

Fife Beekeepers' Association and Dunfermline and West Fife Beekeepers' Association

Beekeeping Classes for Beginners

As made clear on our website, www.fifebeekeepers.co.uk there are two beekeeping associations in Fife: the larger, the FBA, covers mainly north, east and central Fife, and DWFBA mainly west and south Fife, but membership of either makes you welcome at the meetings of both. From October to April inclusive both have monthly talks, FBA in the VONEF rooms above the main post office in Crossgate, Cupar, and DWFBA in Portmoak Hall, Scotlandwell. Through the spring and summer we hold joint weekend afternoon meetings at various apiaries. It is sensible to join the association nearer you.

Starting on Thursday 19 January 2012 the two Beekeeping Associations in Fife will again unite in running a series of nine indoor classes on the rudiments of beekeeping, followed by several 'hands-on' apiary visits. We will then do our utmost to ensure all those beginners wanting their own bees in 2012 (though some will prefer to wait until the following year when they will have had more experience) are able to buy bees from us. It is sensible to wait until you have completed the course and have had experience of handling bees – and of getting stung - before getting your own. **It is vital that your bees are local bees and that no-one buys bees through the internet or from other sources, thus possibly bringing in disease and undesirable cross-breeding.**

The Classes for Beginners start at 7.30pm (the first meeting will open at 6.45pm to allow for registration of those who have not already registered) in Portmoak Hall, Scotlandwell. They will finish about 9pm and be followed by tea and biscuits and informal bee-talk. The charge includes membership of either FBA or DWFBA, hall hire fees and membership of the Scottish Beekeepers' Association. The latter will send you an excellent booklet on Beekeeping, a monthly magazine and give insurance cover without which we cannot take you on apiary visits – value for money indeed! They also have a superb website www.scottishbeekeepers.org.uk packed with news and information, and each September hold a whole day of lectures and trade stands. Please complete the attached forms and return them with your cheque.

Please Note: The number of places is limited so to avoid disappointment it is recommended that you register in advance.

Recommended Textbook: Ted Hooper's *Guide to Bees and Honey*

The dates and topics for the 2012 Beginners' Classes are:

1st: 19 Jan 6.45pm -7.30pm registration, then:

Part 1, Basic equipment. Hive types. Stands. (Enid)

Part 2, Hive parts. Putting a hive together. (Ian)

2nd: 26 Jan. 7.30pm

Part 1, Recognising the honey bee. (Enid)

Part 2, Life cycle and roles (Janice)

3rd: 16 Feb, 7.30pm

Part 1, Opening a hive – why, when, how (Enid)

Part 2, Practising opening a hive (Ian)

4th 23 Feb, 7.30pm

Part 1, Siting an apiary (John)

Part 2, French film on tree hives

5th: 15 March

Part 1 - The Beekeeper's year: autumn and winter (John)

Part 2 - Janice: The Beekeeper's year: spring and summer
(Janice)

Preparation for class 6: Read Ted Hooper on Swarming

6th: 22 March

Part 1, Enid, Swarm control

Part 2, Ian, As above but practical demo

7th: 29 March

Part 1, Film on beekeeping (general)

Part 2 – Questions on film

8th: 19 April, Varroa (John)

9th: 26 April, Making up frames, cleaning equipment (Enid)

Apiary visits will be from 2- 4pm most weekends from late April until early June, in small groups and always weather permitting – a telephone number will be given for you to check, if conditions are poor.

COMBINED FIFE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATIONS

COURSE APPLICATION FORM

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____ TELEPHONE NO _____

E-MAIL _____

Please note that SBA and Local Association Membership is mandatory.

1. Course Fee @ £30 per person £ _____

2. Local Association Membership for your chosen association is £10 plus £5 for each additional Family Member if required.

Choose from:

FBA (Cupar / St Andrews meetings) £ _____

or

DWFBA (Scotlandwell / Dunfermline meetings) £ _____

3. Scottish Beekeepers Association Membership is £30 per person plus £5 per additional family member. £ _____

4. Recommended text book

Guide to Bees and Honey by Ted Hooper @ £12.95 £ _____

(Will be available for collection at classes)

Total due £ _____

One cheque please for the total amount made payable to
'Fife Beekeepers Association'.

Please also complete, sign and return the following to the address below:
(All available as '**Downloads**' on the web site)

i) Scottish Beekeepers Association application form.

AND

ii) Fife Beekeepers Association application form

OR

Dunfermline and West Fife Beekeepers Association application Form.

Mrs Isabel Brown, 35 Viewforth Place, Pittenweem, Fife. KY10 2PZ