

APIARY MEETINGS

Apiary meetings are arranged informally during the summer months, either at the Association apiary or at a member's apiary. Our apiaries are used for honey gathering as well as teaching.

EDUCATION TEAM

We have an education team who can be booked to talk at schools and events. As a group we appear at various events throughout the spring and summer months. You will often be able to purchase honey at such events. Please contact the team by email to discuss your requirements.

schoolvisits@hwbka.co.uk

SWARM COLLECTION SERVICE



During the spring and summer honey bees will sometimes swarm. At HWBKA we have a competent team of beekeepers prepared to collect swarms and rehouse them in beehives.

INTERESTED IN BEING INVOLVED?

Every March we start a beekeeping beginners' course. This consists of 7 'classroom' sessions and 2 formal practical sessions, followed by further informal practice sessions throughout the season. The tuition is given by experienced beekeepers who give their time voluntarily. Classes include hands-on work with bees at our teaching apiary, with everything provided apart from Wellington boots. Special emphasis is put on safe handling skills for working with bees and hives. Beginners are encouraged to build up their skills by working with one of our 'old-hands', who are only too willing to pass on their knowledge.

On the 2nd Sunday in July we hold an apiary open day, where members of the public can meet the beekeepers and weather permitting handle the bees.

On the 2nd Saturday in August we host a beekeeping taster day. The first half of the day is spent indoors learning about honeybees along with practical sessions. In the afternoon we suit up and inspect the bees at the association apiary.

If you are interested in attending any of our training, taster or open days then please visit our website and book using our online booking service.

www.hwbka.co.uk

HIGH WYCOMBE AND DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

Registered Charity No. 299638



Are you interested in the environment?

Are you interested in bees and beekeeping?

Would you like to know more about this fascinating hobby?

Then read on....



membership@hwbka.co.uk

Founded in 1944, we are an active, friendly, enthusiastic group of beekeepers, mostly living around High Wycombe and from all walks of life. Our main teaching apiary is at Saunderton and we have a couple of other apiary sites leased through The Wildlife Trust.

Two evening beekeeping meetings are held per month except June, July, August and December. On the 2nd Tuesday of the month we have a Developing your Beekeeping meeting and the last Friday each month we have a guest speaker.

Members can borrow books and videos relating to the myriad topics of beekeeping, free of charge. Members will further benefit from loan of various beekeeping equipment, workshops on practical subjects and support from experienced beekeepers. We also produce a monthly newsletter and have fortnightly bulletins which are essentially local updates.

On joining our association, you will automatically belong to The British Beekeeping Association (BBKA) who issue a monthly magazine. You will also benefit from public liability insurance cover for beekeeping activities.

BEEKEEPING

The management of and learning about these fascinating insects with the added bonus of ending up with a delicious crop of pure honey. It is a year round hobby with the busiest period being mid-April to mid-August.

POLLINATORS

Bees pollinate crops, trees and flowers meaning it is vital to have plenty of them around. Beekeepers play an important role in all of this by maintaining colonies of honey bees in hives.



HONEY BEES

The average worker bee will produce 1/12th teaspoon of honey in her lifetime which is approximately 5-6 weeks. In the summer the queen bee will lay up to 2,000 eggs each day allowing a hive to contain 40,000-60,000 bees.

HONEY

Worker bees typically forage in a 1.5 mile radius of their hive. Upon returning to the hive the nectar is converted into honey and stored in the wax honeycombs. Beehives are organised so the beekeeper can harvest honey surplus to the colony's winter-time needs. That honey can then be kept, sold or given to family and friends. Should our bee friends need additional feed during the winter then we can add fondant blocks.

JOINING AN ASSOCIATION

Please join an association and register your bees on Beebase. High Wycombe is one of four associations in Bucks. Go to <https://www.bbka.org.uk/> to find your nearest association.

THE NATIONAL BEE UNIT

Beebase is the Animal and Plant Health Agency's (APHA) National Bee Unit (NBU) website. There are a wealth of resources available to beekeepers here including the contact details of your local Bee Inspector. Once signed up to Beebase you will be warned of local concerns and be able to help contain any outbreaks of notifiable bee diseases.

HONEY SHOWS

Honey bee related items can be made using products from your own bees and shown at the Association, County and National Honey Shows.

