way, Bleadon, Weston-super-Mare, BS24 0QF

(If paying online a scanned copy of this form can be emailed to
westdown.cottage@gmail.com)

A little more about beekeeping

If you would like to do some research on your own after talking to a beekeeper today.

We recommend the following books:

The BBKA Guide to Beekeeping (second edition)

Ivor Davis and Roger Cullum-Kenyon

This is the only official beginner's beekeeping guide endorsed by the BBKA. It was published in 2012, revised and reprinted in 2016, and therefore bang up to date.

(This book is supplied as part of our Introduction to Beekeeping Course and is an excellent, authoritative text, full of clear photographs and fascinating facts about bees.)

A book worth buying even if you just want to learn about bees and not join a course just yet.

Guide to Bees and Honey (updated edition)

Ted Hooper MBE

This is a revered reference book and an ideal guide for anyone wanting to start beekeeping as well as for more experience beekeepers. Lots of information and illustrations throughout with advice for those who wish to maintain a few hives for personal recreational use as well as for those who want to expand an existing colony into a commercial venture.

Websites:

British Beekeepers Association www.bbka.org.uk

Avon Beekeepers Association www.avonbeekeepers.co.uk

North Somerset Beekeepers www.northsomersetbeekeepers.org