

DORCHESTER & WEYMOUTH BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

2026 Spring Course for New Beekeepers



Drone

Queen

Worker

This Course is aimed at those who are interested in taking up the fascinating hobby of beekeeping.

Although essentially a practical craft, developing a knowledge of the bees and the reasons for some of the methods used in their management makes the work more rewarding for the beekeeper, and better for the bees.

The Course will cover the following topics:

different kinds of bees : how/why we manage honey bees : what bees collect and why : how bees store what they collect : what happens in a beehive : the three castes – queen, workers, drones : how to start keeping bees : choosing the type of hive to use : essential equipment : obtaining bees and equipment : where to site hives : protective clothing, stings and first aid : basic colony management through the year : pest and disease management and hygiene : legislation : handling bees : swarming management and taking/hiving swarms : dealing with the honey crop and with beeswax : increasing the numbers of colonies : feeding bees : the colony in winter and storage of equipment

Open to: anyone who thinks they might like to keep bees, intends to keep bees, or has bees but no/very little experience;

Dates/times: Tuesday evenings on 6 consecutive weeks to potentially start mid-March or early April from 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm, followed by practical sessions at the Branch apiary at Stinsford at the weekend.

Venue: The Colliton Club, Colliton Park, Dorchester DT1 1XJ

Cost: £60 per person. Payment preferable by BACS.

Contact: Sally Leslie (Secretary) for more details on dwbkasecretary@gmail.com